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**Agrilevante, the circular bioeconomy protagonist of ITABIA events**

**The circular bioeconomy is a sector with great potential. Biomass-based production cycles significantly reduce the use of fossil sources, as they are fuelled by bioresources that are widely available, renewable and well distributed throughout Italy**

The circular bio-economy was one of the main themes of the seventh edition of Agrilevante, the international exhibition of agricultural technologies for the Mediterranean basin which closes today, Sunday 8 October, in Bari. The enhancement of agricultural economies, strategies for containing and combating climate change, the diversification of energy supply sources - a central issue in the face of the tensions agitating the geopolitical framework - but also the need to ensure increasingly sustainable production, assign a strategic role to the protection of ecosystems. It is in this context that the circular bio-economy is set, a sector with great potential, which exploits biomass of agricultural and forestry origin to support entire low-impact supply chains. Indeed, biomass-based production cycles make it possible to significantly reduce the use of fossil fuels, since they are fuelled by bioresources of plant or animal origin, which are widely available, renewable and well distributed throughout Italy and, in particular, Apulia. This was discussed during the in-depth meetings organised at Agrilevante by ITABIA, such as the workshop linked to the RuralBioUp Horizon Project, which sees the collaboration of 11 partners representing 9 European countries (Italy, Austria, Estonia, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Portugal, Czech Republic and Romania). During the workshop, attended by entrepreneurs, researchers and trade associations, the Apulia regional hub on bioeconomy coordinated by Cluster SPRING, was brought together to define a detailed action plan in close collaboration with the Department of Agriculture. The plan - notes ITABIA, which is one of the partners of RuralBioUp - is aimed at the enhancement of agroenergy, biofertilisers and certain industrial crops, and is based on training, technology transfer and the dissemination of good practices. Agricultural mechanisation is called upon to play a fundamental role in this model of circular bioeconomy, since - the speakers emphasised - it makes it possible to optimise activities relating to the harvesting, packaging and transport of plant material.

**Bari, 8 October 2023**