



## **PUBLIC SUMMARY REPORT FOREST MANAGEMENT – CHAIN OF CUSTODY FSC**

**COMPANY: AGENZIE AGRICOLE DI TORVISCOSA S.S.**

### **FOREST AREAS CERTIFIED: 3 areas**

Agenzie Agricole di Torviscosa s.s. (91.68 hectares)

Società Agricola Bioenergie s.s. (4.36 hectares)

Cereal Agricola s.s. Società Agricola (25.32 hectares)

### **REGISTRATION CODE of CERTIFICATE**

ICILA-FM/COC-000272

**DATE of ISSUE of CERTIFICATE in FORCE: 23/03/2009**  
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**PUBLIC SUMMARY REPORT – FSC FM/COC**  
**Agenzie Agricole di Torviscosa S.S. Agenzie Agricole**  
**CERT. CODE ICILA-FM FM/COC-000272**

**Updating 25/07/2009**

**UPDATING REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC SUMMARY REPORT**

13/04/2009

FIRST issuing

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## AUDIT HISTORY

DATES of Audits	Length (Role– no. days)	TYPE of Audit
19/11/2008	LA – 0,5 A – 0,5	CERTIFICATION audit: Stakeholder Consultation
28/01/2009	LA - 1 A - 1	CERTIFICATION audit

## RESULTS OF AUDITS

### Description of Forest Management

#### 2.1.1 Description of fores

##### 1.1.1.1 CERTIFICATION Audit

The entire Gruppo Agenzie Agricole di Torviscosa farm estate is located in the Commune of Toviscosa (UD) (North 45° 52' 24" – East 13° 13' 43")

The certified area is classified in the Group of SLIMF due to the small area (less than 100 hectares) covered by poplar plantations belonging to the 3 members of the Group. All the surfaces belong to the Azienda Agricola Torviscosa Spa that has leased a branch of the company to the Agenzie Agricole di Torviscosa s.s. which, in turn, has partly subleased to other two companies. In brief:

- Agenzie Agricole di Torviscosa s.s. (87.32 hectares of poplar trees and 4.36 hectares of shrubs for a total of 91.68 hectares).
- Società Agricola Bioenergie s.s. (2.10 hectares of poplar trees and 2.26 hectares of shrubs of a total of 4.36 hectares).
- Cereal Agricola s.s. Farm Estate (24.17 hectares of poplar trees and 1.15 hectares of shrubs for a total of 25.32 hectares).

From an historical viewpoint Agenzie Agricole di Torviscosa s.s. is the oldest farm estate; it used to include the land of the other two companies which has been divided as it is today only in recent years; this is why the Agenzie Agricole (Farm Estates) act as a Group Entity and the organisational and operational structure is the same for all three companies.

The territory subject to certification is divided into:

- 1) Working section A: consists in poplar plantations, planted in various years and having different features but a single destination, i.e. PRODUCTION;
- 2) Working section B: consists in wooded areas and in forest plants that follow their NATURAL EVOLUTION, without active management interventions and that are currently not subject to certification;

- 3) Working section C: includes shrubs, borders, uncultivated borders that mark the edge of cultivations, sowed land and canals

## **Description of Forest Management System**

### **1.1.1.2 CERTIFICATION audit**

**Working section A (POPLAR PLANTATIONS)** – The poplar plantations, the subject of this management plan, were planted in different years; poplar plantations usually have a cycle of 12 years; for poplar trees that grow along the roads that divide the farms the cycle is longer (16 years) because of the particularly slow growth of the planted clones.

All the plants are part of the same species; all the surfaces involved in the certification have one type of plant only consisting in poplar trees of different ages. New trees are planted on agricultural land only or on land that has been uncultivated for no longer than 10 years.

Planting layout and distance between plants: spacing out must be decided in consideration of the features of the planting site and of the clone selected. The planting layout in a field is 6 metres x 6 metres, while in a strip of land along a road it is 5 metres.

Choice of clone: the poplar clone chosen for the plantation depends on the assortment available, on their preparation, and on the cultivation environment (the pedoclimatic features of the plantation site). The organisation has identified ten clones having excellent quality and growth speed features on which it is also possible to continue experimenting.

Plantation materials: the farming materials used consist exclusively in young poplar trees, R2F2 certified, well-developed, lignified, well-formed, without parasites, undamaged and without defects. Plants of the same diameter rating are chosen to reduce competition after planting.

Utilisation: the cultivation method followed is the one traditional of the Padana plain, with square planting layouts that usually measure 6 x 6 m (rows x 5) with an end utilisation consisting in raze felling at the end of the cycle.

Felling is carried out systematically, on two-four rows at a time, for groups of 30-50 plants. The felled plants are positioned in a single line obtaining a set of aligned trunks, side by side and close to each other.

**Working section B (PLAIN FOREST AREAS)** – The wooded areas on the property are the result of an intense activity of mixed forest plantations that starting in the '80s of the last century. The main purpose was to create forest plantations that, on the one hand, were able to compensate the strong presence of more or less intensively cultivated agricultural land and, on the other hand, were able to create significant wooded borders, not only for the plant sociology context of the forests of the Padana-Veneto plain, but also as an essential element for resident wild animals.

For these reasons, the management of these plants simply follows their natural evolution because no specific value has been identified for them and no management with production purposes has been planned.

From the surveys carried out, these forest formations can be ascribed to the forest plain context of the low plain of Friuli, distinguished by recently flooded soil that is filtering, sandy, with elevated/thick layers and from 600 to 800 mm of rain per year. Under these

circumstances it can be concluded that, in the past, these woods were dominated by British oak and hornbeam (only where floods were rare or absent) plus ash, flowering ash, wild cherry, Italian maple, Italian elm and lime-trees.

The brushwood consists in species of Fagetalia and Carpinion (in particular mixed-oak woods consisting in British oak and hornbeam). More thermophile species can also be found, such as *Fraxinus oxycarpa*, a Mediterranean species found in humid areas.

There is a remarkable presence of *Salix alba*, which was also introduced about twenty years ago and that is behaving like a real dominant colonizer.

**Working section C (SHRUBS AND OTHER FOREST PLANTS)** – In the northern fields shrubs are mainly made up of white willow, accompanied by elder, pyracantha, lantana, Italian elm and spindle-tree; the Southern fields consist mainly in tamarisk (*Tamarix gallica*), an halophilous species capable of resisting well to salt water infiltrations. In this case the accompanying species are spindle-tree, hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna* and *C. oxycantha*), pyracantha, holly, privet and cherry-bay.

Along the canals one can find hygrophite vegetation that extends all along the boundaries of the fields and of the poplar plantations. Generally speaking, one can indicatively talk about giant reed, purple loosestrife, cat's-tail, bramble, wild asparagus and plenty of white poplar again.

From this brief analyses it is quite clear that the forestry interventions do not jeopardise the preservation of current habitats in any way, rather they aim at preserving and reconstructing degraded areas and correcting the alterations created in the course of time due to the way the forest was used in the past.

## **Summary of Management Plan**

### **1.1.1.3 CERTIFICATION audit**

The Management Plan for the Group Aziende Agricole (Farms) of Torviscosa, was written in 2008 by Dr Andrea Perissinotto, with the cooperation of Dr Zanone and with the technical support of the business operations staff.

This document takes an interesting turn as “Management plan of forest areas” and is valid for five years.

It integrates with the corporate agronomic planning, concerning agricultural cultivations and breeding, already inside the Farm; and in addition the Management Planning is correlated with the Manual of Forest Management, Rev. 0 in 05/08/2008 which describes the modality with whom the Group Agenzie Agricole of Torviscosa applies the requirements of forest management established by Check list ICILA2203 - ARCO ALPINO.

## **Monitoring procedures**

### **1.1.1.4 CERTIFICATION audit**

Monitoring activities of poplar groves concerning the composition of flora and fauna take place featuring external subjects (Faunal Hunting Company, University), while all inspections on the operations of cultivation, their programming and proper progress are performed by the Responsible of Cultivation who fills in a farm copy book in an electronic format.

For every intervention, some information is recorded about: the intervention area, the cultivation, the vegetative state, the date of the intervention, the product used and its quantities and the area treated.

Some “monitored” Indicators are: plant health conditions, mortality, increases, variation of the woodland area, the change of the surface planned, composition of flora and fauna, maintenance of the road, accidents, operating costs.

## **Areas excluded from the CERTIFICATION SCOPE**

### **1.1.1.5 CERTIFICATION audit**

The certification excluded two poplar grove areas (about 7 hectares) not merged with the others (reason: areas next to the zootechnical activity where is expected a probable extension of the same) and some forest particles (white poplar and robinia for about 27,83 hectares) for their different origin from the productive one (natural evolution).

In terms of plantation, all 121.36 hectares of poplar grove, are interested by the certification process.

## **Reference standards**

### **Reference standards for the carrying out of the audits**

**N.B.:** The reference standards, adapted for specific countries, referred to in this paragraph, are available on the ICILA site [www.icila.org](http://www.icila.org).

### **1.1.1.6 CERTIFICATION audit**

- Generic checking list and standard for the evaluation of the forest management **Check list ICILA2203 - ARCO ALPINO – Rev. 2 October 2008.**
- Checking list ICILA for the Forest Certification Group – **Val-FSC-POL-20-001-Rev. 0-05/11/2005**

## **Local adaptation process of the proprietary standards (where applicable)**

### **1.1.1.7 CERTIFICATION audit**

NOT APPLICABLE

## **Audit process**

### **Audit organization and methods**

### **1.1.1.8 CERTIFICATION audit**

The evaluation team conducted the certification mission through the following phases:

- consultation of stakeholders, at the Headquarters of the Company, 19 November 2008
- visit of certification, on 28 January 2009.

The service took place at the Headquarters of the Group Agenzie Agricole (Farm) of Torviscosa in order to verify the organizing and documental aspects of the company; in addition a part of the audit was given to inspections which interested:

Company	Particle	Year of system	Clone	Total hectares
Agenzie Agricole (Farm) of Torviscosa s.s.	Antonina 1	1997	I214 e Koster	3,12 hectares
	Taglio 2	1997	I214	1,90 hectares
	Abbazia Saccon	1992 (ripa)	Avanzo	0,44 hectares
	Abbazia 1-3	1993 (ripa)	2000 Green	0,36 hectares
	Abbazia 1	1996	I214	8,56
Società Agricola Bioenergie s.s	Abbazia 1	1994	I214	1,25
Cereal Agricola s.s. Società Agricola	Fornelli 4	2000	I214	9,02 hectares

The choice of the particles above-mentioned, took place in order to sample the three properties forming part of the group, the clonal composition, the age, the minimum area to be checked and the intervention taken.

The techniques implemented were the usual interviews, consultations of documents and registrations, visits to the places of work and forest management.

## Stakeholder consultation

### 1.1.1.9 CERTIFICATION Audit

ICILA, featuring Agenzie Agricole of Torviscosa, on November 19 2008 at the Headquarters of the Company organized a meeting with the interested parties.

Any of the interested parties invited did not attend this meeting. These parties were:

Adiconsum Udine
ARPA FVG
Associazione PEFC Italia (Association PEFC Italy)
Associazione pesca sportiva (Association sport fishing) Torviscosa
Associazione Studi Ornitologici e Ricerche Ecologiche del Friuli-Venezia Giulia (Association Ornithological Studies and Ecological Researches)
Az. Agr.(Farm) Andretta Pierluigi s.s.
Az. Agr. (Farm) Dri Graziella in Lo Stuzzi
Azienda Agricola (Farm) Budai Cristian
Azienda Agricola (Farm) di Torviscosa s.p.a.
Azienda Faunistico Venatoria (Faunal – Hunting Company) Annia Malisana
Azienda Faunistico Venatoria (Faunal – Hunting Company) Le Mura
Camera di Commercio (Chamber of Commerce) Udine
Capitaneria di Porto (Harbour office) San Giorgio di Nogaro
Circolo nautico (Sailing circle) Airone 90
CISL Udinese and Bassa Friulana
Commissione Nazionale per il Pioppo (National Commission for



the poplar)
Comune (Municipality) of Torviscosa
Consorzio di Bonifica (Land-reclamation syndicate) Bassa Friulana
Corpo Forestale Regionale (regional corps of foresters)
Ente Tutela Fauna del FVG (Body for the custody of fauna)
Federazione regionale dei pioppicoltori del Friuli Venezia Giulia (Regional federation of poplar growers)
Gruppo FSC Italia
Istituto Sperimentale per la Pioppicoltura (Experimental School for poplar growing)
Associazione Italiana della Caccia (Italian Hunting Association)
Meneghetti Legnami s.r.l.
Provincia di Udine - dir. Ambiente
Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia - Dir. Reg. Foreste
Riserva comunale di caccia (Municipal hunting reserve)
Sherwood
Studio Bidut
Terra e Vita
Unione Provinciale Agricoltori (Confagricoltura Ud)
Università di Trieste (University of Trieste) - Facoltà di Scienze MFN (Faculty of Science)
Università di Udine (University of Udine) - Facoltà di Agraria (Faculty of Agriculture)
Unione Nazionale Enalcaccia pesca e tiro
Wwf Friuli Venezia Giulia

## Observations

### **Strengths and weaknesses**

#### **1.1.1.10 CERTIFICATION Audit**

##### **1.1.1.10.1 STRENGTHS**

- Company with an “old” agricultural call (born around 1937) and a big tradition in the cultivation of the poplar (more than 50 years of experience).
- Ref. STD 1.5.1 – Presence and surveillance of the territory: protection of the area from illegal activities;
- Ref. STD 2.2.4 and 4.1.4 – Multi-year experience of Farm staff, particularly the one of the managerial staff) and constant and adequate professional updates (performed by internal or external subjects to the Organization)
- Ref. STD 4.2.5 – Inspection of the suitability’s weaver companies who work in the plantations and contractual conditions in accordance with a sustainable management
- Ref. STD 5.2.5 – Attention to the maintenance of the road conditions
- Ref. STD 10.3.4 e 10.5.3 – Attention to the protection of strips of autochthonous vegetation
- Ref. STD 10.4.1 – Clonal material of excellent provenance and subsequent production of high quality material.

1.1.1.10.2 WEAKNESSES

- Ref. STD 5.1.4 – Possible delays in implementing the Management Plan (Felling of lots) due to not constant budgets
- Ref. STD 5.4.3 – Lack of a drawplate's viewpoint.
- Ref. STD 10.3.2 – Dimensions of the poplar grouped with the same clone at the limit of compliance.

**Performances of the certified areas**

[1] PRINCIPLE no. 1

The following rules are important, used and kept under control for certification:

D.P.R. of 2033 n. 32 “Forest rules for the protection and the use of the wood and for the protection of the soils subject to the hydro geological constraint” Friuli Venezia Giulia  
D.P.R. 9 of 1864 n.494 “Fulfillment of the directives (CEE) n. 75/445 in relation to the marketing of forest multiplication material”

L. 203 of 1982 “rules about agricultural contracts”

As regards the taxes, are authentic payments of the same kept at the Headquarters of the Group Agenzie Agricole Torviscosa.

The Organization undertakes to protect the certified areas from any illegal activity or others activities not approved by the same and/or the public authorities.

[2] PRINCIPLE no. 2

The property rights are documented, so that the estates are owned by the Azienda Agricola (Farm) Torviscosa s.p.a which let out the branch of the company (contract stipulated on 2/06/1998 n° 133.338) to Agenzie Agricole Torviscosa s.s. which in its turn sublet partly to others 2 societies of the group.

The lands managed by the Plan have various titles of ownership: all internal lands were granted in the lease (with contracts of 5 years, renewable) from Azienda Agricola (Farm) of Torviscosa s.p.a. to Agenzie Agricole of Torviscosa s.s.; the lands along the municipal roads are owned by the Municipality of Torvaso and granted on loan for use to the Organization. The contracts of these locations are managed and stored by the Responsible of the Forest Management.

[3] PRINCIPLE no. 3

NOT APPLICABLE

[4] PRINCIPLE no. 4

In the Farm there aren't forest workers, but only agricultural workers.

So the Organization has various types of employees for a total of 40 subjects that in different measures are part of the three farms.

Moreover, it shall promote the training and the professional update to allow to the employees to improve their work; this is achieved through training days (performed by internal and external subjects to the Organization) arranged by the Responsible of the Forest Management.

Some periodical formations are about the security and it's granted the use of DPI from the employee, with controls from the Coordinators of the Company.

In case of activity's entrusting to external companies, the Company verifies always the technical-professional suitability of the companies or of self-employed workers in the achievement of the project or of the service given and during the execution of the works the Responsible of the Forest Management checks the respect of the good technique rules, relating to the responsible of the executorial enterprise.

**[5] PRINCIPLE no. 5**

The actions on the plantations are regulated by the Plan of Forest Management Rev 01 of 24/11/2008. This document takes a turn as "Plan of Forest Property Management" and is valid for five years.

It integrates with the agronomic company planning, concerning the agricultural cultivation and the breeding, already in the Farm.

Lot are sold only in feet and the cut logs are taken away almost immediately by the enterprise performing the cut and the sales are made on the basis of the number of plants (you buy the plot, count the plants and give a price according to the quality of each of them – straight trunk, healthy model, no curvatures, no damages from drought, position of nodes).

The state of the roads is optimal; as far as the maintenance it's custom to carry an annual ordinary maintenance.

**[6] PRINCIPLE no. 6**

Even if the purpose of the Plan is only the productive one, the Company turns the attention to the conservation of the natural environments in the area: there are cores of plain wood and the hedges are left to natural evolution (7,70 hectares out of 121 hectares)

The poplar cultivations are planted on agricultural lands that have always been on this cultural practice in the Farm; at the end of the turn (12 years) the poplar is not planted once again, but the field is left "at rest" to make an agricultural cultivation.

There are not regional or National Parks adjacent with the property of the Organization or somehow near to the fields, and so important for the evaluation of the protected areas in the zone, but there are three important Sites of Community Relevance (SIC).

**[7] PRINCIPLE no. 7**

It is not foreseen an adoption from competent bodies for the Plans of poplar groves – see L.R. 9 of 23/04/2007 art. 7 (the forests are not considered as fast growth implantations with a turn inferior to 30 years).

However it is performed an annual monitoring relevant to "technical" data, a data collection that later on will affect the renewal, every 5 years, of the same Plan; the actions

of cultivation performer in the poplar grove are summarized schematically (per year of cultivation) in tables put in the document.

**[8] PRINCIPLE No 8**

Monitoring activities of poplar groves concerning the composition of flora and fauna take place featuring external subjects (Faunal Hunting Company, University), while all inspections on the operations of cultivation, their programming and proper progress are performed by the Responsible of Cultivation who fills in a farm copy book in an electronic format.

For every intervention, some information is recorded about: the intervention area, the cultivation, the vegetative state, the date of the intervention, the product used and its quantities and the area treated.

Some “monitored” Indicators are: plant health conditions, mortality, increases, variation of the woodland area, the change of the surface planned, composition of flora and fauna, maintenance of the road, accidents, operating costs.

All the data are public by request.

**[9] PRINCIPLE No 9**

Through an internal consultation have been identified some areas considered of high conservation value: A) lands on which insists the reed (*Arundo donax*); some of them were bedded in last years, others are spontaneous; for both types is important, from a point of view of the tradition and of the rural culture, of the protection and conservation of these areas.

B) an area (Bosco della Quadrata) which is like a woodland band, in complete free evolution, which plays an important role for the wild fauna: for the widespread and the lack of human intervention, this area is impenetrable and in this sense plays an essential role as an ecological corridor and point of shelter for the terrestrial fauna.

C) the third area taken in consideration is a vast humid zone around which have grown implantations of white willow.

**[10] PRINCIPLE No 10**

See 2.1.2.1 INCLUDED A – POPLAR GROVE

**Non-Conformities indicated by the stakeholders**

**1.1.1.11 CERTIFICATION audit**

**1.1.1.11.1 NON-CONFORMITIES not CONFIRMED during audit**

■ NO NON-CONFORMITY REPORTED

**1.1.1.11.2 NON-CONFORMITIES CONFIRMED as INCREASED during audit**

■ NO NON-CONFORMITY REPORTED

1.1.1.11.3 NON-CONFORMITIES CONFIRMED as DECREASED during audit

- NO NON-CONFORMITY REPORTED

**PRIMARY Non-Conformities ISSUED during audit**

1.1.1.12 CERTIFICATION audit

- NOT PRESENT

**SECONDARY Non-Conformities ISSUED during audit**

1.1.1.13 CERTIFICATION audit

- **DESCRIPTION of the NON-CONFORMITY**
- **CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANNED BY THE ORGANIZATION**

Ref.	Remark	Corrective Action carried out
NCS 1 5.4.1	There is not a clear definition of economic aspects committed to the costs and the proceeds of poplar grove	Improved the anticipatory analysis costs-receipts for work related to the poplar implantations

The non conformity pointed out in the examination of the certification which took place 28 January 2009 was handled through the corrective action indicated, which will be verified during the next surveillance visit.



## Decisions of the Deliberation Committee

### **CERTIFICATION AUDIT**

- Date of the Deliberation Committee 23/03/2009
- Result of the evaluation

#### **a) POSITIVE ELEMENTS**

- a) high level of compliance to the applicable standard and good availability of experienced resources

#### **b) CRITICALITY <insert evaluations and reference to objective evidence>**

- a) no critical elements identified

- The organisation is:

### **CERTIFIED**

- Date of issue of the Certificate 23/03/2009
- Date of expiry of the Certificate 22/03/2014