

## CREA - Council for Research in Agriculture and Analysis of Agricultural Economics.

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CREA is the main Italian public research institution supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture (MIPAAF) dedicated to agri-food supply chains with scientific expertise spanning the agricultural, livestock, fisheries, forestry, agro-industrial, nutritional, and socioeconomic sectors.

The institute currently consists of 12 research centers located extensively throughout Italy, with numerous locations, laboratories, experimental farms and more than 2,000 employees.

Each center is specialized in its own area of expertise; the **Defense and Certification Research Center** is the national reference for plant protection from harmful organisms and seed certification, including descriptive and agronomic tests for the registration of new varieties into the National Register.

### CREA DC - Defense and Certification Research Center - Seed Certification Area

In addition to its plant protection role, CREA Defense and Certification Center performs tasks arising from EU and national regulations governing seed production and marketing.



A specific technical-administrative area dedicated to seeds, spread over 8 territorial offices (Milan, Tavazzano, Vercelli, Lonigo, Bologna, Rome, Battipaglia, and Palermo) carries out **official certification and inspections of seed products** including technological, phytosanitary and genetic analyses of seeds. In addition, on behalf of the MIPAAF, it coordinates examination tests for registration in the National Register of Plant Varieties and for the recognition of protection titles for new varieties (Community Plant Variety Rights).



CREA DC, operating throughout the seed supply chain, ensures the quality and traceability of seeds through its inspection and certification activities. Checks are carried out directly in the field to ascertain the identity and level of varietal purity of seed crops; then, once the seeds have been processed and packaged at seed companies, samples are taken for laboratory analysis.

According to the current legislation on seed marketing, seeds must be officially certified and belong to registered varieties in order to be marketed; only after the prescribed checks and verification of compliance with minimum quality standards such as varietal and physical purity, phytosanitary status, foreign seed content and germinability, an official label is issued and affixed to the seed packages, proving the certification and allowing the seeds to be sold.

### The Milan office

The Milan office is divided into administrative unit and technical unit.

The administrative unit supports the CREA DC office in Rome for accounting activities related to certification.

The technical unit, on the other hand, coordinates the activities of the other CREA DC offices of the Seed Certification Area about the execution of national registry entry tests and certification. In addition, the staff of the technical area, representing CREA DC, actively participates in institutional tables operating in the seed sector at national, European and international levels. For these reasons, CREA DC is also involved in national and international projects involving the participation of the Varietal Entry Testing Offices and the National Certification Agencies.



### Tests for registration into the National list

The technical area of the Milan office coordinates the execution of National Register entry trials of varieties of maize, cereals, forage species, rapeseed and hybrids of sorghum for Sudan grass. For this purpose, it makes use of a network of experimental farms located throughout the country.

These include the Emilia CREA DC Experimental farm in Tavazzano, which has a total of 15 irrigated ha, fully fenced and video supervised.

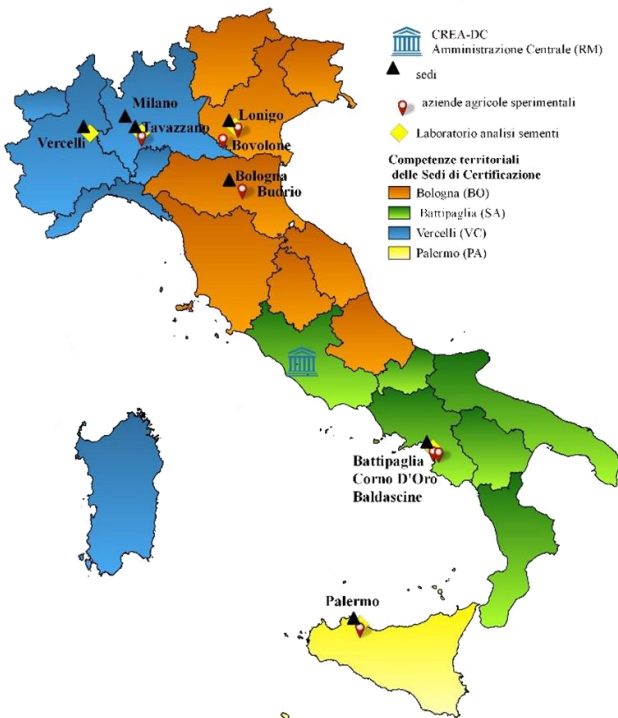
At the Emilia Farm, specialized technical personnel are mainly engaged in performing descriptive trials for registry entry. In the period 2017-2021, an average of 662 varieties were tested each year, with a total of about 1,500 plots.

From 2009 to the present, the Milan office has obtained accreditation from the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) to carry out DUS trials aimed at issuing European plant breeder right of durum wheat, common wheat, dicocco spelt, maize (FAO classes 500-600-700), cathartic brome, and Bermuda grass.



**Post control trials**

At the Emilia Farm also carried out parcellular post-control trials of corn, straw cereals excluding durum wheat, continental forage grasses and vegetable crops, for an average of 2,000 samples annually examined and as many plots seeded.



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## Defense and Certification Research Center



**Milano Office**

## Technical Unit

