

**PRESS RELEASE****Cariparma Crédit Agricole and SACE: 10 million to Support De Cecco Group Exports**

Parma, 2 October 2014 - Cariparma Crédit Agricole and SACE have finalized a € 10 million loan to support the foreign growth plans of De Cecco, a leading Italian producer of pasta, extra-virgin olive oil, prepared sauces, and tomato derivatives.

The purpose of the line of credit, structured in the form of a revolving credit facility provided entirely by Cariparma Crédit Agricole and guaranteed 50% by SACE, is to cover the costs of purchasing raw materials to sustain pasta exports and to improve the efficiency of the De Cecco production cycle.

With sales exceeding € 400 million (50% of it exports), the Abruzzi-based group is the no. 3 producer of semolina pasta worldwide and first in the premium segment.

With this facility, Cariparma Crédit Agricole, just awarded the "Prize of Prizes" for banking innovation thanks to its Agri-food Horizon project, is renewing its commitment to serve the more dynamic, innovative companies in a sector that represents true excellence in the Italian industrial system.

This transaction confirms the commitment of SACE to support one of the symbolic sectors of Italian production and one of the most promising for Italian export in coming years. According to SACE studies, agri-food exports will grow at an average annual rate of 8.9% in 2014-2017, driven primarily by the principal emerging markets (like Brazil) and by the advanced markets of Europe and beyond (France and Canada).

*The **Cariparma Crédit Agricole** Group consists of the Banks Cariparma, FriulAdria and Carispezia. It belongs to the French Group Crédit Agricole, a European leader in the banking and insurance sector, with 11,000 branches and operating in more than 70 countries worldwide. The Italian Group operates throughout Italy with nearly 900 branches in 10 Regions. It is the eighth player in the Italian Banking sector for geographical coverage, with approximately 8,700 employees and 1.7 million Customers.*

***SACE** offers export credit, credit assurance, foreign investment protection services, financial guarantees, sureties and factoring. With operations worth €70 billion assured in 189 countries, the SACE Group supports the competitiveness of Italian and foreign businesses, guaranteeing more stable cash flows and transforming enterprise insolvency risks into development opportunities.*

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