

Notizie dalla Filiera

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InBioWood
increasing biodiversity through wood production



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Request of valuable timber from tree farms

Market survey in Verona province

Life + InBioWood Project (Increase Biodiversity Through Wood Production), co-funded by the European Community, aims at increasing biodiversity through wood production, from innovative tree farms. Within this project a market survey was conducted in order to evaluate the consumption and the assortment of the most requested valuable timber by wood companies in Verona province. The survey, completed in June 2014, was carried out through a census of companies interested in buying valuable wood from tree farms: a number of interviews were made in order to define the most requested wood assortments. The area affected by the study is the "Valli Grandi Veronesi", the southern area of Verona plain, south of Adige river, where the largest part of furniture industries in Verona province is grouped together. This article summarizes the survey results. The complete report can be downloaded from the website www.inbiowood.eu.

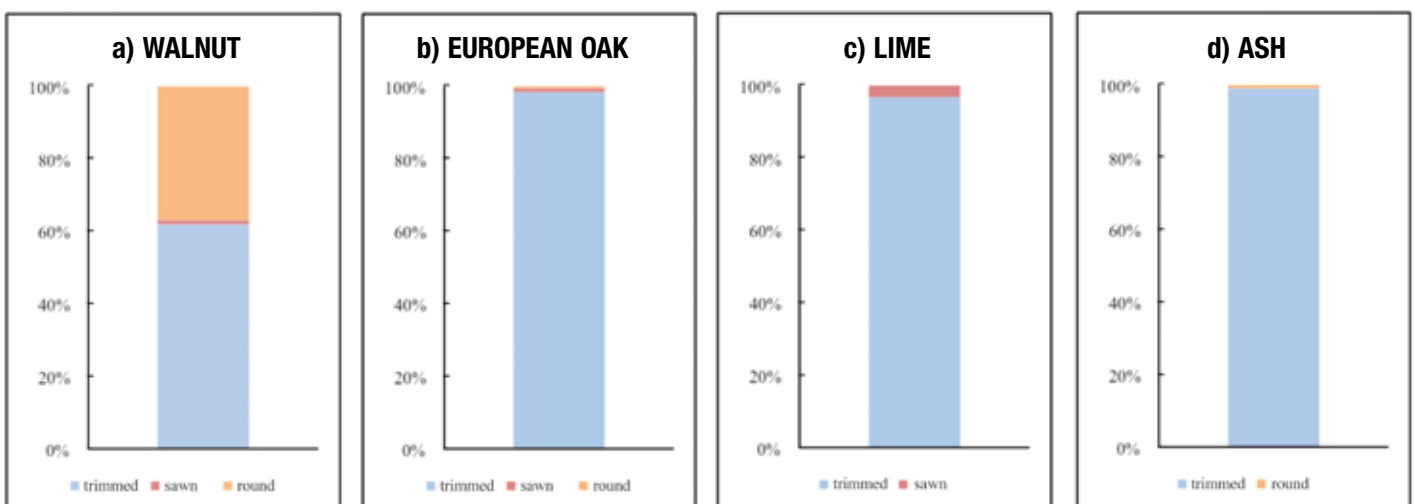
Survey target

The first step of the analysis provided a list of possible companies to contact for an interview. The survey led to the compilation of a list of over 300 companies: 104 companies were selected, divided into various types (sawmill, furniture store, joinery, window and door manufacturers, chair and table builders, pavers,

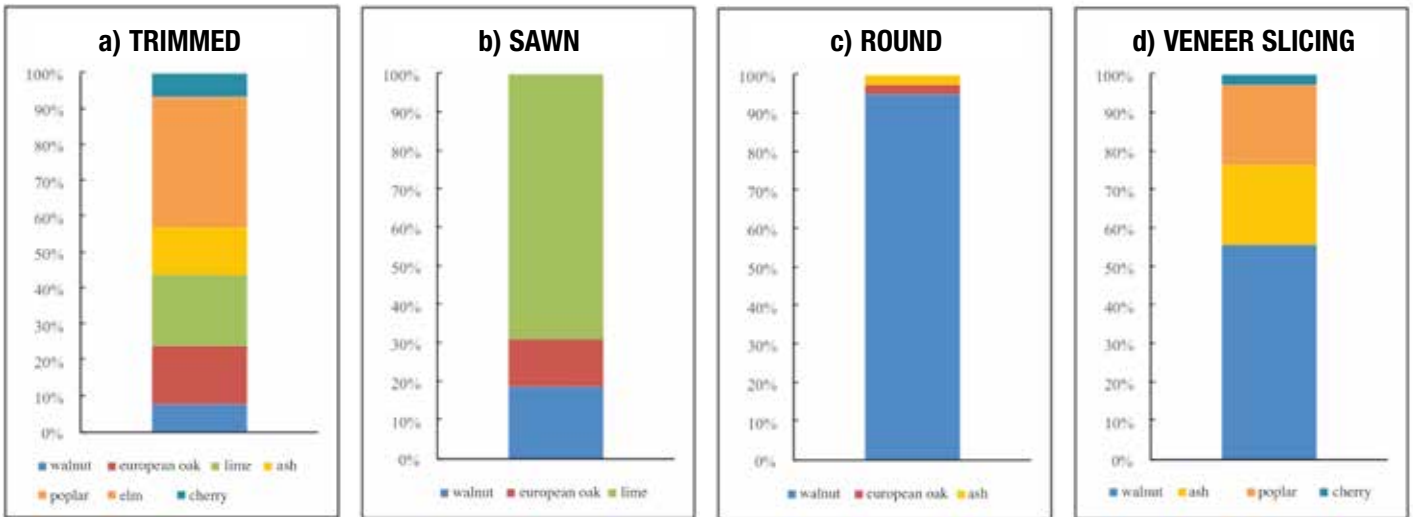
panel builders, roof constructors). These companies were contacted by phone and, later, a direct interview was conducted. The interview included two groups of questions: the first concerning the market references (timber purchasing methods, material origin), the second concerning the characteristics of the most purchased assortments (type, species, size, quantity and average purchase prices).

Material origin

According to the interviews, the most common timber supply system is buying from local merchants, generally located in northern Italy (Milan, Vicenza, Treviso, Padua, Bologna). Given the "artisan-family" dimension, almost every company purchase the timber in order to cover the specific need of the commissioned



Graph 1 - Percentage assortments for walnut, oak, lime and ash.



Graph 2 - Species percentage distribution for each assortment type: trimmed, sawn, round and veneer slicing.

works, without defining an average quantity of constant purchases.

Used Material

Among the 45 companies which were successfully interviewed, only 35 have been taken into account, because they declared to use native tree species as the ones used for valuable timber production on Life + InBioWood tree farms (walnut, european oak, lime, ash, poplar, elm, cherry). Basing on the wood volume, the most used species are poplar, lime and oak; the most used assortment is the trimmed (Table 1). Charts 1 and 2 show, in percentage, the assortments for each species and the most widely used species grouped by assortment.

Prices and measures

Trimmed was the most used assortment, so it has been chosen as reference to compare different species prices (€/m³). Walnut had the highest average price (Graph 3) with 1,371 €/m³, followed by cherry at 1,017 €/m³, european oak at 887 €/m³, elm at 800 €/m³ (only one

reference data), ash tree at 701 €/m³, lime tree at 599 €/m³ and poplar with 318 €/m³. The round walnut assortment was priced at 910 €/m³, while for sawn walnut and the walnut veneer slicing (in both cases only one data was collected), respectively 1,500 €/m³ and 5 €/m². For round european oak and sawn european oak (Photo 1) only one data was collect, respectively 260 €/m³ and 850 €/m³. Average price for sawn lime was € 450 /m³. For round and sawn ash assortments price was 250 €/m³ and 500 €/m³. The only veneer ash collected data concerned quantity without any price information. The only veneer cherry collected data was 4 €/m². Also the only poplar veneer collected data (Photo 2) concerned quantity without any price information.

In the data analysis concerning wood assortment measurements, no assortment tree species was identified, since most of the answers were referred to normally used trimmed measurements, without species distinction. With reference to the trimmed width, wide range values were found: the average value was 34 cm,

with a minimum of 12 cm and a maximum of 55 cm. As far as length trimmed is concerned, the average value was 3.5 m, with a minimum of 1 m and a maximum of 4.5 m. Also for trimmed thickness, a wide range values were found; the average value was 56 mm, with a minimum of 33 mm and a maximum of 90 mm. Round assortment shows a different scenario: 45 companies were surveyed, but only 4 companies have claimed to use it, 2 sawmills and 2 furniture factories; walnut is the most used species, with 393.5 m³, followed by cherry with 25 m³, european oak and ash (photo 3) with 10 m³. The required average diameters are about 45 cm for walnut, 37 cm for european oak and ash; for cherry tree, it was possible to record only quantity without any diameter indication.

Conclusions

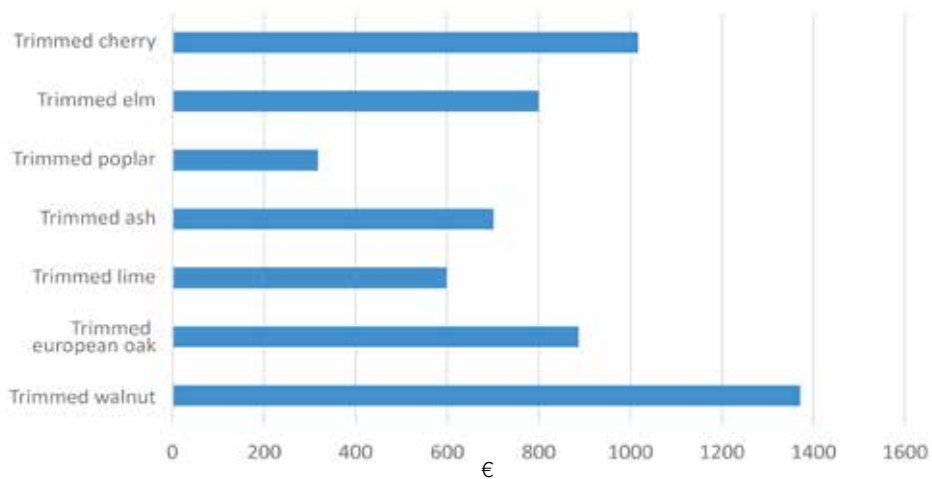
The obtained results, although referring to a current market of valuable timber whose future trend is oriented towards a strong dynamism, still provide crucial information about the most

Species	Total (m ³)	Assortment (%)
Trimmed walnut	617,5	61,7
Sawn walnut	15	1,5
Round walnut	368,5	36,8
Veneer slicing walnut (m ²)	400	-
Trimmed european oak	1.328	98,5
Sawn european oak	10	0,7
Round european oak	10	0,7
Trimmed lime	1.603,5	96,6
Sawn lime	56	3,4
Trimmed ash	1.070	99,1
Round ash	10	0,9
Veneer slicing ash (m ²)	150	-
Trimmed poplar	2.907	100
Veneer slicing poplar (m ²)	150	-
Trimmed elm	30	100
Trimmed cherry	547,5	100
Veneer slicing cherry (m ²)	20	-

Table 1 - Assortments quantity and percentages for each species.



Photo 1



Graph 3 - Average prices trend for trimmed of different species.



Photo 2

used species and assortments average size. This information is definitely useful for choosing the most appropriate logs diameters to be obtained in tree farms. Therefore, these data must be carefully considered in tree farms planning and management.



Photo 3

Info

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Photos Archivio COMPAGNIA DELLE FORESTE

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