

## **RECOVERY AND USE OF LENTIL LANDRACE “VILLALBA”**

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Lentil is one of the most widespread grain legumes in the Mediterranean area. In Italy, the cultivation of this legume has ancient origins and over the centuries, has been domesticated and adapted into two distinct morfotypes: one with large seed and another with small seed. In the last fifty years the areas grown with lentil, decreased from 25,000 ha to the current 1,800 ha. In this context, only a few productions localized in typical well-defined areas have remained.

This work has been done to enhance a local population of lentil, cultivated in "Villalba" (CL). The study, conducted in the three years 2005-2007, has focused attention on morfophysiological characterization and monitoring of plant health. The results show a good degree of homogeneity and stability for the main morfophysiological characteristics. In the different years and in the different fields under investigation, no phytosanitary issues of importance have been found. The realization of this description lays the groundwork for unmistakably distinguish the local population of "lentil Villalba" and safeguard its geographical area of production, also considering the absence of phytosanitary problems.