Press release no 13/2017

**Agricultural tractors, international market on the rise**

*Great gains in the sales of agricultural machinery in the first half of the year have been reported for China, India, the United States and Russia. Turkey’s market is stalled but Eastern Europe is showing growth. The revival of the international demand is pushing Italian exports up and increasing domestic production expected to climb to a figure of about € billion.*

The world tractor market has shown growth in all the major countries over the first half of the year. Agrievolution, the global alliance of major agricultural machinery manufacturers, reported the trend this morning at a press conference for the presentation of Agrilevante held in Puglia Region headquarters in Bari. Sales in India rose 13% over the same period in 2016 and soared by 34% in China. Gains were also disclosed for the United States, Canada and Brazil in the first six months of the year, up by 6%, 19% and 26% respectively. The Russian market came back to life with have-year sales ahead by 26%. On the down side were Japan, minus 1%, and South Corea by 19%, countries which cannot be compared to those with the principal markets. The Turkish market slowed to a near stop with an increase of 1% for the six month period. Eastern Europe was making progress with increases for the half-year estimated at around 2% to 3%. A study of the trends in the major countries showed the UK ahead by 8% in September data, Spain rising 8% according to July data, and Germany holding on at plus 1.1% for August in the wake of substantial growth over the years just past. Among the leading countries, only France is running against the trend with a decline of 18.2% reported in August. A CEMA forecast survey pointed to a continuation of the present phase in the coming months. The *Barometer* of the European agricultural machinery manufacturers based on the outlook of these industries interviewed predicted that the upward trend will be maintained according to 91% of the industries questioned in September while 96% of them looked forward to an improving trend in the coming six months.

The global market revival is having an impact on demand for Italian agricultural machinery for an improvement of these industries’ exports and the growth of domestic production. These exports of machinery and equipment in the first six months of 2017 rose 11.2% while shipments of tractors declined marginally, by 0.5%, with recovery expected to return these exports to growth by the end of the full year.

On the production side, declines of 2.1%, 2.1% and 2.2% were reported for 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively as the result of decreasing international demand and the bad performance of the domestic market. Now production levels are expected to reach gains of 9.5% over 2016 for a total value of € 8 billion.

**Bari, October 10, 2017**