

Sicily: growing relationships with Chinese region Hunan

Reciprocal visits by Chinese and Italian delegations

Rome – The Italian region Sicily has started a technical and commercial relationship with the Chinese region Hunan two years ago, in order to create the basis for a mutual development. A Chinese delegation - led by Mr. Wu Xinmin of the department of agriculture - has visited both the Science and Technology Park of Sicily (STPS) and the firm AAT-Oranfresh during the last days. The meeting has focused mainly on the production and on the industrial transformation of the peculiar Sicilian red orange.

Prof. Antonino Cătara, STPS chairman, underlines: "China is the second most important orange producer in the world. Nevertheless China imports also a large quantity of oranges from California and Australia. We can help China to better develop its own orange production by means of new cultivation, transformation and storing techniques. Such a collaboration is also a useful way for us to make our products better known, especially the Sicilian red orange which is an unique and healthy fruit."

Mr. Giovanni La Via - of the Italian department of agriculture - and Mr. Wu Xinmin have both agreed on the necessity of a mutual interchange of technologies and innovations with regard to the orange industrial transformation, a sector on which Sicily has invested very much. Just to better show the Sicilian technology, an Italian delegation led by Prof. Cătara will take part in the Chinese Canton Fair (September 15-18) with a 18 square meters stand where, amongst other innovations, the orange-squeezer machineries of the firm AAT-Oranfresh will be presented too. Prof. Cătara and some members of AAT-Oranfresh will remain in China until September the 28th, in order to take part also in the international fair of agriculture which will be hold in Changsa, capital city of the region Hunan.



Chinese delegation visiting Sicily. In the middle of the front row: Mr. Giovanni La Via (Italian department of agriculture). On his right: Mr. Wu Xinmin (Chinese department of agriculture). On his left: Prof. Antonino Cătara (STPS chairman)

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