

## Green light for the collaboration between Finlombarda and the Cassa Centrale Group to support the investments of agricultural companies

**Trento/Milan, 03.02.2025** – **Finlombarda S.p.A.**, a financial company based in the **Lombardy Region**, and **Cassa Centrale Banca**, parent company of the Cooperative Banking Group of the same name, have signed a collaboration agreement aimed at supporting **the launch of joint initiatives and projects for businesses**, with particular attention paid to **sustainable investment programmes** and with a strategic focus **on the primary sector**.

The collaboration will enable us to enhance our respective skills and knowledge through the organisation of **joint training and refresher initiatives**, the sharing of **assessment models** and the pooling of **mutual experiences** on the **specific characteristics of agricultural loans**.

"The agreement forms part of our corporate strategy of expanding the offer of financial products aimed at companies in Lombardy, including in support of other intermediaries. These actions are in line with the institutional mission of supporting regional economic development programmes in the area, mainly through the granting and management of loans, guarantees and contributions with EU, regional and own resources", according to **Andrea Mascetti, Chairman of Finlombarda**.

"The collaboration with Finlombarda, which is encompassed within the memorandum of understanding signed with ANFIR - Associazione Nazionale Finanziarie Regionali (the National Association of Regional Financial Institutions in Italy), will allow us to further increase our proximity to the primary sector, historically important for the Group's Banks, by focusing on the needs of companies during this delicate period of transition. The partnership will enable us to offer even more practical and timely support, by helping companies to seize the opportunities offered by the changes in progress," explains **Sandro Bolognesi, Chief Executive Officer of Cassa Centrale Banca**.

*Finlombarda S.p.A. is the financial company of the Lombardy Region and a financial intermediary supervised by the Bank of Italy. Its institutional mission has been contributing to the implementation of the economic development programmes of the Lombardy Region since 1971, in particular through the granting and management of loans, guarantees and contributions to businesses and public bodies, using EU, regional and/or own resources. It offers basic and advanced personalised free services to improve the level of innovation and sustainability and the internationalisation strategy and promote access to risk capital and European loans for Lombardy SMEs through coordination of the Simpler consortium (Enterprise Europe Network). It supports the Lombardy Region in the structuring of financial transactions in areas considered strategic due to the attractiveness and competitiveness of the local area. The General Manager is Giovanni Rallo.*

The **Cassa Centrale – Credito Cooperativo Italiano Group** includes 65 BCC – Casse Rurali – Raiffeisenkassen and 1,479 branches across Italy, with more than 12,000 employees and over 470,000 cooperative partners. With balance sheet assets amounting to €88 billion as of 30 June 2024, the Group is ranked in the top 10 in Italy.