

## Press release

### **ENERGY - ENEA launches an international public consultation on energy efficiency in agribusiness at the Sustainable Energy Week 2015**

**Brussels, June 16<sup>th</sup> 2015** - Today, during the sustainable energy week, ENEA hold an event at the European Parliament in Brussels on "**Sustainable and resource-efficient Europe. Energy efficiency in agribusiness**", aimed at increasing awareness and push stakeholders to reflect upon questions related to the implementation of environmental sustainability and energy efficiency in agribusiness.

The event was the occasion to launch a public international consultation on energy efficiency in agribusiness (<http://www.statigenerali efficienza energetica.it/international-public-consultation-questionnaire/>) promoted by ENEA ad EfficiencyKnow, aimed at collecting different perspectives, share information, and respond to the challenges related to the above mentioned issues. The outcome of the consultations, which expires on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2015, will be made available to the MEPs and to European Commission in view of United Nations COP 2015 meeting in Paris and beyond.

"Research and innovation on energy efficiency are of pivotal importance for the agro-food industries, which are among the major consumers of energy. ENEA has among its remits the transfer and dissemination of innovative technologies and services to the productive sector and within its role of 'National Agency for Energy Efficiency' is committing itself in providing solution to reduce the energy efficiency gap in several sectors including the agro-food SMEs". said Mrs. Cristina Corazza, Head of External and Institutional Relations of ENEA, who presented the event today in Brussels.

Corazza introduced ENEA's Vertical Farm at EXPO in Milan, an unique place where new technologies change the way of producing foods, setting new standards in five areas of scientific research and technology transfer to agro-industry: land, water, energy, sustainable agriculture and safe food. The Vertical Farm is the symbol of energy efficiency in agriculture, because the cultivations need zero space, zero transport and zero pesticides.

The agribusiness sector is a test case for the integration of energy, environment, competitiveness, and rural development policies. The agro-food industry consumes large amounts of fossil fuels to transform, store, warm and cool food. The consumption of energy associated to one kilogram of the food ready for consumption is between 2 and 220 MJ according to the type of food, cultivation technologies, processing and transport. To cut emissions, save energy, and improve the competitiveness of the sector, it is essential to consider the entire food supply chain from primary production to final distribution of the product, identifying innovative solutions for different components of the integrated agri-food system. To achieve this objective, it is necessary to evaluate the different industrial processes in terms of energy consumption and advanced technological solutions that reduce the energy costs.