

Dear friends

It is a great pleasure for me to see you here in my Country in my Region Piemonte. I hope you had a nice trip and we will do our best to offer you an interesting and fruitful Congress. Since when I participated for the first time in Wales to an EDF Congress, I start dreaming on organizing one day the first Italian EDF Congress here where we are now, and after few years I m really glad to see you here. When I met all of you for the first time in Wales, I understood that the future of dairy farming is strongly linked to knowledge and to exchange information, for this reason I started to promote EDF concept in Italy and gradually involve young farmers into EDF club. EDF is our door to Europe, it is stimulating all of us to learn a common language to be able to exchange knowledge and information which is the best fuel for improving competitiveness of our dairy farms in the coming years.

We have created a group of farmers united by the same passion for our job, and by the same long-sightedness matured within our families. We are convinced that our dairy production needs to be modern and efficient but a the same time sustainable, providing a reasonable income to our families, reasonable prices for the consumers and good welfare for our animals, to reach this point our agricultural products should be preserved from any financial speculations.

In the beginning of 2010 we created the Italian branch EDF ITALY, to be a reference for all Italian farmers ready to compete at EU level and globally.

EDF Italy ha been the core group to organize this congress, that would not be possible without the help of all farmers that you'll meet during the next days, and the support of our scientific partner CRPA.

I would like also to underline that probably this is the first time that in Italy such big event in the agricultural sector is organized without any public money, thanks to our sponsors and thanks to the voluntary work that the core group did so far under the lead of Claudia Morisiasco and Anna Mellano, I would like to thank them for the effort so far.

Our intent during this Congress is to give you an idea of how dairy farmers are working in this area, we all know that our farms are not perfect, there is room for improvement, but this is the reason why we are here, to discuss, to learn and teach from each other without judging but in a positive way how it is in the soul of European Dairy Farmers.

I wish you a good congress and a pleasant stay in Saluzzo and in the Province of Cuneo.

Antonino Bedino

EDF Italy President