

***My contribution to the Milan Protocol Initiative***

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Please insert relevant link(s) that you would like to propose for discussion of your Working Group within the Milan Protocol Scientific Team

<http://www.cic.cr.it/biblioteca.html> : Loffi S.G. – Ipòtesi di miglioramento delle Irrigazioni

<http://www.cic.cr.it/biblioteca.html> : Patto per l'acqua -28 marzo 2008

<http://www.cic.cr.it/biblioteca.html> : Giornata Mondiale dell'Acqua 2012

<http://www.cic.cr.it/biblioteca.html> : Giornata Mondiale dell'acqua 2009

<http://www.laghi.net/>

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**CIC's logo is attached.**

Please insert the supporting text of the Milan Protocol , and also your organization description and / or biography (individual expert) that will be included on the [www.protocollodimilano.it](http://www.protocollodimilano.it) (SUPPORTERS section)

As far as I can see, there is an astonishing gap in EXPO\_2015: the topic of water for irrigation in agriculture is totally missing ! Actually, a sustainable use of water in agriculture is a necessary condition for the very idea of sustainable agriculture, that is the primary source of food production.

What about the "regulated Lombardy Large Lakes system"? There's no mention of it in EXPO 2015, even if this system – unique in Italy and maybe in the whole world – should be of example in other places where there's a large natural lake that can be used for agricultural purposes.

In EXPO\_2015 I'm reading the same old commonplace stuff about better, more rational, more efficient, more sustainable ... water use. But this doesn't seem to include an organic approach to an integrated hydrologic cycle, taking into account the indispensable equilibrium between groundwater extraction and water availability in each area.

It is universally recognized that the water diverted from rivers for irrigation purposes (water which would otherwise reaching the sea in a few days) provides a very important contribution to freshwater storage in groundwater.

Thanks to this lake system it was possible (and it will be in the future) to reduce the consequences of drought years. Most importantly (politically and economically), the sharing of the common water resource forces its users to agree to a common protocol for water use, enhancing cooperation and reducing long lasting disputes.

Among other reasons, the “regulated large lakes Lombard system for Irrigations” has a sustainable environmental impact, because – given the huge surface of these lakes – it doesn’t alter their natural water level of more than one or two meters. To counterbalance this small variation, there is an impressive achievement in terms of water availability that we believe could serve as an example in many other places on the earth.

For all these reasons the fact that this great asset of ours doesn’t even get a mention either in EXPO 2015 or in the Protocollo di Milano is a real missed opportunity to show an Italian excellence. This is particularly true considering the the peculiar food-related vocation of this EXPO.

I thank you for your attention and I look forward to hearing from you. Best regards,

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#### History of Consorzio Irrigazioni Cremonesi

The *Consorzio per l'incremento dell'Irrigazione nel territorio Cremonese*, also known as **Consorzio Irrigazioni Cremonesi** (CIC), was founded in March 26,1883, in order to build the Marzano Irrigation ditch (now named after Pietro Vacchelli, Senator of the Kingdom of Italy). This was in fact built between 1887 and 1893.

CIC sprang to life thanks to 59 *Cremonesi* municipalities sharing the financial burden.

The new ditch was essential to bring more water to the fields and caused the agricultural production in the second part of XIX century to rise steeply.

The only solution was to flow water from *Adda* river, 35 km away from *Tombe Morte* place, in *Genivolta (CR)*, climbing over *Serio* river valley, to reach the ancient water supply network built, during the X century driving from *Oglio* river and *fontanilli* (countryside springs), mainly thanks to the *Naviglio della Città di Cremona* and *Condominio Pallavicino's* Irrigation ditches.

Originally *Pietro Vacchelli* ditch was able to drive 25 cube meters: this doubled the water resources of the *Cremonese* countryside. The flow rate was increased to 37,00 m<sup>3</sup>/s and, thanks of Como lake regulation, to 38,5.

The *Condominio Pallavicino* was a private establishment founded by *Galeazzo I Pallavicino*, in XVI century. The *Pallavicinos* owned it for centuries *in stirpe et non in capita*, contrary to the then common family law.

In 1893 *Condominio Pallavicino* was bought by CIC, with the water supply network driving from *Oglio* river by means of the following main ditches:

- *Roggia Calciana* (XIV century);

- *Naviglio Grande Pallavicino* (XVI);
- *Naviglio Nuovo Pallavicino* (XVII).

Today the flow rate of the CIC water supply network is 57,779 m<sup>3</sup>/s, and it is able to irrigate 65000 hectares.

In the XX century the most important improvement was the construction of the *Lago di Iseo* and *Lago di Como* dams. They adhered to the shared protocol for water use with *Oglio* and *Adda* rivers, so that there is always water available, even in the difficult times.

*Consorzio Irrigazioni Cremonesi* is managed by a 7-member board of directors. It employs 23 people and its headquarters are in 21, *Cesare Battisti* street, 26100 Cremona.

CIC website is [www.cic.cr.it](http://www.cic.cr.it) and CIC magazine is called COSE D'ACQUA©  
<http://www.cic.cr.it/cose-d-acqua.html> .

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