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**Crops and innovative technical means**

**to give a future to Mediterranean companies**

***The seminars of Itabia, Chimica Verde Bionet and Federcanapa on agro-industrial chains open the sixth edition of Agrilevante at the Bari exhibition. Avocado, mango and small fruits such as raspberries and blueberries can find effective development in the Italian regions.***

Actions and measures for the growth and development of Mediterranean small and medium agricultural and agri-food businesses. These are the proposals of the information seminars that Itabia, Chimica Verde Bionet and Federcanapa will host in Agrilevante from Thursday to Saturday. Broad and diversified offerings, characterized by a strong innovation content and a strict relevance to the territories to which these proposals are addressed.

"The starting point of the initiative that we present at Agrilevante is derived from a survey on the problems of six regions, Puglia, Sicily, Campania, Marche, Lazio and Trentino Alto Adige, which revealed precise demands for innovation", premised Beppe Croce, director of Chimica Verde Bionet and president of Federcanapa, during the first seminar: "Crops and innovative technical means: a future for the Mediterranean" -. We have therefore organized these meetings to propose a series of actions regarding the introduction of new crops and the alternative exploitation of more traditional ones, and the replacement of agronomic techniques with innovative and more sustainable ones, the use of digital technology and so on".

In particular, Croce suggested extending the scope of southern fruit growing by focusing on subtropical crops such as avocado and mango, on small fruits (raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, etc.), on exploiting the almond tree by innovating its processing, enhancing figs and fioroni with new varieties, and maximizing the use of the prickly pear. For the latter, Croce mentioned the example of the Sicilian district of San Cono, which grows and processes not only on the fruits, but also the leaves, which used to be considered production waste.

"The seminars will continue in the coming days - concluded Croce - and on Friday we will discuss strategies for sustainable agriculture, bioeconomy and bioplastics, while on Saturday we will cover non-food applications and hemp. Our goal is to provide concrete insights on paths that can be followed by small and medium-sized farms to innovate and create a sustainable future".

**Bari, 10 October 2019**