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Environment, human impact and the role of trees on the Po plain during the Middle and Recent Bronze Age: Pollen evidence from the Terramara of Santa Rosa di Poviglio (SUCCESSO-TERRA)

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The national-funded project SUCCESSO-TERRA (*Human societies, climate-environment changes and resource exploitation/sustainability in the Po Plain at the Mid-Holocene times: the Terramara*) focuses on an interdisciplinary geoarchaeological and archaeobotanical investigation on the Terramare Middle Bronze Age culture, which developed in the central-southern Po Plain from around 1550 to around 1170 years BC (Cremaschi et al. 2016, Climate change versus land management in the Po Plain (Northern Italy) during the Bronze Age: new insight from the VP/VG sequence of the Terramara Santa Rosa di Poviglio. *Quat. Sci. Rev.* 136: 153-172). The land transformations that occurred at the onset, duration, and end of the Terramare culture has been investigate through the study of several terramare villages (T) and necropolis (N) including T Montale, T Baggiovara, N Casinalbo, T Santa Rosa di Poviglio. The Terramare wew banked and moated villages that developed in the central sector of Po River alluvial plain during the Middle and Late Holocene. The relationships between the Late Holocene regional environmental and land-use changes have been investigated to obtain a detailed comprehension of adaptive strategies of the Terramare people during the Middle/Recent Bronze ages. The palynological research demonstrated that the wood had a key role in the development of this cultures characterized by a sophisticated dynamic agricultural economy. The latter was expressly practiced on the basis of wood management and cereal/legume fields. At the top of the sequence of Santa Rosa di Poviglio, in correspondence with the drying of the moat system, a dramatic decrease of woods may had a twofold causation: increased aridity (natural factor) and intensive land-use (anthropic factor) might have played a fairly synchronous action on vegetation.