

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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**Date:** 12/6/2011

**GAIN Report Number:** IT1156

## Italy

**Post:** Rome

### **Agricultural News for Italy EU and World November 2011**

**Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the News

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**Report Highlights:**

Report contains agricultural news items of interest for Italy, the EU and the world for the month of November 2011.

## General Information:

### ITALY

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#### **New Italian Minister of Agriculture – Mario Catania**

Mario Catania, born in Rome in 1952, holds a Law Degree from the University of La Sapienza, Rome. He began working at the Italian Ministry of Agriculture in 1978, and since then he has held numerous positions both within the Ministry and at the EU in Brussels. Recognized as an expert in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), he is well versed in EU and international relations.

### FEATURE ARTICLE

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#### **USDA Celebrates 150 Years**

In 2012, USDA will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its' founding in 1862, when President Abraham Lincoln established the United States Department of Agriculture, and called it "The People's Department." At that time, about half of all Americans lived on farms, compared with about 2 percent today. However, through USDA's work on food, agriculture, economic development, science, natural resource conservation and a host of issues, the agency still fulfills Lincoln's vision - touching the lives of every American, every day. In the years ahead USDA must help address the changing needs of agriculture and rural America, continuing to help provide a safe, ample food supply for the United States and the world.

*USDA*

### A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

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#### **International Year of the Forest**

The United Nations General Assembly designated 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests. "Forests for People" is the main theme of the Year, highlighting the dynamic relationship between forests and the people who depend on them. Forests 2011 provides an unprecedented opportunity to shed light on the interconnectivity between people and forests. In fact, forests are important to nearly all kinds of human activity: providing shelter to people and habitat to biodiversity; as a source of food, medicine and clean water; and play a vital role in maintaining a stable global climate and environment.

*FAO Webpage*

#### **Kufuor and Da Silva Receive World Food Prize**

John Agyekum Kufuor and Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva both received the 2011 World Food Prize in recognition for "their personal commitment and visionary leadership while serving as the presidents of Ghana and of Brazil, respectively, in creating and implementing government policies to alleviate hunger and poverty in their countries. The significant achievements of these two former heads of state illustrate that transformational leadership truly can effect positive change and greatly improve

people's lives." Kufuor's economic and educational policies led to significant positive changes in Ghana. The country became the first sub-Saharan African country to cut in half the proportion of its people who suffer from hunger, thus on course to achieve UN Millennium Development Goal before the 2015 deadline. President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's fight against hunger and poverty was a top priority of his government. His national initiatives embodied in his Zero Hunger strategy were well aligned with the UN Millennium Development Goals.

*World Food Program Website*

### **Global Population Hits 7 Billion, Raising Urgency of Addressing Hunger and Food Security**

According to the United Nations, global population has now reached seven billion. Today, one out of seven people do not have access to a safe and adequate food supply, and by 2050, this number will rise with the estimated global population reaching nine billion people. Along with this population problem are other significant challenges such as scarcity of water and arable land, changing diet patterns, and lack of infrastructure like roads, processing, and storage facilities. Ninety percent of the population growth over the next 40 years will occur in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. Future food security depends on the successful adoption of policies that support sustainable agricultural development and increased productivity. Countries across the globe must begin to actively invest in agricultural research, collaborate to reduce trade barriers, adopt new technologies, innovation, and work to establish a business environment where private capital can support agricultural and rural development.

*United Nations Website*

### **G20 to Follow Agriculture and Food Price 'Action Plan'**

Leaders of the world's largest economies have agreed to implement an 'action plan' drawn up to reduce food prices and increase farm production, following a G20 summit dominated by the continuing Euro zone debt crisis. After discussing food production and volatility of agricultural markets, heads of government agreed to "invest in and support research and development of agriculture productivity." "There is an understanding that we need to tackle some excesses that we are seeing in the derivative markets regarding some agriculture and food products. As well as investing in R&D to boost global agricultural production, G20 leaders committed to developing "appropriate risk-management instruments and humanitarian emergency tools." They also agreed that food bought for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the UN World Food Program would not be subject to export restrictions or extraordinary taxes.

*Agra News*

## **FAS Italy Regional REPORTING**

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IT1151	Agricultural News for the month of October
IT1152	Italy Organic Sector Report
BK1112	Bosnia Exporter Guide 2011 Update
HR1117	Economic Crisis Food Spending and Consumers' Climate in Croatia
GR1112	Greece Citrus Annual 2011

GR1113 Cyprus Citrus Annual 2011

GR1114 Greece Transposition of the RED into National Legislation Update

Reports are available at: <http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>

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