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and calendar; Delivering the message; Notes; 6. 'Women with a Hundred Arms': the training programme; Rational agriculture; Competitions; Handouts; Rabbits and chickens; Intervening in the market; War, autarky and the nation; Training the trainers; Notes; 7. 'At the Gates of Rome': the Sant'Alessio Training College; Aurelia Jozs and the Niguarda school; The Sant'Alessio Teacher Training College; Training the Massaie leaders; Beyond training; Notes  
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## Sommario/riassunto

Peasant women were the largest female occupational group in Italy between the wars. They led lives characterised by great poverty and heavy workloads, but Fascist propaganda extolled them as the mothers of the nation and the guardians of the rural worlds, the most praiseworthy of Italian women. This study is the first published history of the Massaie Rurali, the Fascist Party's section for peasant women, which, with three million members by 1943, became one of the largest of the regime's mass mobilizing organizations. The section played a key role in such core fascist campaigns as

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