Press Release No. 41/2022

**A new pact with agricultural colleges for skills development at Eima**

***At the agricultural machinery exhibition, an agreement for the development of skills for young entrepreneurs and workers in the sector was signed between the network of agricultural colleges, FederUnacoma (agricultural machinery manufacturers), Cia (Italian farmers' association), Agia (young agricultural entrepreneurs' association) and Agricoltura e vita (research and training body of Cia).***

Promoting generational renewal, making the agricultural system more attractive, creating jobs in rural areas. These are the objectives for the agricultural sector set in Brussels with the Pact for Skills, a five-year plan to develop skills for retraining workers. And it is in the wake of this programme, which promotes a culture of lifelong learning, monitoring of the supply and demand for skills and gender equality in access to employment, that the new agreement was signed at Eima, the world exhibition of agricultural machinery, to support the development of skills. An agreement that involves the industry of the sector, represented by FederUnacoma, farmers united in the two associations Cia and Agia, the network of technical agricultural institutes 'Senza Frontiere', with 39 member schools, and Cia's research and training body, Agricoltura e Vita. There are many challenges facing businesses in the supply chain, from climate change to the sustainability of production and the need to make the agricultural world more attractive to young people. "The level of technological innovation we have achieved is very high says Enrico Calentini, president of Agia - but the innovation we are seeing in the fields, between drones and robots, must be guided. We cannot simply open the instruction booklet. We need a process of continuous training and updating. Also because with the new CAP we don't know what the market will be like in five years' time. In the background of the new agreement, after the slowdown in cooperation with agricultural technical institutes due to the pandemic, we find the European agricultural system, which has 11 million companies and 22 thousand cooperatives, for a total of 22 million workers, 51% of whom have a medium level of education. These numbers represent the basis from which to imagine new training models designed for the farmers of the future, also enhancing the role of training organisations. "These bodies - explains Matteo Ansanelli, president of Agricoltura e Vita - have played a decisive role in supporting farmers on their path to entrepreneurship. This is why nurturing skills is strategic".

**Bologna, 11 November 2022**