

## Reply

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5 November 1973

The main thrust of the comments of Papée *et al.* appears to be twofold: 1) they seem to feel that their hail prevention project was slighted or misrepresented in my article, and 2) they are critical of the new project being carried out in Asti Province and wish to make certain that they are in no way identified with it.

On the first of these I disagree. It was not my intention to give a detailed description of all the seeding projects that are under way in the Po Valley, and thus I did not dwell on any of them. I was simply developing the point that there are so many weather modification efforts under way in a rather small region that if at all effective, they are contaminating one another. I should have underlined the fact that none of them is randomized in any way.

The average yearly loss figure for 1965–69, which I derived from figures quoted in *La Stampa*, was, as best I can recall, attributed by the paper to the Provincial Inspectorate of Agricultural Statistics, Asti, and agrees favorably with the 1964–68 average of the figures reported by Gori *et al.* (1971; 3.8 vs 3.3 million dollars, using the old exchange rate of 625 lire to the dollar). Therefore, I cannot understand their objection to it.

I am sorry if I inaptly characterized the nucleating

substance utilized by Papée and his group as an alumina dispersion. From their comment one can see that it is difficult to apply a simple name to it. In view of the ambitious claims made for it, it should be investigated by some recognized independent laboratory group. It may or may not be a valuable addition to the weather modification arsenal. Mr. Dennis Garvey of the Cloud Simulation and Aerosol Laboratory, Department of Atmospheric Sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, has indicated a willingness to undertake tests of the substance. His laboratory has served as the national test facility for nucleation techniques for several years.

As Papée *et al.* note, their project has lost its funding and been replaced by a larger, commercial project being run by an Italian division of a large American company. I know very little of this new project except that its 1973 operations have been accompanied by disastrous hailstorms. I second Papée *et al.* in their hope of seeing a full report on this project in the scientific literature.

### REFERENCE

- Gori, E. G., G. Musso and H. M. Papée, 1971: On the hailstorms of Asti Province, Part V: Annual damage distributions. *Geophys. Meteor.*, **20**, No. 1/2, 38–41.