*Press Release No. 24/23*

**New technologies for quality agriculture**

***In attendance yesterday morning at the inauguration of Agrilevante, on stage in Bari until next Sunday, Undersecretary for Agriculture Patrizio Giacomo La Pietra reiterated the Italian government's commitment to agriculture and the role of the Italian agro-mechanical industry in the face of the demand for technologies emerging in the Mediterranean region. Incentives are coming for the renewal of the machinery fleet .***

"Our companies have a great tradition and are among the leaders in the sectors represented in the halls of Agrilevante. This event represents an important opportunity for our companies to strengthen and expand their market in areas where they are already successfully present, such as the Mediterranean basin, Balkan Europe and the Middle East". With these words Undersecretary Patrizio Giacomo La Pietra underlined the success of the exhibition specialised in agricultural mechanisation, staged these days at the Fiera di Bari. Italian industry plays a leading role in supplying technologies for the countries of the Mediterranean area, and is therefore active on foreign markets; but it must also face the challenge of the domestic market, since the competitiveness of the national agricultural system is increasingly linked to the renewal of the agromechanical fleet.

"The government has taken action," La Pietra said in this regard, "and it has done so by making 500 million available in the NRRP for the purchase of machinery and equipment, of which 100 million are for oil mills, 225 million go to the innovation fund, plus another 225 million allocated in the ASSET decree specifically for flooded areas, and a further 2 billion, which are added to the 800 million already allocated for supply chain contracts. We are talking about almost 4 billion resources to modernise agriculture, concrete evidence of the centrality of agriculture in the political agenda of the Meloni Executive".

Over 5,000 models of machinery and equipment specific to all the Mediterranean production chains are on show in the halls of the Bari exhibition centre these days, with particular emphasis on technologies for orchards, vineyards, and olive groves, high value-added crops that represent the strong point of national agriculture. These productions were also the focus of technical conferences today, such as the one promoted by Edizioni L'Informatore Agrario on "Climate change: impact on income and yields in olive growing"; the one promoted by NewBusinessMedia, CNR, University of Bari and Rivista Olivo e Olio on "Olive growing in Apulia: what solutions for a possible revival, from genetics to super-intensive"; and the one entitled "Viticulture and olive growing between tradition, innovation and sustainability", promoted by the University of Basilicata in collaboration with FederUnacoma.

**Bari, 6 October 2023**