

Updates on Italian Strawberry Breeding Programs coordinated by CREA

G. Baruzzi¹, L. Ballini², M. Birolli², A. Carullo³, F. D'Anna⁴, M. Funaro⁵, N. Gimelli¹, S. Magnani¹, M. L. Maltoni¹, P. Sbrighi¹, P. Turci¹

¹CREA, Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria
Centro di ricerca Olivicoltura, Frutticoltura e Agrumicoltura, Forlì, Italy;

²Cooperativa Aposcaligera, Verona, Italy;

³Piraccini Secondo Company, Italy;

⁴Dipartimento di Scienze Agrarie e Forestali, Università di Palermo – Italy;

⁵ARSAC, Regione Calabria, Italy

Keywords: *Fragaria x ananassa, new variety*

In Italy the total strawberry cultivated acreage has been stable in the last years (2019: 3,800 ha). Today 70% of the National strawberry acreage is in the South of Italy. Winter planting systems with bare root plants and plug plants are very popular. Sabrosa®Candongia, Sabrina, Melissa, Marisol and Florida Fortuna varieties are the dominant ones. In Northern areas, the traditional summer planting with cold-stored plants is prevalent; Aprica, Asia, Brilla, Clery, Elsanta, Garda, Joly and Sibilla (June bearing), Albion, Murano and Malga (Everbearing) are the main varieties coming from Italian public and private strawberry breeding programs. CREA coordinates Italian public strawberry breeding programs carried out in different Regions of the South and North Italy. The major aim is to produce new and improved fresh consumption cultivars (June-bearing and Everbearing) well-adapted to the environmental conditions (considering current climate changes) and to the crop-management practices of the different areas. Fruit quality improvement is the main objective (taste, aroma, sweetness, flesh firmness, size, regular shape, long shelf-life, health-promoting compounds). Furthermore, high plant tolerance to major diseases of strawberries is more important now than in the past. Recent results obtained by public Italian strawberry breeding program will be reported in this paper. CRAPO 135 for the North Italy is the latest June bearing variety released. Some new advanced June-bearing selections suitable for strawberry Northern areas (CRAPO 04.258.55, FC 25.2, FC 250.6, FC 240.8) and Southern ones (LAM 85.17; LAM 23.22; LAM 68.4; PIR 251.1; PIR 65.21) will be reported in comparison to check varieties. The everbearing advanced selection named FC 34.6 adapted to Northern areas will also be described.