

**PRESS RELEASE**

*Banca Intesa selected the best farmers in 2015*

**The third annual Intesa Farmer contest is closed**

**Belgrade, September 21, 2015** – Banca Intesa has declared the winner of the third annual Intesa Farmer contest, a selection of the best farmers in categories - vegetable growing, crop husbandry, fruit growing and animal husbandry. According to decision of an expert jury, the winners of Intesa Farmer 2015 contest are: Zoran Šašaroga from Jaša Tomić in the category Intesa Crop Husbandry, Predrag Vidić from Gospodjinci in category Intesa Vegetable Growing, Sergej Vujačić from Vrbasa in category Intesa Fruit Growing and Kornel Vojčena from Novo Orahovo in category Intesa Animal Husbandry.

Banca Intesa awarded the best participants in the contest with a trip to a global exhibition EXPO Milan 2015, specialized in innovations and sustainable food production, and also with vouchers worth RSD 100,000 for the purchase of animal feedingstuffs and processed materials

„The floods beyond one's memory that affected Serbia last year and caused it damage from which the agriculture sector is still recovering have been replaced by huge draught which will result in the decrease in agricultural production in 2015. In circumstances as such Banca Intesa has been trying to be a stable reliance to farmers and its business results as well as the success of the contest winner can prove it. I am especially glad because, as a member of Intesa Sanpaolo Group, an official global partner of the world exhibition EXPO Milan 2015, we can introduce them with up to date global technologies and sustainable practices in food production and help them in one more way to improve operations of their own households”, said Darko Popović, the member of Banca Intesa’s Executive Board and the Manager of Division for retail clients and small-sized business.

301 farmers applied to this third in a row contest Intesa Farmer and the jury selected the winners on the basis of the last year’s results that they achieved through agricultural production, inclusion of family members in the production process, storing area as property, application of modern technologies and regularity in settling financial liabilities.

Expert jury in Intesa Farmer project consisted of: prof. dr Miladin M. Ševarić, the President of the Association of Agrarian Economists Serbia, Uroš Davidović, editor of “Good Land“ TV show, Predrag Milenović, Manager of Banca Intesa’s Small Business Department, Đorđe Radulović, Manager of Banca Intesa’s Department for managing the segment of registered agricultural estate as clients, Dragan Cvetinčanin, the Bank’s loan expert in agriculture and Vojislav Živanović, Marketing Expert at Banca Intesa.

Banca Intesa has launched the Intesa Farmer project in 2013 wishing to indicate the important role of the agriculture sector in the entire economic development of the country and to contribute to its future prosperity by affirming the most successful farmers.

Strategic commitment of Banca Intesa to the agriculture sector is confirmed through constant innovations related to products and through recorded business results. In first eight months of 2015 the Bank approved around 4,400 loans totalling over EUR 16.6 million to registered agricultural estates and it is by nearly 15 percent more considering number and by 4.4 percent more considering amount of realised loans against the same period last year. Also, wishing to ensure as affordable loans to its clients as possible, Banca Intesa participates in 2015 in the realisation of the program of subsidized loans for farmers by the Government of the Republic of Serbia within which it has approved almost RSD 380 million worth loans so far.

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**Banca Intesa ad Beograd**, a member of **INTESA  SANPAOLO**, is a leading bank on local market, a reliable partner to 1.65 million clients, natural and legal persons. With net balance assets of over EUR 4.2 billion, total deposits amounting to EUR 2.8 billion and total investment in the amount of EUR 2.3 billion, Banca Intesa Beograd is on the top of the list of major banks in Serbia. Owing to developed business network which consists of 172 branch offices across Serbia, the most developed network of ATMs and POS terminals, professional team of over 3,000 employees, the bank achieves significant growth in all business areas. Banca Intesa develops its business activities in five directions: retail, small business and corporate operations, operations with local self-governments and investment banking.