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**Agricultural machinery: sales surge in Puglia**

*The agricultural machinery market is showing an outstand increase in Publia. Data on the January through September period signaled a 31% climb for tractor sales, a gain substantially over the national average of a 9.7% increase, already considered especially positive. Growth for other types of machinery came thanks to the sound use of European Union specific RDP funding Measures for the purpose of agricultural machinery purchases.*

The recovery of the tractor market reported for the domestic market turned out especially positive in the Publia Region. Compared to the national 9.7% average of increase of tractor sales for the nation in the January through September 2017 period, Puglia chalked up a surge of 31.1% with 1,269 units registered. Another outstanding gain, albeit based on a small machinery inventory, came for combine harvesters rising by 113,3% with 32 of these units sold compared to a 3.6% national average increase. Also on the positive side were telescopic handlers, ahead 17.4% due to 27 units sold up against a national slump of 25.3%.

These trends in the region, presented during an Agrilevante 2017 press conference held this morning in Bari in Puglia Regional headquarters, were explained as due to the regional administration’s efficient management of European Union Regional Develop Plan co-financing. Alessandro Malavolti, the president of the Italian Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers Federation, FederUnacoma, told the press conference, “The recovery of the Puglia market to revive the process for the renewal of the machinery inventory looks needed for making agriculture more competitive for productivity and quality.” The Puglia territory accounts for an estimated 139,000 tractors equal to 7% of the national inventory of 2,025,000 units. About 30% of the region’s tractor are in use if the Foggia Province, another 27% in the Bari Province, 15% in Taranto and smaller decreasing numbers in Barletta-Andria-Trani, Brindisi and Lecce.

**Bari, October 10, 2017**