

Cooperation and internationalisation

The increasing globalisation of markets together with the worldwide rapidly evolving social and environmental context have called for a supranational approach in regard to animal health safeguard and the risk evaluation of their international trade and that of their products. It is for these precise reasons that the Institute has chosen to adopt an international policy translating into the elaboration of protocols and the testing of new technologies useful to the progress of Italy and its partner countries.

Since the early 90s, the Institute exports its knowledge within the research field as well as for matters such as training, risk analysis, food safety, animal welfare and the organisation, implementation and management of animals vital statistics databases.

Due to its achieved levels of quality, the Institute is today a credible and reliable interlocutor on matters of veterinary services to a large extent of the world. The European Union, the United States government and various South American, African and Balkan countries have all expressed their high regard and trust toward the Institute.

Over the past twenty years the most important international Organisations operating within the Veterinary Public Health domain have relied on the Institute assigning it the role of Collaboration Centre and Reference Laboratory for specific subject matters. Amongst these Organisations are the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Furthermore, through its twinning projects, the European Union has recognised the Institute's importance in bringing technical assistance to EU candidate countries.

Supported by these honours that stand for its credibility, the Institute offers training programs, provides technical advice and support, deals with the regulation of diagnostic techniques, disease control strategies and sanitary rules for the international trade of animals and their products.

Since 2004, with the establishment of CIFIV, member countries of the world Organisations referring to the Institute have conformed to the international standards for control procedures. The Institute's quality and expertise are confirmed both by the tasks assignments received on behalf of beneficiary countries as well as the international invitations to competitive tenders awarded to the Institute within Community programs.

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dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "Giuseppe Caporale"**

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About us

The G. Caporale Institute was founded in Teramo in 1941. Following the progressive expansion of its jurisdiction, the regions of Abruzzo and Molise become part of its territory. In 1945 the Institute numbered a total of five employees. Today, it employs around 500 individuals working for it as veterinarians, biologists, chemists and many other professions while constituting a great team capable of competing on an international scale.

The G. Caporale Institute is a Health Organisation, governed under public law, with goals such as the human physical, mental and social well-being through the knowledge and application of veterinary sciences. The institute's activities aim to provide citizens with adequate answers to public health needs. It does so, through its continuous and solid research and experimentation efforts directed towards an integrated system combining "Animal Welfare - Animal Health - Food Safety". Such is the fundamental system that guides the Institute through all its activities, project implementations and development strategies.

Its growth is mainly attributable to the company's policy of the early 90s. Such policy translated into a rational development process and the creation of a flexible organisational model capable of going beyond the anachronistic Institute/User binomial in favour of a more effective Producer/Client approach. It is also thanks to this new policy that the Institute became the first veterinarian public body in Italy to be accredited according to international quality regulations.

Because of the progressive decline of its own territory's zootechnical heritage, and striving to offer highly innovative knowledge-based services to global markets, the Institute has been adopting an internationalisation policy for the past twenty years in order to further guarantee the preservation of animal and human health.

Establishments and laboratories

Specific proficiencies are recognised by the Italian Ministry of Health, which has therefore designated the Institute as the National Reference Centre and the National Reference Laboratory. These establishments of national importance are centres of excellence for the entire National Health System and for all the international Organisations with which they collaborate. In Italy, the G. Caporale Institute is:

- National Reference Centre for the Study and the Investigation of Animal Exotic Diseases;
- National Reference Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology, Programming, Information and the Analysis of Risk;
- National Reference Centre for Brucellosis;
- National Reference Centre for Equine Infectious Anemia;
- National Reference Laboratory for *Campylobacter*;
- National Reference Laboratory for *Listeria monocytogenes*;
- National Reference Laboratory for Dioxins and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in Feed and Food.

Over the years, for its highly specialised proficiencies, the Institute has been acclaimed and offered much international recognition, including from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The OIE's Reference Laboratories and Collaboration Centres global network avails itself of internationally renowned experts. Their knowledge and expertise are essential to the definition of international standards, norms and guidelines for the prevention and control of animal diseases as well as for the safe trade of live animals and products of animal origin.

Worldwide, the G. Caporale Institute is:

- OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare;
- OIE Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis;
- OIE Reference Laboratory for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP);
- OIE Reference Laboratory for Bluetongue;
- OIE Reference Laboratory for West Nile Disease.

Activities and facilities

The Institute's professionals are constantly engaged in experimental research regarding the origins and the development of infectious and diffusive animal diseases as well as the diagnosis of animal diseases and of those that can be transmitted to humans (zoonosis). Microbiological, chemical and radiometric investigations are led within the feed and food sector. High levels of epidemiological surveillance are maintained for animal populations' state of health, hygiene of zootechnical productions and products of animal origin. The Institute offers continuous advice and assistance to farmers, stockbreeders and their associations for the eradication of infectious diseases and the enhancement of zootechnical productions. This is mainly possible through the insurance of animal welfare and by supporting the technological and scientific development locally and worldwide. Along with research, the Institute has developed a production sector in the vanguard of technology application to science. Such sector offers advanced diagnostics, therapeutic and prophylactic centres essential to the countervailing of pathogenic bacterial, viral and other human-endangering organisms' activities.

The Institute's headquarters are located in the city of Teramo. Other diagnostics divisions are situated in Avezzano, Campobasso, Isernia, Lanciano and Pescara. The Experimental Regional Fishery and Aquaculture Centre is located on the Adriatic coast in the city of Termoli while the International Centre for Veterinary Training and Information (CIFIV) "Francesco Gramenzi" has two locations: one is situated in an old farmhouse surrounded by the green Teramo countryside, the other overlooks the Adriatic Sea from the fascinating sixteenth century Torre del Cerrano.

Training and communication

On a daily basis, the Institute commits to producing knowledge and share it with the international scientific community. Every year, through the CIFIV "Francesco Gramenzi", the Institute trains approximately 2,000 professionals from diverse fields, e.g., veterinary sciences, public and private health institutions, food processing companies and schools. It also offers programs of distance learning through innovative e-Learning systems. This incessant training activity is only due to the Institutes ability to raise funds through agreements, research projects and twinning with the Ministry of Health, the European Union, various foreign States and international Organisations.

The Institute's growth has been supported by communication and global information diffusion policies, facing increasing challenges of hardware, software, computer networks, new and old technologies integration. In order to bridge the gap between science and public opinion, the Institute's integrated communication campaigns have aimed to convey technical topics through a more popular parlance yet strictly withstanding scientific rigour. Communication is mainly transmitted through audiovisual and web channels. This choice benefits the Institute and its audience by allowing for faces and voices to be associated to the experts that are continuously involved in food, health and environmental safety activities. Scientific information is insured through the "Veterinaria Italiana" journal published in Italian as well as in English and distributed worldwide on paper and online, and the "Portale della conoscenza" (Knowledge portal) where it is possible for visitors to easily access the entire collection of the Institute's researchers' publications. Finally, database connections and Information retrieval services offer access to over 2,000 scientific reviews and the approximately 4,500 volumes composing the Library.

Quality and innovation

The Institute's laboratory activities have constantly undergone strict quality control since 1995 when, three years ahead the European Union's deadline, the Institute became Italy's first national veterinary body to be accredited according to international quality standards: ISO 17025:2005 originally known as EN 4501. In 2004 all training activities, whether on campus or through e-Learning programs, were certified according to ISO 9001:2000 standards as well.

The continuous pursue of quality processes, technical and scientific innovation and performance enhancement have led the Institute to be assigned a special award within the "Premiamo i risultati" (Lets award results) Contest promoted by the Italian Ministry of Public Administration. Subsequently to the prizing of the Institute's effective organisational model, the Presidency of the Italian Republic awarded it for its innovation excellence levels. By being distinguished as one of the best 37 Public Administrations through the "Premiamo i risultati" prize the Institute was capable of obtaining further and higher recognition by being conferred the National Award for Innovation 2010, also known as the "Premio dei premi" (Award of awards) prize. This very prestigious prize was instituted by a Prime Minister's decree and granted by the President of the Republic. It has been conceived in order to enhance the best innovative and creative skills of Companies, Universities, Administrations and Organisations. The ultimate aim of this important prize is to promote and foster a culture of innovation in Italy.

