

AIAB-APROBIO DEMO DAYS



COUNTRY/REGION

ITALY

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MORE INFO

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The topics of the demo activities usually offered by AIAB-APROBIO FVG are soil management, pest & disease management, new crops and varieties, machinery use in organic farming.

The demos offer practical examples of "good organic management" in the specific conditions of Friuli Venezia Giulia region, so **offering hints for improvements for the organic community as well as alternatives to conventional farmers.**

They are **hosted by skilled organic farmers** where an already found solution or an experimental test is present and can be seen by participants. The activities and their results are explained by the host farmer and by the association **advisers**, often supported by **external experts**. In many cases **the host farm is also a "pilot farm", meaning a farm were data on pest and disease pressure, crop development and other aspects are regularly registered and form the basis of periodic newsletters sent to all farming members.** The main objective of the recurrent "soil demo day" is to increase farmers awareness on the fact that their management choices impact soil quality and fertility and, as a consequence, their productions. The successful methods applied during the demo day in 2018 were a) the in-field presentation of a geologist who explained in practice and with soil profiles, the origin of soils, how to assess soil characteristics and how to read the signs of management; b) a semi-structured discussions with enough time available; d) a guided observation of soil micro-vertebrates and of spontaneous flora as an indicator of soil characteristics and problems. The activities contribute to an interactive explanation on how to assess soil characteristics with tools and knowledge available on farm and how to implement a proper soil management strategy.

ABOUT PLAID

The project has been designed to encourage farmers and farm employees to embrace innovations in agriculture by accessing high quality demonstration activities on commercial farms. Demonstration activities may also contribute to network building in agriculture communities, leading to longer term sustainability and economic development in rural areas. However little has been documented on agriculture demonstration activities in European countries and the lack of an inventory or on-line resources have been identified.

All practice abstracts developed by PLAID H2020 project are available in EPI-AGRI official website:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/peer-peer-learningaccessing-innovation-through>



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