

# Sorghum: a safe bet for the future

# Mauro Mengoli

Agriculture business:
Mengoli Rino, Mauro e Gianni s.s.
Via Bagnarese 3 – 40055 Castenaso (BO)







# **LOCATION**

The Po Valley, in the immediate vicinity of the regional capital, Bologna.

The soils are medium-textured but irrigation is not a certainty, and in some years the harvests are affected by drought.



#### Diapositive 4

j'ai simplifié cette diapo en laissant seulement 3 types de polices et 2 niveaux de bullets, c'est largement suffisant. j'ai aussi augmenté la taille de police du sous-titre de la diapo trouche; 03/09/2018

## **HISTORY - ACREAGE AND CROPS**

A family-run farm founded in 1938. First run on a sharecropping basis and then, very slowly and gradually, it passed into direct ownership.

The owners are Rino, Mauro and Gianni Mengoli assisted by two employees who are mainly involved in animal husbandry, in addition to a outside contractor who carries out the work of sowing and harvesting the crops.

This is a livestock farm with 130 dairy cattle plus heifers and calves for a total of 230 animals.

We produce high quality drinking milk with an average daily output of 30 lt/head.

The farm has 60ha of land: 40ha directly owned and 20ha rented. It is cultivated with maize, sorghum, wheat and, to a lesser extent, legumes.

The business also has a biogas generator of installed capacity 380Kwh, in addition to which we generate 123Kwh of electrical energy from photovoltaic panels.



#### Diapositive 5

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## WHY WE USE SORGHUM ON THE FARM

### Picture if possible

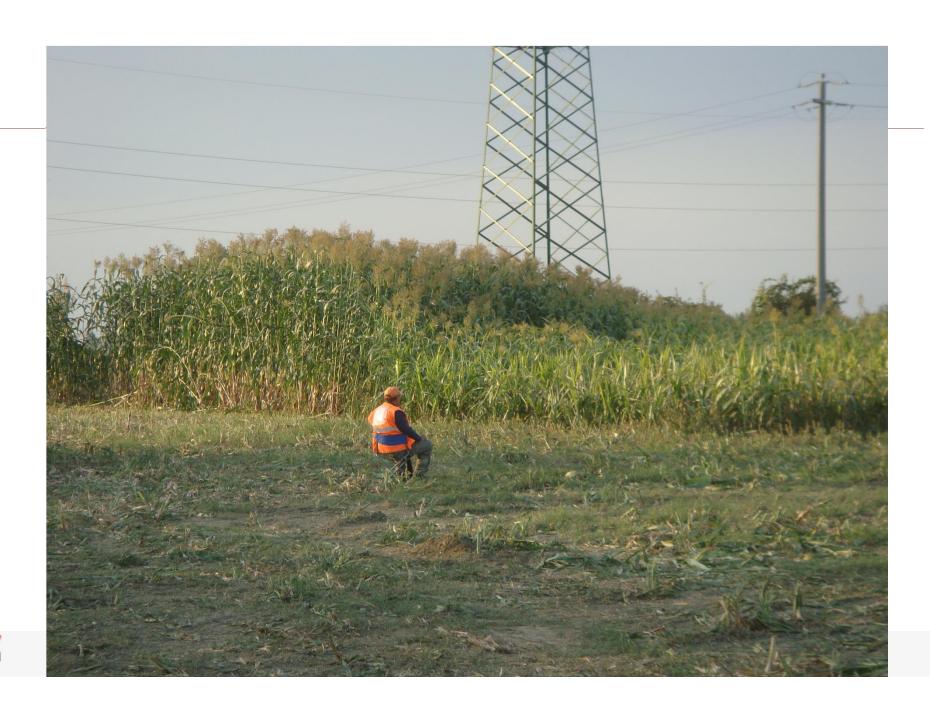
#### The advantages of sorghum

- To respect the crop rotation cycle, 15 years ago I was partly «required», to sow sorghum, which replaced my sugar beet. Over the years I have tried several varieties: grain sorghum, sweet sorghum, and fibre sorghum, always harvesting it early as silage for the cattle and fuel for the biogas generator.
- During these years I have been growing sorghum as an alternative to maize. It has given variable results that have often been affected by the weather.











# **SORGHUM OUTPUT**

- All of the sorghum produced by our business has always been used to close the production chain
- ■30-40% of the harvest is for cattle feed.
- ─ The remaining 60-70% is used to make fuel for the biogas generator.



Thank you

Mauro Mengoli



