

## Economia

# Atlante's Alert: Sunflower Oil Will Soon Disappear

Linhart, CEO: It can be found in many food products

Atlante, company based in Casalecchio di Reno that operates in the large-scale distribution sector as a partner trusted by the main Italian chains - from Coop to Esselunga - for the distribution of high quality food products, sounds the alarm for sunflower oil supplies. Ukraine is in fact the largest producer in the world (Moldavia being the second in terms of smaller shares) and March is sunflower planting season.

Now, with the ports closed in the Black Sea, 50,000 tons have already been blocked. Sunflower oil, in addition to being used for fried foods, is present in a wide variety of products, from cookies and mayonnaise, to sauces and pesto. In addition, if Ukraine were unable to plant due to the lack of fertilizers coming mostly from Russia, the next harvest and stocks would be compromised. The consequence of this is that within a few weeks, even Emilia-Romagna, where many of the main Italian food supply chains are based, could run out of stocks and witness



### Shopping

In any supermarket, trolleys are more and more rare

the progressive emptying of warehouses and supermarket shelves.

This is why Atlante is moving to request a temporary dispensation from the competent authorities to

allow alternative oils to be used, so that production can be saved over the coming months. It addresses, in particular, the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies to understand if, in the

event of lack of an important ingredient such as sunflower oil, it is possible to obtain an adaptation of the labelling, which - with the current paper crisis also - requires doubled times for printing. This would allow, in cases of extreme necessity, to avoid interruptions in production.

'Sunflower oil is an ingredient of global importance', confirms Natasha Linhart, Atlante CEO, who in these days is raising the concerns of many national and foreign producers of large-scale distribution. 'In the current conditions we must at least find a temporary a solution that allows the food industry to use oils such as rapeseed, coconut, or palm, to cope with the crisis that is coming.'

'The absence of sunflower oil - she fears - means prices will skyrocket. The alarm we're sounding is about stocks: if we do not act now, current stocks will not be sufficient.'



### Temporary Solution

The food industry to use oils such as rapeseed, coconut or palm

Meanwhile, the sector is also moving for those fleeing the war. Coop Alleanza 3.0, for example, started the Coop for Ukraine fundraising to finance the humanitarian activities of the UN Refugee Agency, the Community of Sant'Egidio and Doctors without Borders. 500 thousand euros have already been allocated to which donations from members and consumers will be added.

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