**Agrilevante, technologies and policies for Mediterranean agriculture**

*The international review of machinery and plant for agricultural supply chains is set for October 12 to 15 in Bari. The number of foreign delegations arriving, organized by FederUnacoma in collaboration with the Italian Trade Agency, ICE, is on the increase and a special event planned for the trade fair is an international forum focused on the development of agriculture in the Mediterranean and Africa.*

The Bari Trade Fair Center will host Agrilevante next October for a run from the 12th to 15th. The exposition dedicated to machinery, plant and technologies for agricultural supply chains is organized by FederUnacoma, the Italian Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers Federation, and the Puglia Region Trade Fair Agency. The biennial review has shown steady growth over the most recent editions with the numbers of exhibitors, visitors and delegations from abroad to confirm Agrilevante as a leading event in the agricultural sector in the vast geographic area which includes the European Mediterranean, the Balkans, the Middle East, North Africa as well as Sub Sarahan Africa and Asian regions.

The edition coming up this year was presented by the Puglia Region commissioner for agriculture, Leonardo Di Gioia, the Levante Trade Fair Agency commissioner, Antonella Bisceglia, and FederUnacoma President Massimo Goldoni at a press conference held this morning in the new trade fair congress center. To be reported are expectations of an increase of exhibitors over the 300 taking part in the 2015 edition and that 27 official delegations from as many countries have already signed up for the event to confirm the Agrilevante internationalization program furthered by FederUnacoma in cooperation with ICE.

The growing interest of business people, involvement of professional agricultural organizations, territorial agencies, the Universities of Bari and Foggia and the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, IAM-Bari, along with the opening of a new section on gardening and groundskeeping are expected to boost the number of visitors which reached a record of 58,400, including 6,000 from abroad, for the 2015 edition.

The review will take over an exhibition area of more than 50,000 square meters, including an outside area, part of which will be allocated for demonstration trials of machinery and equipment staged by ITABIA, the Italian Biomass Association, for the treatment of renewable agricultural energy sources in the form of biomass of farming and forestry biomass. The complete ranges of technologies required for production supply chains will bring in wine production, olive cultivation, fruit, cereal grain and bioenergy. Other issues handled will be policies and economic and environmental considerations.

Among the many initiatives on the schedule, to be highlighted at the press conference are plans for a forum on the agricultural economies in the Mediterranean and African regions with the participation of representatives from international institutions, governments and ambassadors from a large number of countries who will provide a picture of critical issues at present and opportunities for development in principle countries. Also coming up this year is M.i.A., Multifunctional agriculture, for a look into technologies and methods for the organization of the land to prevent water shortage, water regulation and the management of forest and coastal areas and fire prevention.

Massimo Goldoni told the press conference, “A review like Agrilevante cannot be limited to a wide choice of technologies for farm production in the Mediterranean and neighboring areas but must focus on what will be models for the development of various agricultural regions and provide forecasts on the evolution of demand for machinery in the coming years. Agrilevante must have great technological content but also a policy vision and, precisely for this reason, the highly valued support of the region and the presence of international institutions.”

Antonella Bisceglia affirmed, “This edition of Agrilevante will confirm its role as a leading event and point of reference for business people at work in Italy and abroad by offering opportunites for meetings and confronting issues of vital importance for the sector as well as a wide panorama of the most modern agricultural technologies. Thus the synergies with FederUnacoma this year is providing authoritative and thorough answers to the increasing questions on innovations in the sector through the historic Fiera del Levante which will bring thousands of visitors to the Bari trade fair quarters.”

Leonardo Di Gioia declared, “Agrilevante is not merely a trade fair exposition but a highly specialized container of agricultural machinery and latest generation technologies which help to make our farming sustainable and in the avant-garde. The collaboration of FederUnacoma with our Levante Fiera agency allows us, also this year, to plan a strategic appointment for our agricultural and forestry enterprises so they can learn and promote trade with foreign buyers as well, learn about the most recent trends in innovations and acquire know how. Agrilevante touches on important issues for the future of our agriculture, or indeed, biomass. Raising the value and strengthening the agro-food supply chains cannot ignore investments for the production of clean energy at low cost from farming residues in line with the Rural Development Programs set out by the European Union. Measure 16 of the RDP finances, among other things, work for the sustainable production of biomass for energy self sufficiency through dedicated investments in farming and forestry enterprises.

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