



FROM A RICE MILL

TO A EUROPEAN FOOD INDUSTRIAL GROUP SPECIALISED IN RICE

The activity began with Mr. Pietro Scotti, in 1860, in a mill based in Marudo. In 1890, his son, Ercole, moved to Villanterio sulla Roggia Mulina, building the first company's premises on a 1,200 square metre surface. At that time, the activity consisted in collecting the raw rice from the local farmers, for whom Scotti processed the cereal to be sold also to thirds parties. A typical scenario of late Eighteenth Century Lombardy: farming was one of the main resources and economic activities among the population. Angelo and Gaetano, two of Ercole's eight children, followed in the father's footsteps and joined the activity, in charge of rice shipping. Moreover, Angelo, an ingenious and ambitious man, wanted to tackle other different activities: he began an independent business, manufacturing bicycles branded "*Cicli Scotti & Lambro*" until 1925 (Lambro is the river that crosses his town).

At the same time, Angelo's brother, Gaetano, was also involved in this sport being a cyclist. Both the Scotti brothers made friends with some of the best known cyclists of the time such as Girardengo, Quartiroli, Rosignoli, Canepari and Verzoni. Angelo's friendship with Girardengo was so strong that lasted until Angelo's death in 1968.

The Scotti brothers, whilst venturing in different activities from family business, always took part very attentively in the matters of the father's companies, so that in 1925 they joined their father Ercole in running the business starting to develop the company; the business developed and changed from a one-man company to the 'de facto' company named "**F.lli Scotti**".

Angelo and Gaetano proved to be skilful entrepreneurs succeeding not only in maintaining the experience and resources achieved by their father, but also in innovating the activity applying a mechanisation process, Angelo's specialized knowledge; he was a very keen mechanic and obtained a flight engineer licence during his military service. Thanks to the amendments applied in the production through the technological innovation, the company was able to progressively increase the rice processing and transformation output, moving from a craftsmanship business to an industry.



A Ercole, Ferdinando and Giuseppe, the sons of Gaetano and Angelo, joined family business, which continued to achieve several successes. Ferdinando achieved a diploma in business studies and, in 1952, became the sole director of the newborn limited company "**Riso Scotti**", maintaining this appointment until 1983.

Ferdinando was a key figure for the company. He recently died at 73 years old. His skills and tenacity were able to transform a craftsmanship company into a real industry over the years.

In 1979, Angelo Dario, Ferdinando's son, after having obtained a degree in Economics at the University of Pavia (his dissertation was propitiously entitled "Rice in Europe") joined the family's activity; at first, he managed the business and marketing divisions, then, in 1983, he was appointed as a managing director. He is still in this position nowadays as well as President after his father Ferdinando's death.

The company's continuous cycle production has been constantly increasing over the years and now has reached one million quintals of processed product (in the 1950s the processed product amounted only to 40,000 quintals). The increased activity required the buying up the rice farms based around Pavia, then enlarging the factory based in Villanterio and finally investing in the new premises based at the Pavia's outskirts, **BIVIO VELA**, with a 135 square metres surface. The new building is intended non only for the production but also for corporate development.

Today, Riso Scotti employs approximately 200 staff members (450 at the Group level) and is focused especially on the activity organisation, in compliance with strict quality standards in regards to raw material, processing cycle up to the final product's storage. Currently, Riso Scotti distributes its products in more than 50 Countries around the world, 23 of them outside Europe; the company relies on sound partnerships with excellent local operators. Riso Scotti is very committed to its activity in Romania, where, in 2005, the "**Danube Project**" was launched: it is about an innovative agro-industrial project, which confirms the Scotti brand's internationalisation.