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**Agrilevante, the leading trade fair for Mediterranean agriculture**

*The fifth edition of the exposition dedicated to agricultural machinery and technologies is scheduled for October 12th to 15th in the Bari trade fair center. Exhibitors and business people from countries throughout the Mediterranean region and Sub-saharan Africa will arrive in the city in the Puglia region to take in specific technologies and productions suitable for the region’s climate. Also expected are more than 60,000 visitors taking part in the event.*

Agrilevante, the international review of technologies and systems for the agricultural supply chain, has become the most important event for farmers in the vast geographic area of South Europe, the Balkans, the Middle East and North and Sub-saharan Africa.The biennial exposition organized by FederUnacoma, the italian National Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers Federation, with the Ente Fiera del Levante, moves into the Bari trade fair center for its fifth edition next October 12th to 15th with a huge array of machinery and specific technical solutions geared to typical Mediterranean area farm production, the region’s climatic conditions and the farming models practiced.

The review will cover fruit and vegetable production, vineyard, wine and olive production as well as cereals and other extensive crops grown in warm climates and host more than 300 manufacturing industries arriving from 21 countries on a 50,000 square meter exhibition area. Following the 2015 Agrilevante, which drew 58,000 visitors attending, expectations for the upcoming review are for far more than 60,000 taking part and more than 30 delegations of business people from abroad organized in collaboration with the Italian Trade Agency (ICE).

Speaking at a press conference held this afternoon in Paris at the SIMA Agribusiness Show, FederUnacoma President Massimo Goldoni explained, “There is a convergence of economic interests in the Mediterranean and political and social dynamics are reflected in a great number of countries. The challenge for Agrilevante is to interpret the demand for agricultural mechanization arriving out of extremely diverse realities.

“The wide region the review is trained on includes countries heading into critical situations due to economic features as well as political and military considerations and there are emerging countries placing substantial investments into the purchase of agricultural machinery. For these regions, we can say that the Bari review has a dual issue, that of technologies for the economies in growth and those in a phase of development.”

In the Balkans, for example, data elaborated by Nomisma on the basis of GTIS (Global Trade Information Services) reports classify Serbia becoming a top performer in mechanization. If accurate, tractor imports to the republic over the six years 2010 to 2015 soared 286% to reach a value equivalent to $ 46 million.

Again, according to Nomisma/GTIS data, the leading country in the Euro-Asiatic region Turkey is leading the way in the growth of imports in spite of considerable domestic production of agricultural machinery. In the 2010 to 2015 period, Turkey’s tractor imports climbed by 97% to a value of $ 398 million. A similar increase is reported for Azerbaijan over the same six years, up by 105%, though with less volume compared to Turkey, at $ 44 million in 2015.

In the strip of North Africa, Algeria stands out with increasing tractor imports over the six year period rising to 470% for a value of $ 211 million in 2015 along with substantial growth in equipment to the value of $ 412 million in 2015 and a gain of 112% over the entire period. In the same North African area, the performance of Egypt is especially important due to a 47% surge of imports of machinery and equipment over the 2010-2015 period.

A look at Sub-saharan Africa discloses highly significant trends for two countries, Ethiopia and Kenya reporting tractor imports for 2010-2015 climbing respectively by 250% and value at $ 111 million in 2015 and a 243% gain and $ 84 million value. These trends have important considerations over all, including Italy, a country with wide ranges of high quality products suitable for the most diverse models of farming.

Italian exports to countries such as Turkey and Egypt, for example, are showing substantial increases. Tractors and other machinery shipped to Turkey rose by 31% from 2014 to 2015 for a value of €147 million and remained stable at the same volumes in 2016 and then moved up by 87% from 2014 to 2015 to reach the value of €24 million for machinery exported plus another 31% gain for 2016. A gain of 87% was reported for Egypt from 2014 to 2015 for a value of €24 million in 2015 plus further 31% in 2016.

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