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Number of EU country's farms at risk of closure revealed

Italian agro-producers can't keep up with soaring production costs



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Nearly 100,000 Italian farms are on the verge of closure due to skyrocketing production costs brought about by the conflict in Ukraine, major farming association Coldiretti said in a report this week.

According to the group, growing production costs

far exceed what is being paid to farmers and breeders for their products, from milk to fruit, meat and vegetables.

More than one farm in 10 (11%) is therefore on the verge of closure, while about one-third of the nation's total (30%) are working in conditions of negative profits, Coldiretti explains, citing data from Italian agricultural research organization Crea.

The group notes that prices have been growing on nearly every raw material used by agro-producers: from energy to diesel, fertilizers, fodder for animals and seeds.

Another problem is the gap between the final price of products and what the farmers are getting after transportation and processing. According to

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of wheat.

The group does not propose any solutions to the problem, but paints a dramatic scenario in which the closure of farms would lead to a decrease in crops and force the country to depend even more on agricultural imports.

Italy already buys 64% of its grain abroad, as well as 49% of beef and 38% of pork. It also imports over half the corn crops and a third of the soy crops required for animal nutrition, according to the Centro Studi Divulga. And these figures, analysts say, may soon rise dramatically.

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