*Press Release No. 18/23*

**Agrilevante, a workshop for Mediterranean agriculture**

***Over the four days of the exhibition, more than 5,000 models were exhibited by 350 manufacturers, 50 of them foreign, representing 20 countries. Official delegations of foreign operators from 27 countries are expected. More than 40 thematic in-depth events are planned, with a focus on the major political and economic issues of the Mediterranean region. Simona Rapastella: Agrilevante is an example of technical, economic and political cooperation.***

The seventh edition of Agrilevante, the great exhibition of agricultural machinery for the Mediterranean area, opens tomorrow in Bari, Italy, returning to the scene after the suspension imposed in 2021 by the health emergency. From 5 to 8 October, the Apulian exhibition centre will be hosting 350 manufacturers exhibiting more than 5 thousand models of machinery and equipment, and related components, for agriculture and landscaping; technologies capable of meeting all the needs of typical Mediterranean basin sectors. But Agrilevante is not just an event of a commercial and promotional nature, it is an opportunity for discussion on primary economy development models and opportunities for collaboration between the countries of the Mediterranean region. The international character of the event is confirmed by the participation of 50 foreign companies representing 20 countries and the presence of official delegations of foreign operators from 27 countries, organised by the ICE Agency and FederUnacoma. "The event," said Simona Rapastella, director general of the manufacturers' association FederUnacoma, during the press conference held on the eve of the event, "turns the spotlight on a technological heritage that is able to respond to the challenges of productivity and sustainability, and is at the same time a laboratory for technical, economic and political cooperation. Over the four days of the event - FederUnacoma's organisers explained at the press conference - more than 40 thematic appointments have been scheduled, including seminars, workshops, education and training projects in the agronomic and agromechanical fields, and meetings on major economic-political themes, such as the conference on the enhancement of African agricultural economies or the one dedicated to climate change and water management.

But the focus of Agrilevante, as always, is on innovation, with the award ceremony for the "Technical Innovation" competition and the area specifically dedicated, inside the New Pavilion, to advanced electronic devices for precision agriculture and the digitalisation of farms. Advanced electronics, together with agricultural robots, are the protagonists at the fair with demonstration tests in a special outdoor area that represents one of the novelties of this edition. "On the other hand," Simona Rapastella recalled at the press conference, "the process of automation and digitalisation of agriculture is now fully underway, and finds applications not only in large-scale extensive cultivation but also in specialised crops and niche production, as the new technologies can be adapted to every model of farm".

"Nuova Fiera del Levante is proud of the return of Agrilevante after a four-year forced hiatus due to the health emergency," concluded its president Gaetano Frulli speaking at the press conference. "Always close to the development of the agricultural economies of the area and of Southern Italy but also of the countries of the Mediterranean basin, the Fair is hosting the international event in the conviction that its objective is not only to expand knowledge and opportunities for discussion on agriculture but also to learn about strategies for new development models in the various agricultural areas involved, models that cannot disregard innovation and the most advanced technology. Therefore, the objective of Fiera del Levante is increasingly to realise specialised and sector-specific fairs".

**Bari, 4 October 2023**