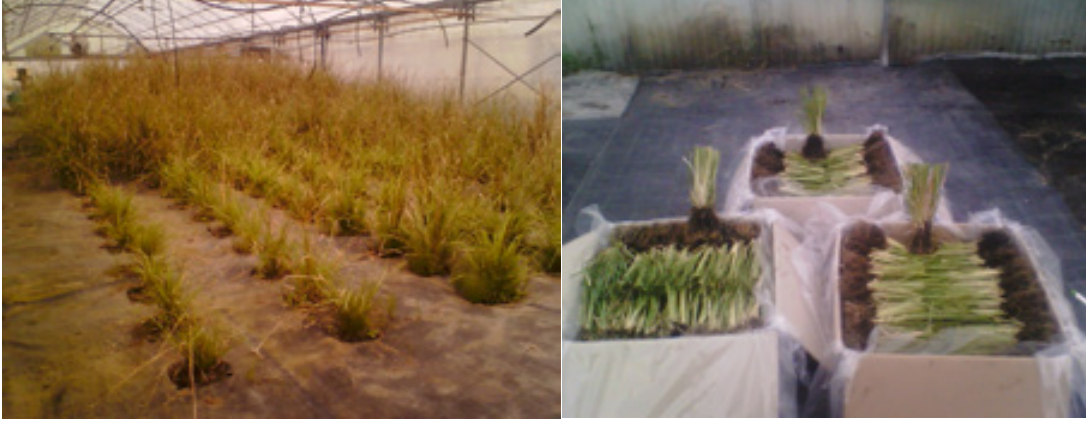


Andrea and Valentina Rossi have been using vetiver on their Tuscany vineyard located in Massa Carrara (approx. 44°N 10°E) since 2010. They can be contacted at: vetivertoscana@gmail.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vetivertoscana>

The Rossis established a network – **Vetiver Toscana** - and have for over 4 years collaborated with Vetiver Italia (Marco Forti) to promote the Vetiver System in Tuscany and in northern Italy. Vetiver Toscana is promoting VS through individuals and civil organizations to create public awareness.

Plant Propagation: The Rossis produce high quality plants in their greenhouse. They have a potting machine that will prepare 3000 pots per hour, the pot production allows them to produce a better growing plant and a lot of them at minimum cost. The pots have a diameter of 14 cm, and are arranged on the ground above a mulching sheet





During the summer, inside the greenhouse the plants grow continuously and this allows them to take leaf cuts for use in the vineyard. Mulch is good for 70 to 90 days.

Thus far their farm is the only farm to use the Vetiver System in a vineyard, although vetiver plants have been sold to vineyard companies in Vicenza and Trento, where they were used outside of the grape growing fields.

Soil and Water Conservation

In 2010 the Rossi farm was subjected to heavy rain and landslides. To repair the damage, to prevent further slides, and for general land protection the Vetiver System was applied.

Work in Vicenza





This is a work of an access road to a vineyard not far from the Rossi property – Massa Carra.





Rossi Vineyard Protection – last image two years after planting.





Since applying VS the Rossis have found that apart from slope stabilization and erosion control there have been other benefits:

- An 11 % increase in grape weight (juiciness) for grapes grown on vetiver protected land, 20 kg per box, compared to 18 kg per box on the unprotected land (both areas having the same exposure to the sun). This increase is most likely due to improved soil moisture, organic matter, and soil organisms (biota).
- A 50% reduction in pesticide and fungicide applications. Without vetiver applications were necessary every 15 – 20 days, with vetiver application intervals were increased to 30 days or more without negative impact on the crop.
- A 100% reduction in weeding intervals – as a result of using vetiver leaves as mulch we have reduced weeding (grass cutting) from 10 day to 20 - 25 day intervals.”

More slope protection on Rossi property



