

Cooperatives, peasants, and agriculture in fascist Italy: from self-organisation to social control¹

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Introduction

Arrived to power in 1922 and finally defeated by the combined action of the resistance movement and the Allied forces, fascism is neither an exceptional parenthesis nor an isolated accident in an Italian history otherwise linear and progressive. As the antifascist intellectual Piero Gobetti said in the 1920s, fascism is rather the “autobiography” of the nation², with its perfect and coherent place in the continuity of the Italian evolution: sustained by a large majority of the ruling class, the regime is charged to restore the order after the social conflicts of the “red years” (1919-1920). At the same time, and while its corporatist ideology³ is presented by the propaganda as a “third way” alternative to both socialism and capitalism⁴, fascism is determinant in contributing to the internal reorganisation of Italian capitalism within the more global capitalistic change of the 1930s⁵. Moreover, in the context of international crisis and protectionism of the interwar period, Italy achieves three major processes influencing the future of its countryside: the definitive commoditisation of the agricultural sector, the integration of rural masses within the nation, and the intervention of the State into agriculture⁶. The changes that took place during this fundamental transition shaped the development model of the Italian agriculture, its future evolutions, and even its type of modernisation since the 1950s⁷.

By focusing on the 1920s-1940s, this paper attempts to trace the economic and social history of agricultural cooperatives and their role in the interwar agrarian transition⁸. I will firstly describe the characteristics of the pre-fascist cooperative movement. Then, I will analyze the repressive strategies enacted by the regime to neutralise independent initiatives. And I will finally observe the way of the fascist cooperative reorganisation within the corporatist system implemented since the mid-1920s.

1. The characteristics of the Italian cooperative model before fascism

The historical origins of the Italian cooperative movement have to be searched in the social initiatives encouraged by mutualism since the mid-19th century⁹. Often seen by political forces as an instrument to

¹ Draft paper, not to be quoted without the author's consent (mignic@gmail.com).

² Gobetti 1924.

³ Fusco Antonio Maria, “Corporativismo fascista e teoria economica”, in Domenicantonio 2007, pp. 49-92.

⁴ Polanyi 1944.

⁵ Grifone 1980; Domenicantonio 2007.

⁶ Nützenadel 2001; Marselli Gilberto-Antonio, “La politica agricola del ventennio”, in Domenicantonio 2007, pp. 169-199.

⁷ Mignemi 2010.

⁸ Bernstein 2010, pp. 70-73.

⁹ Degl'Innocenti Maurizio, “Geografia e strutture della cooperazione in Italia”, in Sapelli 1981, pp. 3-87; Fornasari and Zamagni 1997.

prevent social conflicts, workers associations flourish especially in urban areas to secure living conditions and offer services otherwise inaccessible in the absence of institutional protections. The crisis of the 1880s reinforces cooperative development, but in a still largely peasant country where important inequalities persist, two quite natural dynamics durably mark this movement. Firstly, cooperative initiatives gain progressively rural contexts. Secondly, subaltern classes adopt cooperatives as an instrument to reinforce their agency in social and political struggles; mutualism meets the beginning of trade unionism¹⁰, as attested by the *Triplice del lavoro*¹¹.

Through collective action, poor workers coordinate their efforts against unemployment and reinforce their bargaining power. Influenced by the characteristics of the Italian social question, the societies they create are generally unspecialised and locally based, socially homogeneous and politically involved. According to some authors, this priority given to the production over the consumption proves the backwardness of the Italian cooperative model¹². Nevertheless, during this period, its development is remarkable and the first two decades of the 20th century are a sort of “golden age” for cooperatives, thanks also to the favourable regime determined by the governments of Giovanni Giolitti. Specific measures and financial mechanisms are defined, like the *Istituto nazionale di credito per la cooperazione*, founded in 1913¹³, and enhance cooperative social action. On their side, national and local powers manifest a positive attitude, particularly in the attribution of public works. Cooperatives become progressively a privileged mediator of the relation between the State and the working class.

Their development is geographically polarised and concentrated in the Northern regions – mostly in Emilia-Romagna and Lombardy – with the relevant exception of Sicily. Neutral initiatives are well diffused, but the influence of political groups (i.e. socialists, catholics, republicans, liberals) is indisputable. In 1886, the *Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative Italiane*¹⁴, connected to the Socialist Party established six years later, is created on left-wing political positions. In 1919, along with the Popular Party¹⁵, the *Confederazione delle Cooperative Italiane* is founded, based on the Catholic social teaching set up by the *Rerum Novarum* in 1891. Even if their ideological horizons can be different, both socialists and catholics, in their practices, aim to defend the working class and empower weak agents in a changing world.

Agriculture is a branch fully incorporated within the Italian cooperative movement. During this period, two main objectives dominate its action: the social and cultural emancipation of rural masses and the end of the traditional mechanisms of economic exploitation (e.g. usury, low wages, unequal contacts, etc.). Thus, in the Italian countryside, agricultural cooperatives focus their intervention on three of the main markets frequented by the peasants¹⁶: land, labour, and credit. Collective action in product markets (i.e. inputs and outputs of agricultural activities) is not absent at all, but often secondary in cooperative strategies. The exception to this

¹⁰ Trezzi 1982.

¹¹ The *Triplice del lavoro* is the name of the alliance created to coordinate three federations: the *Confederazione Generale del Lavoro* (trade unions), the *Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative* (cooperatives), and the *Federazione Nazionale delle Società di Mutuo Soccorso* (mutual societies).

¹² Gide 1927.

¹³ Castronovo and Ostuni 1997.

¹⁴ Zangheri et al. 1987.

¹⁵ Zaninelli 1996; Mauri 1984.

¹⁶ Aymard 1983.

rule is the technocratic model of provincial *consorzi agrari* and of their 1892-founded national union *Federconsorzi*¹⁷.

Two activities are internationally recognised as distinctive of the Italian cooperative model in agriculture: rural credit societies and production and labour cooperatives¹⁸. Rural credit societies, the *casse rurali*, are small-scale and locally based institutions that collect savings and offer favourable interest rate on loans. They serve also as a mediator with traditional banks, sharing risk and reinforcing the purchasing power of their members through the mechanism of the collective borrower¹⁹. Production and labour cooperatives are created in territories where land inequality persists, together with unemployment and onerous contracts (i.e. Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy, and Sicily). Their origins are strictly linked to the agrarian struggles of the 1890s-1900s²⁰ and their mission is declined in two different, while not alternative, ways. On the one side, the *affittanze collettive* conserve their original agricultural nature and practice collective leasing and culture²¹. On the other side, the unions of *braccianti* and *terrazzieri* orient the workforce of their members towards seasonal yards or public works.

Traditionally represented as deeply individualist, farmers adopt cooperatives to get, via collective action, benefits otherwise inaccessible. On their side, public authorities define formal frontiers for societies and direct cooperative paths by their policies. Statistical surveys give an idea of the dimension and the geographical distribution of the cooperatives and the lively atmosphere before the First World War (see Table 1). Except for wine growers' associations, dairies and *consorzi*, the generic denominations of existing societies attest the unspecialised nature of the Italian cooperative model in agriculture and its non-homogeneous development, but also the importance of the initiatives indirectly connected to the rural world and the primary sector, such as labourers associations and food industries (e.g. mills, bakeries, etc.).

Deprived of their principal resource – the direct implication of the farmers sent to the front – the war corresponds to a period of suspension for numerous agricultural cooperatives²². But in 1919-1920, encouraged by a vigorous peasant movement and by the measures on unexploited and abandoned land, cooperatives become a central instrument in rural social conflicts: 105 enterprises have obtained by legal ways 27,252 ha in April of 1920; 700 enterprises managing 700,000 hectares is the estimated dimension of the phenomenon in its phase of maximal expansion²³. In 1921, Serpieri considers that 311 catholic cooperatives control 52,382 ha and that 236 socialist cooperatives control 48,737 ha in the Po Valley. The important participation of the veterans unions has also to be mentioned, particularly in Southern Italy²⁴.

2. The repressive moment: violence and sterilisation

Persistent opinions and the scarcity of historical research have traditionally presented fascism as a period of suspension for the Italian cooperative movement. Moreover, in agriculture, this pause shall be situated

¹⁷ Ventura 1977; Fontana 1995.

¹⁸ Chayanov 1990, pp. 205-220; Serpieri 1920, pp. 127-151.

¹⁹ Caroleo 1976; Trezzi 1977.

²⁰ Bevilacqua 1991; Nenci 1997.

²¹ Raineri 1906.

²² Caroleo 1986.

²³ Serpieri 1930, p. 452.

²⁴ Barone 1984; Sabbatucci 1974.

between the vigorous peasant struggles that follow the First and the Second World Wars and the adoption of cooperatives as an instrument in their fighting strategies. During its two decades of power, fascism has of course produced a break in Italian cooperative history, ravaging and neutralising the important heritage of the pre-existing experiences. But how has this process concretely been implemented? Why does the period 1922-1925 correspond to a sudden decline? And is the alternation in political regimes a sufficient element to explain the rapid resurgence in 1945?

Regarding the wider context of deep social, political and economic crisis at the national and international levels, the fascist period is much more a turning point, transforming the place of the cooperatives within the general agrarian change context of the interwar period. Several experiences are destroyed, others resist accepting mimesis and compromise, and some others find also the opportunity to develop their activities²⁵. Fascism is not ideologically opposed to cooperation, which is on the contrary presented as a genuine instrument to empower little producers against monopolies and speculators²⁶. The official hostility of the regime is directed only against politicised initiatives, accused to serve electoral or subversive strategies. But fascism fears all possible interferences in its totalitarian hegemony and wants finally to neutralise the cooperatives' capacity to sustain any form of autonomous collective action (i.e. local communities, social groups, professional categories).

Used by poor peasants as an instrument to improve their working conditions and as a mean of self-organisation during social conflicts, agricultural cooperatives were dominated by socialists and catholics. In contrast with these "concurrent political forces", fascism resorts to direct violence against the cooperative movements' local leaders and headquarters. Still, the use of violence is an ultimate solution and rather the component of a larger repressive strategy.

Three lists of the 200 fascist attacks against cooperatives during the first half of 1921 are published by the journal *La Cooperazione Italiana*²⁷ (see Table 2). Even if the source is not exhaustive, some interesting elements emerge. Far from homogenous, the distribution of these attacks follows the geography of the pre-fascist agrarian struggles and is particularly concentrated in the areas of the Po Valley where strong labourers unions operate. This point confirms that the fascist violence against cooperative movement is far from irrational and accidental. The destructions and the ravages of the *squadrismo* have legitimated fascism as the political force aiming at the return of order after the class conflicts of the "red years". However, these "rough solutions" could contrast with the promised pacification and attract "undesirable attentions"²⁸: in the autumn of 1922, for example, a mission of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) publically condemns the "systematic destruction of Italian cooperatives" operated by fascism²⁹.

The direct attacks will continue after the March on Rome, but arrived to power, fascism prefers to emphasise its legalistic component over the violent one. Against the cooperative movement, strategies become preventive and discreet, thanks to the reinforced authoritarianism and the control on police (e.g. the arbitrary

²⁵ De Carolis 1927.

²⁶ Pareschi Carlo, "La coopération agricole en Italie", in *Les progrès de l'agriculture italienne* 1934, pp. 349-361.

²⁷ See the three lists in *La Cooperazione italiana* of May 13th, June 10th, and July 8th 1921 but also the article in the issue of May 6th.

²⁸ Sapelli Giulio, "La cooperazione e il fascismo : organizzazione delle masse e dominazione burocratica", in Fabbri 1979, pp. 285-316; Fabbri 2011, pp. 147-190.

²⁹ See the original text Fabbri 2011, pp. 167-171.

control introduced by the decree n. 64 of January 24th, 1924). Justified by the argument of the necessary reorganisation, State control is reinforced by a series of apparently non-connected measures. This technical repression proceeds by the legal and neutral tools of the economy: following the principles of self-regulation and free market, fascism monitors and progressively denies the existing and privileged mechanisms allotted to cooperatives. This strategy is less evident, but much more destructive in the long-term: it attacks the economic basis that guaranteed cooperative independent agency and finally sterilises the possibilities of a future and autonomous development for cooperatives.

From this point of view, the sort of the two activities – the rural credit societies and the production and labour associations – making the specificity of the Italian cooperative model in agriculture is emblematic. The decree n. 252 of February 11th, 1923 definitively abolishes the special regime of 1919-1920 for land leasing cooperatives: the supremacy of private property is reaffirmed and the societies deprived of the resource justifying their own existence. Several production cooperatives are conserved, especially in some “traditional zones”, with a high density of *braccianti*. The agricultural nature of these societies is progressively reduced and, during the 1930s, they moved to the labour branch of the fascist cooperative movement.

The destiny of rural credit societies is quite different and their absorption more gradual³⁰. The catholic implication in these structures “protects” and gives them a relative independence until the Lateran Treaty of 1929, but the economic crisis of the 1930s and the concentration movement of the whole financial system contribute to the decline of small-scale and local initiatives³¹. Fascist policies go in the same direction: the reform of the agricultural credit in 1927 and the general “Bank law” of 1936 reorganise the system in the direction of central control and specialisation. Deprived of their privileged nature and unable to self-ensure their financial independence, rural credit societies are obliged to get closer to traditional banks in a dynamic of subordination that often becomes formal takeover. The wide and local-based network that had made the originality and the independence of the pre-fascist cooperative model is sacrificed to the economic reorganisation induced by the general crisis.

Despite violence and sterilising strategies, during the 1930s cooperative history goes on. Referring to the agricultural sector, some authors talk about the substitution of the existing cooperation “from below” with a new cooperation encouraged and directed “from above”³². This dynamic is due to the “selective environment” created by fascism³³. But since the end of the First World War, an internal crisis also characterises the cooperative movement and its search for a renewed balance between political and entrepreneurial strategies following the post-war social conflicts. Besides, all these evolutions have to be situated in the definitive imposition of the totalitarian State realised by fascism in 1924-1926, as the assassination of the socialist deputy Giacomo Matteotti and some protectionist policies confirm. The

³⁰ Caroleo 1979.

³¹ Muzzioli 1983.

³² Lepre Stefano, “Alcune ipotesi di studio sulla cooperazione agricola negli anni Trenta”, in Fabbri 1979, pp. 727-740.

³³ Degl’Innocenti, *art. cit.* in Sapelli 1981, pp. 51-64.

corporative system is formally implemented in 1926 when “existing agricultural cooperatives and consumer cooperatives were integrated into the structures of the corporate state”³⁴.

3. The organisation moment: which cooperatives for corporatism?

As already noticed, fascism is not ideologically opposed to cooperatives and their economic function. On the contrary the regime emphasises the necessity to moralise the movement and come back to cooperative authenticity and purely technical nature, against the politicised perversions. Moreover, the weakness of the fascist cooperative movement – the *Sindacato Italiano delle Cooperative* created in 1921³⁵ – was evident, as well as the lack of preparation of its cooperators. Thus, fascist initial attitude towards pre-existing cooperation was cautious and dominated by pragmatism, accepting cohabitation with free unions too. The *Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative Italiane* will be closed only in November of 1925, while several local experiences resist accepting the compromise, and fascism tries also to absorb in its federations the Catholics’ and veterans’ initiatives. The turning point is induced by the corporative phase that starts in 1926 and imposes the model of a totalitarian regulated economy. This evolution participates to the general reorganisation of the Italian capitalism and will direct its successive development.

In 1926, the union *Ente Nazionale della Cooperazione* (ENC)³⁶ is created to assist and control the enterprises and to build up a “unitary, efficient, disciplined” national movement³⁷. Cooperatives are not formally obliged to adhere, but in fact this is the only authorised institution and the sole having relations with public authorities. The ENC is in charge of completing the ongoing process of modernisation and “natural selection” of cooperative enterprises by the elimination of the weaker initiatives and the reinforcement of the better equipped ones³⁸. Specialised federations ultimately controlled by the ENC are also created and, in the agricultural field (see Table 3), they can associate: dairies, wine growers, mills, input and output markets, credit, mutual insurance, labour, etc.³⁹.

Several international observers are also surprised by the measures that fascism adopts in favour of agricultural cooperation, and they consider this attitude in contrast with the totalitarian ideology⁴⁰. Even the ICA condemns fascist violence against cooperatives but, claiming its political neutrality, will always suspend its judgement over the reorganisation process effectuated by the regime⁴¹. This ambiguous attitude will finally justify fascist thesis of the backwardness of the Italian cooperative movement and the necessity of its modernisation. And in 1929, in the French *Revue des Études Coopératives*, Georges Bourgin presents fascist project as the attempt to realise a “social synthesis” inspired by the arguments of class collaboration and nationalism, but interfered by the traditional forces of Italian capitalism⁴².

Moreover, during the 1930s, the agrarian and the economic crises encourage cooperative solutions as a response to individual difficulties: by collective action, farmers share the risks and the costs, and reinforce

³⁴ Nützenadel 2001, p. 97.

³⁵ Cordova Ferdinando, “Cooperazione e fascismo nella crisi dello stato liberale (1918-1925)”, in Fabbri 1979, pp. 249-284.

³⁶ The ENC is created by the decree n. 2288 of December 30th, 1926, and the decree n. 718 of April 21st, 1927.

³⁷ ENC 1928, p. 5.

³⁸ CIPA, n. 5-6, 1931.

³⁹ ILO 1927, pp. 46-48 and 1939, 75-78.

⁴⁰ Cotta 1935.

⁴¹ Sapelli, *art. cit.* in Fabbri 1979, p. 310-311.

⁴² Bourgin 1929.

their bargaining power. While individual strategies were possible under normal conditions, difficulties are an initial incentive to associate that could later persist and durably resist to the end of the crisis. This mechanism is particularly evident in areas where a tradition of collective practices has pre-existed, so that a persistent cooperative geography appears in Italy, over the decades and the contextual differences.

In 1928 (see Table 4), the agricultural branch of the ENC includes 1,777 enterprises with nearly 200,000 members, but 1,276 are dairies concentrated in three Northern regions, while a decline characterises non-specialised and labour cooperatives in agriculture. Ten years later, in 1937 (see Table 5), the primary sector seems to be the only sector of the ENC where a growth is visible with 4,158 cooperatives and nearly 600,000 members, even if 77.6% of them are dairies. Geographically concentrated in a limited number of areas, this distribution often attests persistent “cooperative traditions” that pre-exist to fascism. Can this remark justify the idea that the two decades of the regime are finally without consequences for Italian agricultural cooperation?

In a context of important evolutions that transform the place of agriculture in the national economy, a process of specialisation and professionalization seems to characterise the cooperative movement during the 1930s. The pre-fascist model serving the subaltern class is abandoned and farmers’ cooperatives take progressively the place of poor peasants’ cooperatives. Thus, the idea is to provide a service that will support and empower individual producers and no more to implement collective initiatives associating weaker agents.

At the same time, the regime cannot and does not want to completely destroy the pre-existing network of social institutions (e.g. the *Unione nazionale delle latterie sociali* created in 1907). It only aims to neutralise their independent action and to reinforce the bureaucratic control on them. Rural credit companies are progressively absorbed by the traditional banking system, even if at the end of the 1920s two independent federations still exist: the catholic Federation of Italian Rural Banks (*Federazione delle casse rurali italiane*) created in 1887, and the Italian Federation of Rural Banks (*Federazione italiana delle casse rurali*) created in 1915. Farming cooperatives emphasise their labour-management function and the National Fascist Federation of the Co-operative Societies for Agricultural Labour (*Federazione Nazionale Fascista delle Cooperative di Lavoro Agricolo*) created in 1929 ultimately passes under the “jurisdiction” of the fascist trade unions, reaffirming the specific role of labourers in agriculture. In 1938, the labour cooperatives in the ENC are 221 with nearly 40,000 members and 68,131 ha. The sort of *Federconsorzi* is also emblematic: deprived of its original cooperative nature, the *consorzi agrari* (i.e. 279 *consorzi* exist in 1937 with more than 200 thousands members) are transformed in bureaucratic organisms serving the necessities of State intervention in agriculture⁴³.

Violence and other legal limitations deprive poor peasants of their forms of independent collective action. And even if the propaganda exalts the virtues and the cohesion of rural world, through the corporatist system, the regime adopts cooperatives as an instrument to control social conflicts and manage peasantry in the fundamental transition of the interwar period⁴⁴.

⁴³ Rossi-Doria 1963.

⁴⁴ See the texts of Lepre and Sapelli in Fabbri 1979 cited above.

The development of the cooperative movement is finally subordinated to the priorities of the totalitarian organisation but, at the same time, stressed in its economic and technical functions⁴⁵. Against the socialist and catholic engagements in favour of subaltern groups, fascism encourages in the countryside middle-class and independent farmers to mount cooperatives as an opportunity to support adjustment processes in a period of general crisis⁴⁶. More than a positioning in favour of neutral solution, fascist cooperation authorises and substantially reorients collective initiatives to serve another social group.

Conclusion: the dualistic path of agricultural cooperatives

Is it possible to affirm the existence of an authentically “fascist cooperation” or would it be better to talk about “cooperation under fascism”? Going beyond this opposition, Menzani prefers to look at the coexistence between the “fascist pseudo-cooperation” and the “pseudo-fascist cooperation”⁴⁷. At the same time, following the interpretation of Manlio Rossi-Doria, the fascist – direct and indirect – attacks against the cooperatives and the other forms of self-organised collective action have ravaged the making of the Italian democratic institutions and their rural origins. These attacks would finally have been one of the most important “historical legacies” of the regime to the social and political development of the country⁴⁸.

In 1942, one year before Mussolini formal destitution, the new Civil Code is introduced and becomes one of the pillars of Italian law even after the proclamation of the Republic in 1946. It legitimises for the first time the separated nature of cooperatives, but without any precise reference to their mutual and social objects. Cooperatives are formally recognised as specific contractual enterprises, but their administration and operations are substantially submitted to further measures. This ambiguous legislation often reduces and marginalises cooperatives, but it is at the same time unable to prevent speculations and falsifications that use cooperatives for other scopes⁴⁹. The natural consequence is a “juridical dualism” that discourages the most solid and dynamic initiatives, and transforms cooperative in an ideological or residual solution with limited resources, submitted to public direction and often adopted as an exit strategy in negative conjunctures.

In agriculture, this evolution has to be combined with the fundamental transition of the interwar period. In a context of national and international reorganisation of the global capitalism between the 1920s and the 1940s, fascism implements the dualistic development model that will durably characterise the Italian primary sector opposing dependent and marginalised peasants to intensive and capitalistic farming. The regime conserves a “peasant sector” for the benefits offered to the undergoing transition, but lobbies and interest groups – dominated by industrial and financial capital – orient public aids and State policies in a different direction. Finally, agricultural cooperatives are reduced to instrument to manage internal and external social conflicts involving rural worlds.

⁴⁵ Acerbo 1932; Lorenzoni 1936.

⁴⁶ Bourgin 1929, p. 250.

⁴⁷ Menzani 2009, p. 246.

⁴⁸ Rossi-Doria 1961.

⁴⁹ Bonfante Guido, “La legislazione cooperativistica in Italia dall’Unità a oggi”, in Sapelli 1981, pp. 191-252.

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Table 1. Agricultural cooperatives in pre-fascist Italy (1916 National Cooperative Census).

	Agricultural Cooperatives				Wine Growers		Dairies		Bracc. Lab. Coop.		Food Industries		Agric. Insur.	Rural Cred. Soc. (1902)
	Coop.	Cons.	Total	Memb.	Coop.	Memb.	Coop.	Memb.	Coop.	Memb.	Coop.	Memb.		
Piedmont	37	22	59	8.547	33	1.383	4	320	12	500	8	390	58	35
Liguria	13	9	22	3.153	-	-	5	48	-	-	5	n.a.	-	2
Lombardy	110	24	134	31.511	18	2.270	76	3.217	20	1.125	32	5.948	6	32
Veneto	37	13	50	20.391	2	n.a.	42	2.412	72	11.244	13	2.652	1	78
Emilia-Rom.	138	23	161	31.090	9	761	47	1.429	151	34.237	10	869	1	69
Tuscany	15	23	38	7.556	5	n.a.	-	-	33	2.730	10	1.554	2	4
Umbria	3	7	10	999	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Marche	12	13	25	7.348	1	48	-	-	5	205	4	369	-	8
Lazio	17	27	44	7.537	17	1.823	4	70	17	770	11	90	3	15
Abruzzi	10	10	20	6.380	-	-	1	n.a.	-	-	2	n.a.	2	4
Campania	9	44	53	5.945	-	-	-	-	2	103	-	-	1	7
Apulia	32	20	52	10.117	12	3.085	-	-	14	1.131	10	2.337	-	7
Basilicata	6	4	10	1.261	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	n.a.	-	10
Calabria	12	13	25	5.471	2	n.a.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sicily	121	19	140	29.340	3	n.a.	1	n.a.	2	35	11	n.a.	1	63
Sardinia	8	11	19	2.062	1	96	2	96	5	570	-	-	4	3
Italy	580	282	862	178.708	103	9.466	182	7.592	333	52.650	118	14.209	79	338

Table 2. Fascist attacks and ravages against cooperatives (January-June 1921).

	Provinces concerned	Total N° of fascist attacks
Piedmont	3	4
Liguria	1	1
Lombardy	4	74
Veneto	5	25
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	1	1
Emilia-Romagna	7	67
Tuscany	4	18
Umbria	1	6
Lazio	1	1
Abruzzi	1	1
Apulia	1	1
Sicily	1	1
<i>Italy</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>200</i>

Table 3. Agricultural cooperative unions in ENC 1927-1939.

Federations	Found.	Headquarters	N° members (Coop.)	N° members (Persons)	Exist in 1939
Federconsorzi	1892	Piacenza	1,000 (1925)		X
Union of the Co-operative Wine-cellar Societies	1922	Modena	100 (1924)	8,000 (1924)	
National Federation of the Fascist Rural Credit Societies	1926	Rome (ENC)	350 (1926)	-	
National Federation of the Fascist Agricultural Co-operative Societies	1926	Rome (ENC)	307 (1926)	-	
Nat. Fasc. Fed. of the Co-operative Societies of Agricultural Labour	1929	Rome (ENC)	350 (1935)	45,000 (1935)	X
National Fasc. Fed. of Livestock Mutual Insurance Societies	1930	Rome (ENC)	753 (1937)	35,000 (1937)	
Nat. Fasc. Fed. of Produce Societies: - <i>Dairies</i> - <i>Wine Growers</i> - <i>Oil-Mills</i> - <i>Mills</i>	1930-1934	Rome (ENC)	3,358 (1937) 3,130 (1937) 194 (1937) 20 (1937) 44 (1937)	260,000 (1937) 240,000 (1937) 16,000 (1937) 2,300 (1937)	X
Nat. Fasc. Fed. of Producers' Co-operative Societies for Collective Purchasing and Marketing	during 1930s	Rome (Federc.)	830 (1937)	800,000 (1937)	X

Table 4. Agricultural cooperatives and members in ENC (1928).

	Prod. Coop.		Wine Growers		Dairies		Cocoon Dryers		TOTAL Agriculture	
	Coop.	Memb.	Coop.	Memb.	Coop.	Memb.	Coop.	Memb.	Coop.	Memb.
Aosta Valley	-	-	-	-	1	37	-	-	1	37
Piedmont	12	1.108	11	1.676	15	1.865	-	-	38	4.649
Liguria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lombardy	124	9.811	11	2.009	61	5.565	7	1.055	203	18.440
Veneto	22	2.837	1	53	17	50.490	43	33.809	83	87.189
Trentino Alto-Adige	-	-	45	3.078	333	21.209	22	10.934	400	35.221
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	5	490	2	209	596	6.102	1	460	604	7.261
Emilia-Romagna	73	16.090	26	3.160	201	5.038	2	313	302	24.601
Tuscany	9	1.170	1	3	-	-	4	639	14	1.812
Umbria	-	208	-	-	-	-	1	117	1	325
Marche	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	270	3	270
Lazio	23	3.287	-	-	-	-	1	n.a.	24	3.287
Abruzzi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Campania	10	1.396	-	-	-	-	2	241	12	1.637
Apulia	2	942	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	942
Basilicata	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Calabria	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	38	1	38
Sicily	34	9.385	-	-	-	-	1	76	35	9.461
Sardinia	-	-	1	60	52	2.002	-	-	53	2.062
Italy	314	46.724	98	10.248	1.276	92.308	88	47.952	1.776	197.232

Table 5. Agricultural cooperatives and members in ENC (1937).

	Wine Growers		Dairies		Distilleries		Mach. Coop.		Cocoon Dryers		Tobacco Dryers		Mills		Oil-Mills		Others		TOTAL Agriculture	
	C.	M.	C.	M.	C.	M.	C.	M.	C.	M.	C.	M.	C.	M.	C.	M.	C.	M.	C.	M.
Aosta Valley	-	-	69	2.092	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	298	-	-	-	-	70	2.390
Piedmont	15	2.387	95	7.641	2	557	10	1.359	1	8	-	-	1	253	-	-	5	133	129	12.338
Liguria	-	-	29	2.166	1	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	155	2	862	35	3.266	
Lombardy	13	2.488	627	21.872	-	-	73	3.181	4	18.126	1	5	6	2.362	2	153	10	1.196	736	49.383
Veneto	8	1.315	700	58.186	-	-	1	56	34	26.467	10	352	1	30	1	31	5	331	760	86.768
Trentino Al.	35	2.126	360	20.423	-	-	-	-	15	7.003	6	1.595	15	719	-	-	55	1.245	486	33.111
Friuli-V.G.	15	1.872	714	53.039	-	-	-	-	21	44.704	6	845	1	105	1	121	-	-	758	100.686
Emilia-Rom.	47	4.449	627	17.480	1	32	58	5.088	-	-	4	128	-	-	-	-	13	1.336	750	28.513
Tuscany	3	36	11	2.119	1	187	2	129	4	230	4	211	-	-	5	165	1	20	31	3.097
Umbria	1	47	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	983	-	-	2	129	1	26	8	1.195
Marche	-	-	1	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	435	-	-	6	1.504	8	2.013
Lazio	6	1.640	6	233	3	1.868	5	990	-	-	3	177	-	-	1	15	5	1.140	29	6.063
Abruzzi	-	-	3	491	-	-	3	401	-	-	-	-	1	171	-	-	-	-	7	1.063
Campania	1	40	5	3.344	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	118	2	1.772	6	111	-	-	15	5.385
Apulia	14	2.028	-	-	2	1.891	1	50	-	-	11	500	-	-	2	250	11	1.166	41	5.885
Basilicata	-	-	1	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	359	2	180	-	-	4	609
Calabria	-	-	1	64	-	-	1	140	-	-	-	-	-	1	154	4	1.076	7	1.434	
Sicily	1	189	-	-	1	112	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.008	-	-	7	858	10	2.167
Sardinia	5	1.235	38	2.065	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	167	45	3.467
Italy	164	19.852	3.288	191.369	11	4.730	154	11.394	79	96.538	49	4.914	31	7.512	26	1.464	127	11.060	3.929	348.833