

## IRISBIO

In 1978, nine young, boys and girls began to work together in Cremona plain located in the south of Lombardy. They are son of farmhands, masons, milkers, labourers and artisans. The initial purpose is to work the land to cultivating healthy products, without the use of synthetic and chemicals substances, as their fathers taught, at the time when agriculture respects the environment, man and animals. According to the founders, their mission was to grow up, develop and spread the farming culture.

In 1984 the IRIS agricultural cooperative of production and work has been founded, as collective ownership and with the aim of cultivating exclusively by organic methods. Four fixing points have been included in the corporate purpose and i.e.:

1. Practice and spreading of agricultural cultivation by the method of organic farming
2. Creating jobs mostly for women and disadvantaged people
3. Developing a direct relationship with the consumer, to spread the farming culture and the cultivation method according to organic and biodynamic production
4. Promoting the culture of collective ownership.

The agricultural work begins in a small town near the city of Cremona in a single hectare of land, where the young people worked hard to produce seasonal vegetables to be sold directly to the farm and where they received, the help of the farmhand Angelo Gritta and Ivo Totti, pioneer of the organic and biodynamic agriculture.

The work is hard and tiring, "The farm work is humble "; the path chosen is made of many sacrifices and few money; the cooperative produces top-quality healthy food, which are sold directly to the consumer, who can buy at accessible and fair prices; this is the "Iris Economic project".

To improve the sale of many vegetables the coop. IRIS opens two shops in Cremona where there are many cultural activities: organic production method teachings, nutrition education, ecology ....