

## PRESS RELEASE

**A long-standing partner of the event, the CUMAs of Occitanie are joining forces to organize WORLD FIRA from February 4 to 6, 2025**, and will be involved in the demos of robots in the field: about twenty robots in field crops, vineyards, archards, and vegetables will be presented through dynamic demos with commentary throughout the show at the AGROBIOPOLE, Cité des Sciences Vertes, Lycée Agricole, 2 Route de Narbonne 31320 Auzeville-Tolosane.

**CUMAs (Cooperatives for the Use of Farming Equipment)** are local cooperatives where farmers pool their means of production: farm machinery, equipment, workshop buildings, salaried labor, etc. This collective organization helps to reduce costs and increase productivity. This collective organization makes it possible to reduce mechanization costs, gain access to new technologies, and optimize work sites and work organization on member farms. They are thus more efficient and innovative, while sharing the risks associated with investment.

The CUMAs in Occitanie represent 1,500 CUMAs, 45,000 members, 600 employees, 45,000 items of equipment and over 70 million euros in annual investment.

**Dissemination and popularization of new technologies by CUMAs.** The role of CUMA federations is to support farmers as they change their practices, and to help them embrace technological innovations such as robotics in agriculture. As a forum for exchange and experimentation between peers, its shared investment model is a lever for the popularization of innovative agro-ecological cultivation techniques and the transfer of new technologies to agriculture. To consolidate the process of adopting new practices, CUMA federations organize annual equipment demonstrations and field trials, produce and disseminate references on agri-equipment and equipment strategies, and support farmer groups' investment projects.

As part of the deployment of new technical solutions, Occitanie's CUMA are leading and actively participating in the CentipOC project, part of the Occitanum program. The aim of CentipOC is to accelerate the deployment of the Centipède RTK GNSS network, an open centimetric geolocation network. Today, geolocation plays a central role in agricultural operations, enabling the implementation of precision farming. Visit the FR CUMA Occitanie and ENSFEA stands at World FIRA, with the support of INRAE, to find out more about this innovation and project.

**Robotics in CUMA.** Robotics is one of the solutions that can help meet the challenges facing agriculture: agro-ecological transition of farms, optimizing work, reducing drudgery, etc. However, this promising technology raises a number of questions about the technical, organizational and economic aspects of using a robot on a collective farm. To answer these questions, the Fédération Régionale des CUMA d'Occitanie is committed to testing robotic solutions with CUMAs, and to working with groups on ways of sharing a robot.

To find out more, join us at WORLD FIRA.

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