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**Environmental crimes, biogas and olive oil, among the many issues at Agrilevante**

***The international exhibition of mechanics and technologies for agriculture closed yesterday its second day confirming an increase in visitors compared to the same day of the last edition. Many topics were discussed during the conferences (some of which were technical, while others were popular).***

Agrilevante's second day ended last night with an increase in visitors compared to last year. During the day, 14,300 visitors – 1,200 of which were from abroad – (+12% in comparison with the second day of 2015 edition) came to the trade fair. The total visitors of these first two days of the event – which is the reference point for farmers and operators of agricultural mechanics of the Mediterranean area, and which will end on Sunday evening – were 23,000. The schedule of conferences and meetings was rich and interesting also on the second day, during which were hosted numerous initiatives, dedicated to a wide range of topics, from those with an environmental relevance to those strictly devoted to agri-food issues, from initiatives dedicated to bioenergy to those concerning economic relationships with African countries. The new regulation on crimes against the environment has not only introduced new types of offenses, but it has also drawn a new procedural system, which aims at preventing illegal behaviors by intervening in a differentiated manner with respect to the wide range of unethical deeds. This was the theme discussed in the workshop entitled “The agro-industrial enterprise in Italy: risk profiles for environmental crimes,” organized by the Biohabitat Foundation and the EuD Engineering Technical Department of Foggia. The widespread idea that “if extra-virgin olive oil does not tickle your palate is not good” was contested by Maria Lisa Clodoveo, a teacher at the University of Bari, during a meeting held at Spazio Arptra. “The opposite is exactly true” - said the researcher - “and a systematic misinformation created unwarranted fears. The quality of an extra-virgin olive oil is highlighted by a bitter taste and by the facts that it tickles the throat. The region of Puglia, which is devoted to olive cultivation, cannot neglect to exalt the authentic quality of its “yellow gold” and Agrilevante is a good opportunity to do it.” But Puglia is not only the region of the extra-virgin olive oil. “It boasts a huge availability of biomass that can be transformed into biogas and therefore biomethane,” said Gianluca Nardone, Director of the Agricultural Department of the Puglia region, during the meeting entitled “Prospects of biogas and biomethane in Puglia: raw materials, technologies, and investments.” “Although Italy, and Puglia as well, is far behind countries like Germany, where biogas has been used for decades as energy source” - said Nardone - “the prospects are interesting. Transforming waste into wealth allows improving farmers' income and conditions.” Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania: these countries were the focus of the conference organized by the ICE Agency at Addis Abeba to draw market opportunities in some countries of eastern Africa. Ethiopia, in particular, has today a two-digit growth rate but has a great need for foreign countries to invest and bring capitals and technologies. Italian entrepreneurs are appreciated, not only in the historical construction industry but also in agricultural machinery and agro-food technologies. This is also a great inspiration for horticulturists, who, as highlighted at the conference organized by the Vivai Fortunato of Sammichele di Bari, are suffering from the growing diffusion of Sharka in several Italian fruit cultivations.

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