

# **Information on the Study Visit Cooperative (San Lidano)**

## **Overview:**

San Lidano is a prominent agricultural cooperative recognized as a Producers' Organization by the European Union. Established in 1997, the cooperative has grown to include over 60 dedicated members who contribute to its operations and success.

## **Operations and Production:**

- **Cultivation Area:** San Lidano directly manages approximately 1,000 hectares of land. This includes over 200 hectares equipped with modern greenhouses, enabling the cultivation of a wide range of crops throughout the year.
- **Product Range:** The cooperative is known for producing a vast assortment of high-quality vegetables. These include both first range (fresh) and fourth range (ready-to-eat processed) products. One of their notable outputs is the production of 20,000 tonnes of watermelons annually, which includes both traditional and seedless varieties.
- **Control and Quality:** With direct control over its production processes, San Lidano ensures a short and tightly controlled supply chain. This allows the cooperative to maintain high standards of quality and freshness, leveraging the unique agricultural characteristics of the Pontine territory.

## **Sustainability and Innovation:**

San Lidano is deeply committed to sustainable agriculture. By employing advanced farming techniques and maintaining modern greenhouse facilities, the cooperative minimizes environmental impact while maximizing efficiency and product quality. This approach not only supports the environment but also ensures the long-term viability of their farming practices.

## **Community and Cooperative Model:**

As a cooperative, San Lidano emphasizes the principles of mutual support and community involvement. Each member contributes to the cooperative's success, sharing in the benefits and decision-making processes. This model supports small and medium-sized farmers by providing them with the resources and market access needed to thrive.

## **Market Presence:**

San Lidano's products are well-regarded for their quality and are distributed across various Italian markets. Their commitment to excellence has also enabled them to expand into international markets, reaching a global audience with their fresh produce.