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**An agricultural Saturday at the Bari trade fair**

*The third day of the international Agrilevante exposition, which comes to a close tomorrow evening, confirmed the success for the general public attending and special attention shown by technicians and specialists for technical updates and issues attracting special interest.*

The fifth edition of the Agrilevante exhibition of agricultural mechanization technologies underway at the Bari trade fair center is proudly displaying ongoing success. Great numbers of farmers, contractors and business people turned up for the third day of the event to take in technologies and models of machinery for soil preparation, plant treatments, harvesting, irrigation and a host of crop operations. Also presented was a packed schedule of meetings on a wide range of technical issues, from *Xyella* and bioenergy to safety on the worksite.

The third day of Agrilevante also featured many points of interest handled in conferences and workshops. A conference managed by the Biohabitat Foundation and the EuD Engineering Technical Study was focused on policies for the defense of the Puglia Region land and especially on operations for preventing and coping with hydro-geographic disintegration. Nicola Scattarelli, speaking for the Capitanata Reclamation Consortium to present a project in process for work on the consortium’s land, declared, “For the purpose of countering disintegration, a regime of correct and timely operations are essential with reclamation and the cleaning of water courses.”

On land not subjected to hydro-geographic disintegration there is a greater possibility for investing in technologies and systems for raising the value of energy generated by residual biomass for the farming and agro-industry sectors. The facilitation of help now available was taken up in a conference organized by the University of Bari DISAAT Department and ITABIA, the Italian Biomass Association. Luigi Trotta from the Puglia Region Section Manager of Competition in Agricultural Supply Chains, explained at the assembly, “Farming enterprises are giving increasing attention to the path toward the recovery of energy from organic residues for the farm through production and transformation and public and private financing for the construction of [energy] plants.”

Aside from the bioenergy issue, farmers are showing greater interest in using drones as was signalled in another conference set up by the University of Bari with Mirumir on the costs and benefits of drones.

Opening the conference, FederUnacoma President Alessandro Malavolti underscored the advantages for the environment and finances derived from the deployment of drones. He noted that in the European Union Agricultural 4.0 for digital agricultural production that drones can provide an important contribution for aerial mapping as well as for applying chemical plant treatment products which are now banned in Italy ahead of the completion of more specific regulations.

Among other stimulating issues discussed on this day was the fight against the *Xylella fastidiosa* bacterium devastating Salento olive cultivations in the Puglia Region and threatening a jump to the Salita to the north of the region. In a meeting managed by ARPTRA Puglia, Francesco Porcelli from the University of Bari Agrarian Entomology Department disclosed an antagonist of the Philaenus spumarius carrier insect of the bacterium, the Zelus renardii assassin bug as a vector to raise and distribute in these cultivations.

**Bari, October 14, 2017**