

2.3 Description of the scientific contribution and/or innovation brought by the project

The project will provide a significant contribution to the scientific knowledge related to existing Lombard avian genetic resources, in order to optimize conservation and valorization activities. The application of an effective reproductive management scheme is expected to minimize inbreeding and monitor the maintenance of maximum genetic variability through the use of genetic indices developed from genotypes identified with microsatellite molecular markers. These genetic indices represent an innovative tool in the management of small poultry populations, and the present project represents a management model that can be transferred to other limited-number breed populations for the conservation of biodiversity in the poultry sector.

Furthermore, it will be possible to improve the dissemination of the genetic resource throughout the territory by distributing Milanino breed chicks to different Lombard agricultural companies. In addition, collecting corresponding zootechnical data on the actual management conditions in the company will allow the characterization of the potential use of this genetic resource in the territory.

Within Subproject 2, the dissemination activity will be mainly directed towards Lombard agricultural companies, consumers, and secondly to the scientific community.