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**Agrilevante, the Mediterranean agricultural holiday**

***This is the appointment for the Bari trade fair international exposition of machinery and innovative technologies for agriculture, next October 12 to 15. Three hundred specialized manufacturers will present their ranges for a public made up of farmers and business people arriving mostly from South Europe, the Balkans and North Africa. Among the high profile events planned is the New Techniques exhibition and conferences on current issues, from the development of African agriculture to hydro-geographic deterioration and the crisis conditions of water resources and fire emergencies.***

The Bari trade fair quarters will host the fifth edition of the Agrilevante biennial review dedicated to machinery and technologies for agricultural supply chains organized by FederUnacoma, the Italian Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers Federation, in collaboration with the Levante Trade Fair Agency and the Puglia Region commissioner for agriculture. Created as a point of reference for farmers in the Mediterranean region as well as Africa and the Middle East, the agricultural review has shown a steady increase in the number of exhibitors and the size of the exposition area. For the upcoming edition, some 300 industries will be taking part, mainly from Italy as well as Austria, Belgium, China, France, Germany, Japan, The UK, Greece, Ireland, The Netherlands, Spain, The United States, Sweden and Switzerland bringing ranges of their most prestigious brand name models. The exposition area for the review comes to 53,000 square meters, the same as the area allocated for the 2015 edition, plus 2,000 square meters covered set aside to link pavilions 18 and 11. Among the new features planned for this edition is a sector dedicated to drones put to use for precision farming and the New Techniques competition, taking over a specific area outside the pavilions near the trade fair *Edilizia* entry. This area will remain the technology center of the review pro-viding business people as well as small farm enterprises agricultural solutions for full field operations for the specialized crops typical of the Mediterranean region. The number of visitors on hand for the most recent edition came to a total of 58,400, 10% of them arriving from 30 countries abroad. The expectation for this year’s event is greater than 60,000 visitors thanks a communications strategy targeted on such countries as those in the Balkans and North Africa where the need for agricultural mechanization is growing. One of the Agrilevante exhibition key factors is still the participation of official delegations from abroad organized by FederUnacoma with the financial and organizational help of ICE, the Italian Trade Agency. These official delegations are made up of selected business people, some 150 of them arriving from 40 countries for a heavy schedule of meetings with the exhibiting manufacturers. For these business-to-business encounters a special area has been furnished for dealing with representative of companies supplying machinery of specific interest. Also up front are meetings for handling technical agronomic, financial and political issues such as land maintenance, the prevention of environmental risks, hydro-geological deterioration, fires, water resource shortages, projects for the development of Sub-saharan Africa agriculture and accomplishing energy generation using biomass produced by forest fire and agricultural residues.

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