



The agriculture of the future

Interview with **Roberto Orlandi**, young President of the national **College of Agricultural Technicians**

"A new model of agriculture, a truly multifunctional model, capable of offering the countryside not only farm produce and foodstuffs but also services and functions for the environment and for sustainable development". This is the basic thinking which brings together the young President of the National Association of Agricultural Technicians, Roberto Orlandi, and the equally young world of farming entrepreneurs, brought together in a certain way in the Plan the future project at Fieragricola, to think about the future of a sector which is experiencing huge change.

And what are these huge changes?

"Change – Orlandi explains – first of all affects all European farm output which is rising more than real consumption. This raises enormous cost problems which require a solution, a conscious forward-looking response. This means "requalifying" agriculture, agriculture which is competitive, sustainable and integrated into the rural environment and which fully and deliberately plays its own social, environmental and economic role. It is possible to realize a new multifunctional European farming model, compatible with the environment and eco-sustainable, a cultural model, however, rather than a technical, economic and social one, through the creation of a "collective farming business", a system which is run by the young people who have begun to establish themselves in this sector, also by means of the register of agricultural technicians (established in 1986) and who become entrepreneurs at the moment in which they identify and integrate the numerous actions and resources which the farming world is able to offer.

For some time now the role of the primary sector has in fact gone beyond the simple production of foodstuffs, orienting itself towards safeguarding greenery, biodiversities and biomasses, and opening the sector up towards new scenarios and opportunities in economic and collaboration terms in which young people in rural European areas can invest. Moreover, the reform of the CAP, launched in 2003, specifically targets the exploitation of new elements for the sector, but especially as far as our own country is concerned, we are a step behind compared with other European states, and it is necessary to adjust our responses to new scenarios and needs, in the interaction, still possible but completely new, between farming and human labour".