



Speech 10th Hamburger Klimawoche (Hamburg Climate Week)

24th September 2019, Lattenplatz Hamburg, 15:30 circa

Gianni:

Buongiorno.

We are very happy to be here as a farm, albeit now a big one, at least for biological standards. When our parents started organic agriculture in the late 1970s, it was natural for them to cultivate biologically - because the word "organic farming" did not officially exist and at least in Italy wasn't yet certified.

It was all a big adventure and many neighbours did not take it seriously.

Today, 40 years later, the "working family" has grown by about 150 employees and many acres of land ...

each one of which is biodynamic, living, fully fertile soil.

When we talk about climate protection, it is often about the air and the reduction of CO₂ in production, including ours ... but what many forget is the earth. Because only on a living soil can life arise, if the soil is dead, we have a huge problem.

So we depend on a few meters of earth, and at La Violla we do everything we can to conduct them as naturally as possible.

Antonio:

Chemical fertilizers or pesticides are unthinkable to us, they are the opposite of what we want to achieve as farmers.

I even think they should be banned.

By law.

Because they pollute the earth, the water, our food and in the end also us.



It is hard to produce sustainably and biologically - it takes a lot of patience and time, especially when you're switching from conventional agriculture.

But once you've made it, there's no way back

It's about increasing and improving the organic matter in the soil.

We make our own compost, use biodynamic supplements, promote biodiversity in each of our fields, sow beans and herbs in the grapevines as green manures, recycle our water, use our own solar energy, cultivate beehives and harvest only when everything is really ripe.

So it's complex but logical and, above all, necessary. And not only it improves the quality of the fruits but also their taste.

The motivation to produce sustainably is, above all, for our children. We want a good future for them and they expect us to provide them with the foundation for a good future.

So there is no other way for us - and for everyone - to be sustainable.

We have the privilege of living in a society where we do not have to fight for our food every day. We even have the choice, every day, to decide what we eat and where it comes from.

This privilege comes with a task

We need to do more for good agriculture than the business balance demands.

Sustainability and respect are the way forward for the future, and a healthy living soil could be one of the factors that brings back the equilibrium between nature and humans.