

AT PAGE 24
FOCUS ON

In search of lost water

New products and new consumer demands which the industry is trying to meet. But we have to deal with water supplies

By Mauro Garofalo

There are new requests for food: avocado, soy, oats, quinoa, but they generate problems for the ecosystem. For *EATour's* Vincent Spaccapeli: "Water, in the near future, will be one of the big problems we will

have to be able to solve. Availability, according to UN data, will fall by 30%; we will have more and more polluted groundwater, rainfall will fall in the Mediterranean area and, conversely, we will have high concentrations of rain in short periods. In addition, we have a food chain that has become dirty with microplastics that contaminate fish, honey, even salt." Emissions and fertilizers pollute the Earth, the cyclical nature of the agricultural sector, the Paris agreement is still on paper. We need to work harder, put pressure on governments, for Spaccapeli: "Being a vegetarian means eating less meat, raising health levels, but producing more plants means knowing how to better manage the water, redistribute it", in the Mediterranean area alone *climate change* is already bringing inconvenience and changes in the cultivation: "Before you could not think of obtaining some products, in the future we can have new plantations but we must always have in mind that we must seek a balance between man and nature, it is time to think about the negative effects of our choices. We must start thinking again in the long term, and why not, provide education courses in sustainable tourism," a drop in the ocean generates change.

BOX

A WORLD OF DROPS

Every Italian consumes an average of 245 litres of water per day. Opening the tap, the water flows abundantly, as if it never ends, giving us the impression that there is water for everyone. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Because, at the same time, in the world, there are 700 million people who do not have easy access to drinking water, about half of them live in Africa, in countries such as Nigeria, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Republic in Congo, Kenya, Sudan, Mozambique and, above all, South Africa, with devastating consequences also from the health point of view.

That is why Legambiente has taken up the challenge by relaunching it to young and old with the national campaign *Un mondo di gocce*, realized with the support of [Fondazione con il Sud](#), to raise awareness of respect to the theme of water saving and raising awareness of water as a precious asset, to be treated with care and not to be wasted. Since last October, the campaign has entered all schools at

every level with seminars, games, experiments and competitions to make the kids feel the value of water, the sense of "world made of drops", putting in front of them a more complex topic than you imagine, to make them aware of the effects of their actions and lifestyle on the fate of the planet.

