



Mutti presents its first Environmental Report and accelerates its green commitment

- *It will enable the company to define its strategic roadmap and improvement measures in relation to environmental sustainability. In the Report the words of important actors who collaborated with Mutti, such as the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa and WWF Italy.*
- *A planned multi-year initial investment (2022/2024) of € 1.5 million will be entirely dedicated to launching environmental projects.*

Montechiarugolo, 2nd September 2021 – The company's significant growth, which has seen volumes of processed tomatoes double in the last five years, and the strong drive to strengthen its presence at international level have led Mutti to continue along the path of environmental sustainability with renewed strength and vigour. In this context, in recent years the Group has launched various initiatives aimed at identifying the characteristic features of the ecological footprint associated with its activities and monitoring the effects of the mitigation measures adopted in its daily operations.

This was the basis for Mutti's first Environmental Report, presented during the 20th edition of *Cibus – International Food Exhibition*. This Report is neither a point of arrival nor a point of departure. Rather, it is intended as a step towards systemising the important actions already implemented in the past and, partly through a monitoring scheme designed together with the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa, helping define a picture of company performance in this period of major expansion.

The Environmental Report is the latest in a series of initiatives undertaken by Mutti in the field of environmental sustainability: in 1999, it was the first company to adopt the Certified Integrated Production regulations, guaranteeing agricultural production aimed at more sustainable practices, without compromising tomato quality and maintaining traceability up to the finished product; in 2001 it achieved the 'NON-GMO' declaration; and again, in 2010 it started an important and still ongoing collaboration with WWF Italy to reduce the water and carbon footprint of both the company and the supply chain and to preserve biodiversity.

“At a time when the world is at an environmental tipping point, it is important for companies to accelerate their commitment to sustainability by adopting improvement measures in the most impactful areas. We have a direct relationship with the environment, whose health is inextricably linked to our products' quality,” comments **Francesco Mutti, CEO of Mutti SpA**. *This is the basis for our first Environmental Report, the result of monitoring which, together with an initial investment of €1.5 million over the period 2022-24 dedicated exclusively to environmental sustainability projects, will now enable us to accelerate our efforts and make further progress. This document, which we will draft annually and which will develop together with the company, now allows us to identify strategic intervention areas, levers on which to act at various levels of responsibility, transparent goals and targets. We will continuously monitor and act to return to nature at least part of what it has always given us.”*



Specific GRI Sustainability Reporting Standards, defined by the GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) – one of the most well-known and internationally used frameworks – have been used to report on environmental performance. The Environmental Report also has a special feature: it is participatory, i.e. it is drawn up through the contribution of the stakeholders who, together with Mutti, have designed and implemented specific initiatives to improve the Group’s environmental indices. They were entrusted with describing these jointly designed and implemented measures. **CNR, Scuola Sant’Anna di Pisa, WWF Italy, Hort@ - a spin-off of Università Cattolica and Ente Parchi del Ducato** are just some of the fellow travellers who have pooled their innovative spirit in the environmental field.

It is precisely the work carried out together with stakeholders that has enabled the Group to gain important insights from which to begin setting ambitious targets. Starting with the natural elements of Water, Earth, Air and Sun, which form the basis of the business and whose preservation is now an essential challenge for agri-food, with implications for the quantity and quality of the Earth’s products on the one hand and biodiversity on the other. Some of the initiatives that the company has been involved in together with many stakeholders – from WWF Italy to Ente Parchi del Ducato – are aimed precisely at leveraging virtuous agricultural practices to regenerate the land, avoiding desertification and, at the same time, safeguarding the ecosystem through reforestation projects and ‘biodiversity corridors’.

All other variables – from water use to climate-changing emissions – take on added significance based on the value of soil:

Energy consumption, taking into account the increased production, grew less than proportional to the increase in the number of tonnes of finished product: from 1.76 gigajoules per tonne in 2019 to 1.72 in 2020. A notable factor is the presence of photovoltaic systems in two of the Group’s plants, which saved 1,500 tonnes of CO₂ between 2018 and 2020.

With regard to the company’s **water footprint**, following its 4.6% reduction between 2010 and 2015 across a large section of the value chain, partly made possible by the active collaboration of more than 60 contributing companies, there have been a number of efficiency improvements in the plants, largely aimed at increasing the amount of water reused and purified so that increasingly less surface and groundwater is used.

The issue of **waste production** and its recycling and reuse is particularly significant in the agri-food sector. Today, 81% is recovered or recycled at Mutti. In 2020, the ratio of waste to finished product was 4.1%, an improvement on 4.7% in 2019. Fresh tomatoes unsuitable for processing are used in animal husbandry or for producing biogas to promote circular economy.

With regard to **biodiversity**, in 2019 Mutti supported the ‘KilometroVerdeParma’ reforestation project and, in this context, launched a planting initiative called ‘Mille Querce’ in 2020. To date, the project has already involved the planting of 1,100 trees, including 130 oaks, in an area of 50,000 square metres in state-owned areas in the municipalities of Montechiarugolo, Traversetolo and Sissa Tre Casali and will continue with the inclusion of other relevant municipalities.



Finally, important work – still ongoing – has been achieved with regard to **packaging**. In 2020, **99% of primary and secondary packaging was recyclable** – with a 100% target for this year – and about 1/4 of the total will be derived from recycled material.

The Group's commitment does not stop here: in the coming months the company will work on various projects, such as the **renaturalisation of the Po River** through the creation of woods, hedges, rows of vines and scrubland, and will work with its partners to define new initiatives aimed at further improving what has already been achieved in the past. This commitment, which is not only economic, will allow Mutti to start increasingly widespread and concrete activities and therefore to gradually improve its impact on the environment, disseminating its results partly through the reporting tool.

MUTTI SPA - A historic Parma-based company and European leader in tomato processing. Marcellino and Calisto Mutti started their first tomato processing campaign in 1899. Ever since, leveraging the key values of quality and Italian tradition together with respect for the supply chain and the local area, the Mutti family has been exclusively devoted to 100% Italian tomatoes, producing tomato concentrate, puree and pulp, products that are now enjoyed all over the world. The desire to innovate, a fundamental part of the company's identity since its foundation, has led to the gradual expansion of the range to include a wide selection of ready-made sauces. Today the Mutti Group, with its 120-year history, is the European leader in the tomato derivatives market and is present in 96 countries around the world, with a net turnover of €465 million in 2020, up 23% from the previous year. In 2020 the Mutti Group achieved volumes of 285.6 tonnes, an increase on the previous year (243.2 tonnes in 2019). Exports currently account for 41% of turnover and are growing at double digit rates year on year. Parma, Montechiarugolo, is the historical and commercial headquarters of the Group, which has gradually expanded to cater for all taste preferences. 2016 saw the completion of the process of acquiring Fiordagosto, a plant based in Oliveto Citra (Salerno) devoted to the production of typical southern Italian varieties such as long and cherry tomatoes. In November 2017 Mutti purchased the CO.PAD.OR plant in Collecchio, first setting up the new company Pomodoro 43044 Srl, which was then merged by incorporation into Mutti SpA from 1 January 2021, with a production capacity of 300,000 tonnes.

For more information

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