



## 2022 TOMATO PROCESSING SEASON

### MUTTI: HAPPY WITH THE QUALITY OF TOMATOES DESPITE RISING ENERGY COSTS AND DROUGHT

*Despite energy costs of €42 million and the severe water shortage, the company worked non-stop, transforming 603,000 tonnes of top-quality tomatoes.*

*Once again the expertise of the entire Mutti supply chain made the difference.*

**3 October 2022, Montechiarugolo (PR)** – Despite energy costs of €42 million, 12 times higher compared with 2020 (€3.5 million), and the water shortage which exerted real pressure on the activities of the supply chain, Mutti worked non-stop and closed the 2022 tomato processing season having transformed 603,000 tonnes of excellent quality tomatoes, guaranteeing the supplies for the 100 countries in which the company, a European leader, is present today with its products.

Processing is concentrated between mid-July and late September, the period in which the tomatoes naturally ripen. Over these seventy days the three Mutti factories in Montechiarugolo (PR), Collecchio (PR) and Oliveto Citra (SA) work 24/7 to process the produce that arrives from over 800 Italian tomato-growing families.

*“The serious external factors that characterised the 2022 tomato harvesting and processing season did not impact on one of the founding values of our company: the quality of our products - commented **Francesco Mutti, CEO of Mutti SpA**. Achieving such results, not just satisfactory but excellent from a quality perspective, means even more in a year like this one: in over 120 years in the business we have never before seen gas prices peaking at €340 per megawatt hour and the costs of all raw materials rise by at least 20%, and on very few occasions have we seen such water shortages. Despite all of this, the entire Mutti system, made up of technical experts and farmers whose success this year has been built primarily on whole new levels of collaboration, has been able to rise to the unprecedented challenges it has faced. We will certainly remember this year for its bittersweet flavour but also for the expertise of those in our supply chain who have had to face and overcome these challenges.”*

In fact, the 2022 tomato harvesting was also challenging because of the **major drought** that affected Italy and the **exceptionally high temperatures**: during the first twenty days of July the average temperature was around 3°C higher than normal (second highest average in the last 60 years).

*“Tomatoes need constant watering and obviously sunshine, but excessively high temperatures are harmful for the maturity of the fruits. The situation in July raised lots of doubts about the results we would see in the second half of the season - commented **Massimo Perboni, Director of the Mutti SpA Agricultural Service**. However, thanks to some showers in August and, above all, our supply chain which demonstrated all of its technical expertise, the second part of the harvest was also highly satisfactory. In fact, it was the extremely modern irrigation systems, like drip irrigation, adopted right across our supply chain that guaranteed the correct and regular watering of the tomatoes without wastage and, with the exception of a few isolated cases, enabled us to react quickly to what was as a genuine water emergency.”*

A key contribution in this process came from the over **1100 expert seasonal workers** who, together with the workers at the three Mutti factories of Montechiarugolo (PR), Collecchio (PR) and Oliveto Citra (SA), supported our production and administrative activities from start to finish.



## **About us**

MUTTI SPA - The historic Parma-based company is a European leader in tomato processing. Marcellino and Callisto Mutti launched the company's first tomato transformation process in 1899. Since then, focusing on the core values of quality and Italian tradition, along with respect for the supply chain and the local area, the Mutti family has been exclusively dedicated to 100% Italian tomatoes, producing tomato paste, puree and pulp, products that are now enjoyed all over the world. The desire to innovate, part of the company's DNA since it was founded, has led to the gradual expansion of Mutti's range to include a wide selection of ready-made sauces. Today, the Mutti Group, which has been operating for 120 years, is a European leader in the tomato derivatives market and active in 100 countries worldwide, with a net turnover of €484 million in 2021. In 2022 the Mutti Group processed 603,000 tonnes of tomatoes. As for sales, in 2021 sales volumes in Italy were exceeded by export volumes thanks to years of double-digit growth in the international market. Montechiarugolo (PR) is the historic business headquarters of the Group which has gradually expanded to meet all the needs of its consumers. Typical southern Italian specialities, such as long and cherry tomatoes, are processed at the Fiordagosto plant in Oliveto Citra (SA). Finally, in November 2017 Mutti acquired the CO.PAD.OR plant in Collecchio, setting up the new company Pomodoro 43044 Srl which was subsequently merged with Mutti SpA as of 1 January 2021.

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