

Milling group growing

The Italian Association of Milling Technicians (ANTIM), founded in 1990 by a small group of Italian millers, has grown to about 130 associates and the organization says it has gained the support of Italy's most important flour milling companies.

As is written in its statute, the association brings milling technicians together for scientific and cultural purposes and to promote the distribution of technical and professional information. Another part of the group's mission is to promote the relationship with other national and international milling associations.

by Paolo Panzavolta

The Italian Association of Milling Technicians (ANTIM), now in its 18th year, has expanded its membership and services

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With these goals in mind, ANTIM's recently elected board of directors, led by President Maurizio Monti, organized two conferences this year, both of which attracted a large number of delegates. The first, held in northern Italy, had nearly 200 participants, while the second, in southern Italy, where there are fewer flour mills, had more than 100 participants. Among the topics discussed at the conferences were the required characteristics of flour with a discussion of how to meet the requirements. New wheat cleaning and grinding processes were also examined. Each conference ended with a visit to nearby flour mills — the first at Molino Denti in Reggio Emilia and the second at Molino Loiodice in Altamura.

The nearly 500 mills in Italy have a combined grinding capacity of more than 50,000 tonnes per day. The production is still broken up into many family mills with a few groups that do not make up a big percentage of the total production.

Italy also features a wide variety of products due to the fact that each region has its own type of bread and cakes. For this reason, mills make a large variety of flours and semolina. A small amount of the flour produced is dedicated to export.

In September, after the most recent harvest, ANTIM held its annual conference, which featured an analysis of the new wheat crop in Bologna, the location of one of the most important Wheat Exchanges in Italy. This presentation was given on the last day of a three-day conference, which was organized with other segments in the agricultural business to strengthen the relationships between wheat producers and the end users.

Last year, the analysis of the new crop information, which was obtained from more than 40 mills representing about 10% of the harvested wheat, was used by Italian millers to help them make wheat purchasing decisions, including whether imported wheat would be needed to obtain the flour characteristics desired by their customers.

This year, in an effort to continuously

improve the conference, representatives from wheat importers participated in this meeting. Italian millers will then have a complete specification of what is available on the market in the following months.

More information about ANTIM and a detailed activity program can be found at www.antiim.it. Although the informa-

tion on the website is in Italian, the organization does answer English e-mail messages in English. **WG**

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