

**IMPROVEMENT IN
THE MANAGEMENT
OF AGRICULTURAL
FARMS**



OPERATIONAL GROUPS AND INNOVATIVE PROJECTS



Unión Europea

Fondo Europeo Agrícola
de Desarrollo Rural

Europa invierte en las zonas rurales



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COORDINATION:

National Rural Network Management Unit
Subdirección General de Dinamización del Medio Rural (General Sub-directorate of Rural Revitalization)
Dirección General de Desarrollo Rural, Innovación y Formación Agroalimentaria (General Directorate of Rural Development, Innovation and Agri-food Training)

EDITING AND CONTENT:

Subdirección General de Dinamización del Medio Rural (General Sub-directorate of Rural Revitalization)



June 2022

Edita:

© Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
General Technical Secretary
Publication Centre

Improvement in the management
of agricultural farms.
Operational Groups and Innovative Projects.
NIPO: 003221022

**Catalogue of Publications by the General State
Administration:**

<https://cpage.mpr.gob.es/>



Distribution:

Paseo de la Infanta Isabel, 1
28014 Madrid
Teléfono: 91 347 55 41
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www.redruralnacional.es

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OPERATIONAL GROUPS AND INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

**Improvement in the management
of agricultural farms**

EsRuralEsVital

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Introduction

This publication is a compilation of Operational Groups and Innovative Projects for improvements in the management of agricultural farms carried out in Spain and Europe. The National Rural Network, NRN has been entrusted with creating this publication to meet its purpose of **disseminating and raising awareness about innovative initiatives and fostering knowledge exchange and transfer** from the sphere of research to practical applications.

Innovation is a fundamental instrument in all areas, but especially in rural areas since this is a disperse environment with difficult access to knowledge, the results from research, training, market developments and new technologies.

The main instrument to promote innovation in rural areas is the European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability (EIP-AGRI). The EIP-AGRI aims to **speed up innovation in the agri-food and forestry sector**, and therefore in rural areas, as well as to **disseminate successful examples of experience in the territory** through specific innovative projects. In addition, it seeks to match the range of science available to the demand from different sectors and help solve specific problems or make the most of opportunities in order to help increase competitiveness and improve living conditions in rural areas.

The Operational Groups (OGs) are groups of stakeholders from different sectors: agriculture, livestock, forestry, agri-food and forest-based industries, from public or private R&D&I training and consultancy centres, technology centres, non-profit institutions, and more. These parties get together to solve a problem or make the most of an opportunity using an innovative, multisectoral and collaborative approach via an innovative project. **Their work is subsidised by EAFRD** through national and regional rural development programmes to set up the group and prepare its innovation project, as well as to implement it.

Furthermore, in the European context, there are also other policies with synergies appearing out of their commitment to innovation in rural areas. The Horizon 2020 research framework programme covers matters related to the agri-food and forestry sectors. Under this umbrella, there are thematic networks and research projects.

This dossier gives the results from the exchange of experiences between Operational Groups and Innovative Projects on improvement in the management of agricultural farms, organised by the NRN; and information units describing the Operational Groups and Innovative Projects, fostered by Measure 16 of the rural development programme in Spain in this matter, thematic networks and Horizon 2020 projects, with the aim of helping to disseminate them and enabling the different stakeholders to consult them.

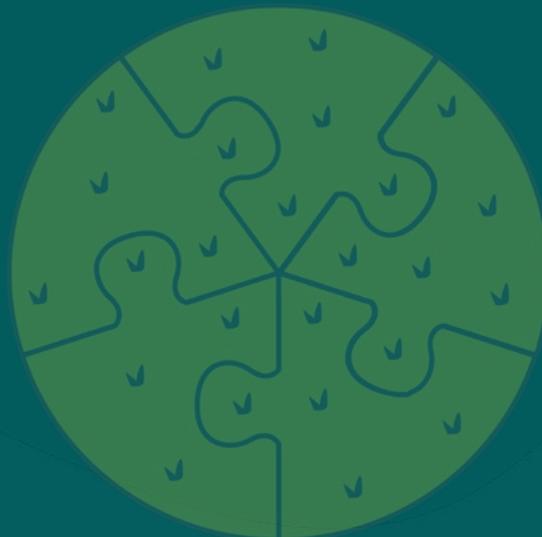
Exchange of experiences between Operational Groups and Innovative Projects on the theme of improvement in managing agricultural farms

On 26 October 2020, the National Rural Network (NRN) organised an exchange of experiences between Operational Groups, Innovative Projects and others from Horizon 2020 that are working on the matter of improvement in managing agricultural farms. The exchange took place via a virtual meeting attended by more than 130 people representing research centres, companies, public government administrations, agricultural and environmental organisations, cooperatives, rural development groups and associations for social action.

Objectives addressed:

The meeting was held with the following objectives:

- To foster the creation of networks and synergies between stakeholders who work or have an interest in improving the management of agricultural farms.
- To help exchange information and the results obtained by the EAFRD's different Operational Groups and Innovative Projects and the H2020 European research programme related to this topic.
- To raise visibility about the innovation work done by the Operational Groups and Innovative Projects.



Conference held in two stages:

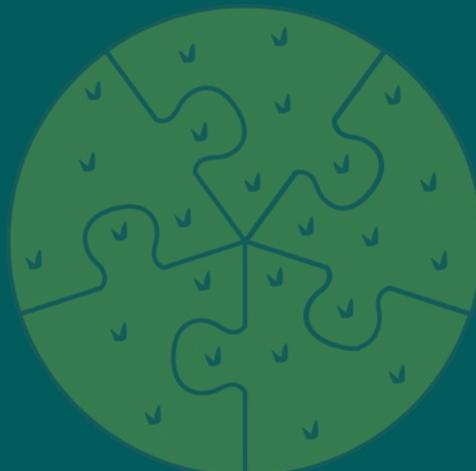
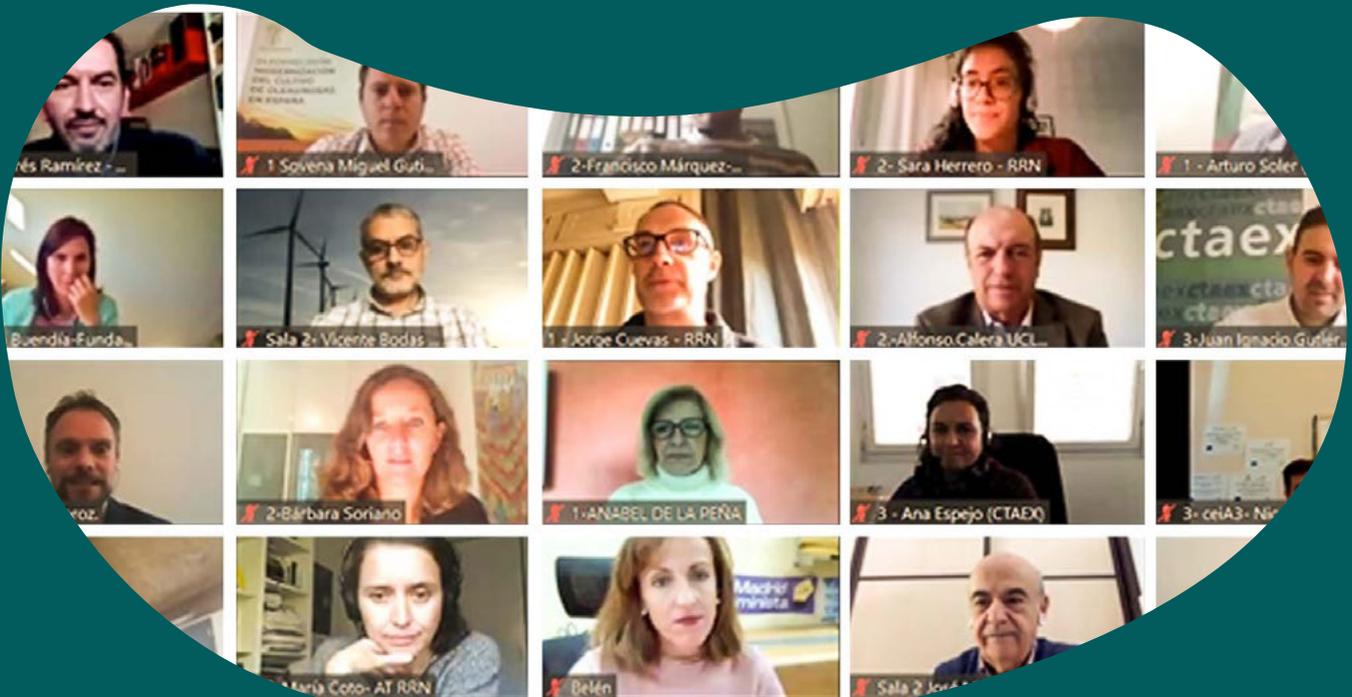
- An analysis was made of the work being carried out by the NRN as regards disseminating the work by the Operational Groups and the Innovative Projects, including the H2020 Programme. Furthermore, the innovative measures in rural development programmes promoted by EIP-Agri were also examined. Finally, an explanation was given of the activities carried out by the Agricultural Machinery Area, within the General Subdirectorate for Coordination of Means of Agricultural Production and the Spanish Plant Variety Office of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
- With the aim of bringing about an exchange of innovative solutions in the sphere to encourage improvements in agricultural farms, the attendees saw presentations by nine Operational Groups and Innovative Projects from EIP-AGRI and the H2020 programme, given in three parallel sessions, after which the key points discussed in each room were shared.

Key ideas:

- It was found that one of the challenges facing the sector is **improvement in managing the efficiency of agricultural farms**. Innovation is crucial in achieving this. The agronomy sector is fully committed to a fast-track process of **getting up-to-date and adapting to a digital model** that introduces information and communications technologies.
- New techniques are being developed to meet this challenge via the Operational Groups and Innovative Projects. A high technical level has been seen in the projects being carried out, offering sophisticated solutions in the fields of **precision agriculture, digitalisation, water and nutrient management, promoting environmental quality labels, improving the profitability of production and introducing good agricultural practices** geared towards reducing farms' environmental impact and improving their sustainability.

- The importance of innovating to benefit farmers, adapting to their needs and resources and including them in decision-making.
- There is growing awareness about the **need to inform and train farm managers**, creating links between the academic research sector and the farmers themselves.
- These experience exchanges help foster innovative activities that have had a positive impact, so that they can be replicated in other territories and sectors with similar needs.

For more information about the conference, click [here](#)



OLEOPRECISION 4.0: Modernisation of oilseed farming in Spain

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

NRDP

YEAR CREATED

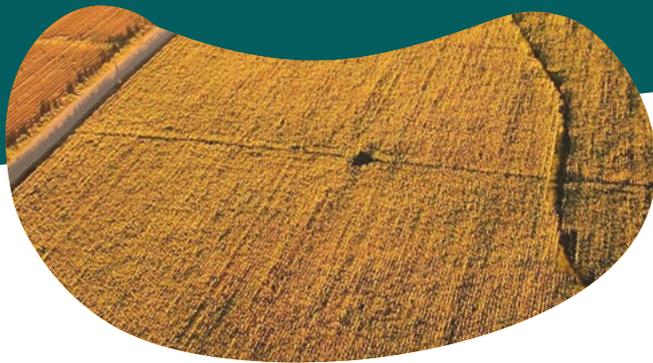
2017

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Sovena Oilseeds España S.A.

PARTNERS

Sovena Oilseeds España S.A. | Sociedad Cooperativa General Agropecuaria ACOR S.Coop. | Grupo Manzanilla Olive S.C.A., Agrupación de Cooperativas Agroalimentarias de Extremadura S.Coop. | Instituto Tecnológico Agrario de Castilla y León | Ideagro S.L. | Centro de Investigaciones científicas y Tecnológicas de Extremadura



www.oleoprecision.es



coordinacion@oleoprecision.es

- Sustainable improvement for the crop's productivity and quality, increasing its competitiveness and generating added value for the agri-food chain.

Expected results

- ▶ An improvement in genetic adaptation in each production area.
- ▶ Guidelines provided about how to best supply nutrients adapted to each type of soil, and recommendations for applying precision technologies.
- ▶ Generating updated documentation to enable reports to be drawn up in the coming years and to develop technical roadmaps so as to achieve some improvement throughout the sector's chain.



"By implementing the project, the intention is to bring together all of the stakeholders involved in producing and transforming the product, thus enabling information to be produced concerning management of the crop in cutting-edge technologies".

Description

Over the years, it has been seen that the oilseed-growing area and its production in Spain have been declining. There is a lack of raw materials for the industrial sector, which has to import crude oil, thereby giving up its products' traceability to satisfy the national Spanish market. This makes it impossible for it to increase its production capacity. Moreover, oilseeds are not very profitable for the farmer, so there is less reason to produce them.

Oleoprecisión 4.0's general aim is to develop an app to improve the productivity, efficiency and economic and environmental sustainability of growing sunflowers and other oilseeds so as to satisfy current demand from the Spanish milling industry and adapt it to today's climate change.

Objectives

- Modernisation of oilseed farming, identifying the problems and advantages that may arise in the crop on implementing new technologies.

SEMINIS: Modernisation for arable crop farms by introducing strategies for variable-rate seeding and fertilising

2

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

NRDP

YEAR CREATED

2017

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Agropal S.coop

PARTNERS

Agropal S.coop | Fertiberia S.A. | Bayer AG Farming Agrícola-Amazona S.A. | Centro Tecnológico agrario y agroalimentario Cataluña Sociedad Cooperativa Agropal | Association nationale des industries alimentaires



 agp@en1504consulting.es

Description

Agriculture is currently undergoing a process of renewal thanks to the introduction of new technologies, enabling conventional agriculture to be transformed into a new model of agricultural management that includes innovative aspects such as precision agriculture.

SEMINIS aims to foster variable-rate seeding by using performance monitors installed in cereal harvesters. These monitors record and georeference a wide variety of data related to the crop harvesting such as grain flow rate, grain moisture, working speed, cutting width and more. By doing so, maps are generated that show the productivity of the farms and the zones of different yield potential within plots.

These maps make it possible to create a variable seeding and fertilisation map of recommendations, assigning different seeding rates within the same plot depending on the different production potentials.

Objectives

- Modernisation for arable crop farms by introducing strategies for variable-rate seeding and fertilising.

- Checking on the efficiency and effectiveness of the data obtained by the harvester.
- Agriculturally and economically justifying the use of these technologies.
- Preparing a study of the carbon footprint to identify and analyse gas emissions from chemical fertilisers and seeds.

Results achieved

- ▶ A reduction in inputs and increase in farm profitability.
- ▶ Improvement in the farms' competitiveness by applying the above techniques.
- ▶ Improvement in the farm's viability by increasing the productivity and efficiency of the resources available to the farmer.
- ▶ Reduction in environmental impact.

"Once the project's timeline milestones and the expected satisfactory results have been achieved, the intention is to also achieve the ultimate milestone of raising farmers' awareness of the need to use data to make decisions and of the fact that precision agriculture can improve their farms' economic results".



INNOVATRIGO: Operational Group for innovations to improve the environmental and economic sustainability of wheat production in Spain

3

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
NRDP

YEAR CREATED
2018

PROJECT COORDINATOR
La Universidad de Córdoba

LEADER

Asociación Española de Técnicos Cerealistas

PARTNERS

UCO | AETC | Agrifood Sector Communication S.L. | Asociación Española de Agricultura de Conservación Suelos Vivos Antonio Tarazona S.L.U. | Centros Comerciales Carrefour S.A. | Dcoop Sociedad Cooperativa Andaluza | Business Initiatives Consulting, S.L. | Grupo AN S.Coop



Description

Wheat farming in Spain covers an area of over 2 million hectares, located mainly among the regions of Castilla y León, Andalusia, Castilla-La Mancha and Aragón. This area has remained stable in recent years, only increasing by 4% since 2011.

The main problem to be found in growing wheat is the loss of cereal farms' economic profitability due to a drop in price; the lack of generational change and poor environmental sustainability as a consequence of the fact that the method of soil management most used on over 89% of the Spanish wheat-growing area is tillage, which causes alterations in the soil.

INNOVATRIGO aims to encourage a series of innovations in soil management and agrochemical products to be taken up, and to introduce new technologies enabling wheat production to be both economically and environmentally sustainable.

Objectives

- Involving all interested parties in the wheat production chain in fostering innovation.



www.innovatrigo.es

info@aetc.es

- Adapting and encouraging advanced technologies among farmers and society in general.
- Fostering labelling tools for wheat by-products, raising the commercial visibility of sustainably-produced cereals.

Results achieved

- ▶ Promoting and implementing innovative good agricultural practices.
- ▶ Labelling products differently, thereby adding value.
- ▶ Creating resources for training and dissemination.
- ▶ Increasing the influence of creating policy to support these systems.

"A certification of sustainable production of low-emission wheat will be created to complement this, so that products that adopt such systems will see an improvement in their ability to position their product in the food chain".



VITINNAT: Innovative and sustainable natural solutions for the wine sector

4

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

NRDP

YEAR CREATED

2018

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Centro tecnológico Nacional Agroalimentario
Extremadura

PARTNERS

CTAEX | Bodega Matarromera S.L. | Idai Nature S.L. | Agrozono S.L. | Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII)



GRUPO OPERATIVO SUPRAAUTONÓMICO VITINNAT
OLUCIONES NATURALES INNOVADORAS Y SOSTENIBLES PARA EL SECTOR VITIVINÍCOLA

Description

In vineyard farming today, wood diseases are the greatest threat to the wine sector, causing significant production losses and increasing the farming costs. Diseases such as Esca, a complex one caused by several pathogenic fungi, cause internal alterations in the plant's wood. There are several negative consequences that arise from these diseases, such as arrested development, a lack or delay in sprouting, shortening of internodes, and chlorosis in leaves, which can lead to the death of the plant. VITINNAT has been created based on the need to tackle the problem of wood diseases in the Bodega Matarromera vineyards in Valladolid. The project aims to provide the wine sector with natural, sustainable and innovative solutions to prevent and combat wood diseases so as to raise productivity without affecting the quality of the wine. Two complementary lines of action have been put forward: on the one hand, applying a solution based on natural extracts to control airborne diseases, and on the other, ozoning irrigation water and inoculating microorganisms that are beneficial for the soil.

Objectives

- Developing a new product based on natural extracts to control airborne vine wood diseases.
- Demonstrating that the proposed ozone technology allows soil-borne wood diseases to be kept under control.



<https://ctaex.com/>



jgutierrez@ctaex.com

- Developing a global strategy aimed at obtaining grapes and wine with no pesticide residues, while increasing productivity.

Expected results

- ▶ Validation of the effectiveness of the two complementary solutions to prevent vine wood diseases.
- ▶ Reduction in the use of active ingredients made from chemicals in the crop.
- ▶ An increase in primary producers' competitiveness.
- ▶ Avoiding altering the quality of the grapes and wine.



Symptoms of Esca (left) and Eutypa canker (right) on wood

"VITINNAT aims to implement effective natural solutions to control vine wood diseases, having an effect on the crop's health and its productivity, as well as on the quality of the grapes and the resulting wine".

Introducing multispectral and agroclimatic data in vineyard management to support decision-making in precision viticulture

5

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

RDP Galicia

YEAR CREATED

2016

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Ingeniería ambiental S.L. (3EDATA)

PARTNERS

3EDATA | Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) | Misión Biológica de Galicia del CSIC | Bodegas Terras Gauda S.A. Seresco S.A. | Universidad de Santiago de Compostela (USC)



www.3edata.es



boris.hinojo@3edata.es

Description

This project concentrating on precision agriculture was launched in Galicia to respond to the need to modernise the wine sector and to have the technological tools to enable more efficient and effective decision-making. It makes use of new information and communication technologies (ICT) and monitoring technologies to analyse climatic and soil variables and multispectral data obtained with drones and satellite images to define homogeneous areas for management. The intention is to improve the quality of the vineyard by optimising production costs and minimising impact on the natural environment through a more efficient use of energy and external resources in the production process.

Objectives

- Raising the production system's competitiveness by using an optimal production prediction algorithm for the vineyard.
- Increasing the production system's sustainability, mitigating the impact by optimising differential fertilisation suited to each vineyard.
- Reducing production costs and consumption of resources via selective recommendations regarding the harvesting phase.

Results achieved

- ▶ The introduction of remote sensing tools into vineyard management guidelines makes geodata available at key times such as during fertilisation or harvesting.
- ▶ To enable efficient use of resources and reduce production and consumption costs, while improving the environment and the competitiveness of wineries.
- ▶ Having areas grouped by grape quality brings added value and quality to the final product.



"Based on this project, the supra-regional Robodronvi Operational Group has been created to introduce robotics into vineyard management as part of this model".

SIATCA: Integrated assistance system in the field

6

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

RDP Región de Murcia

YEAR CREATED

2018

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Arturo Soler López

PARTNERS

Asociación agraria de jóvenes agricultores (ASAJA) | Unión de pequeños productores (UPA) | Soluciones Agromarketing S.L.



www.myagro.es



soler.arturo@gmail.com

Description

This project was launched in Murcia to respond to farmers' need to receive impartial economic advice in real-time in order to be able to take the necessary steps to deal with a specific problem occurring on a plot of land.

Using a multiplatform technological tool, farmers and producers can be in direct, immediate contact with specialist agricultural technicians. The services provided include dealing with pest incidents, applying plant protection products and plant nutrition plans, and reporting real-time and past data to evaluate the steps to be applied. The system uses four fundamental tools: a mobile app for the farmer or producer, a central dashboard, a mobile app for the agricultural technician and an Internet platform

Objectives

- Developing a mobile app to help farmers clear up technical doubts they may have in their work in the field.
- Evaluating and helping carry out a reliable diagnosis according to the problems and type of crop.
- Helping farmers committed to organic farming to combat pests and diseases, as well as fostering the transition from conventional to organic farming.

- Gathering data so as to create a record by area, time of year and crop that helps take better decisions in future.

Expected results

- ▶ Creation of a powerful database using the information generated in the system. This database will serve to make reliable diagnoses and to propose solutions to help farmers with integrated and environmentally friendly agriculture in practice.
- ▶ To reach 450 farmers using the tool.
- ▶ Savings in using fertilisers and plant protection products and a reduction in damage caused by pests, thanks to solving incidents more quickly.

"By using an innovative mobile app, our farmers and producers will be able to simply and immediately report any problem in their farming areas at zero cost for the first three years".



SMART MANAGING WINE: Pilot smart management project to improve the environmental, social and economic sustainability of Navarre's wine sector

7

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

RDP Navarra

YEAR CREATED

2018

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Unión Agricultores y Ganaderos de Navarra (UAGN)

PARTNERS

UAGN | Consejo Regulador Denominación de Origen Protegida Navarra (DOP NAVARRA) Instituto Navarro de Tecnologías e Infraestructuras Agroalimentarias S.A. Bodega Cooperativa San Francisco Javier (BODEGA DE LIÉDENA) | Bodegas Ochoa S.A. Bodegas Quaderna Via S.L.



www.smartsustainablewine.es



uagn@uagn.es

- Improving the sector's competitiveness and its international standing.
- Defining a strategy to comprehensively apply sustainability for the Navarre Denomination of Origin..
- Implementation of energy efficiency measures.

Description

Confronted with European agri-food policies that are increasingly demanding in terms of integrated sustainability measures and tackling climate change, the Navarre agricultural sector is faced with the challenge of addressing intelligent, sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Today's management systems applied to the wine sector only affect a series of environmental aspects such as the use of energy, emissions and inputs.

SMART MANAGING WINE intends to go further by developing a management system that includes principles of economic, environmental and social sustainability, and allows for improvement in the Navarre wine sector's competitiveness and positioning internationally.

Objectives

- Boosting and promoting the principles of economic, environmental and social sustainability for small wine farms and wineries in Navarre.

Expected results

- ▶ Developing a system to certify and protocolise measuring of the social footprint.
- ▶ Creating a sustainability management tool for vine growers and wineries.
- ▶ Encouraging active participation from vine growers and wineries.



"The system of indicators will enable the extent to which a sustainable production system has been implemented in the sector to be determined, such that social and economic aspects are evaluated in an innovative way".

FATIMA: Tools to manage water and nutrients via time series of images

8

H2020 PROGRAMME

YEAR CREATED

2015

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha (UCLM)

PARTNERS

ES: UCLM, ITAP, Aliara Agrícola S.L.
IT: ARIESPACE SRL, ARC, CRA | **PT:** Doiseco Unipessoal Lda, (2eco) Agrícola | **NL:** VU-VUmc
FR: INRAe | **CZ:** METCENAS OPS, VUMOP
LT: BOSC | **GR:** GNHM, Hellinikos Georgikos Organismos, Dimitra-Institute of Soil Mapping and Classification, AUA, DRAXIS
BG: REDCOAST | **AT:** BOKU, AGES
DE: Nikolaos Spyropoulos SIGMA Geotechnologie | **TR:** UTAEM, EA-TEK


www.fatima-h2020.eu

Alfonso.Calera@uclm.es

Description

FATIMA addresses effective and efficient monitoring and management of agricultural resources to achieve optimal crop yield and quality in a sustainable environment. It includes two aspects of food production: precision agriculture and sustainable agriculture with integrated agri-environmental management.

Its aim is to develop new, innovative skills to help the intensive agricultural sector to optimise its management and use of external inputs (nutrients and water) in order to provide sustainable production to compete with economic fairness. FATIMA works with communities of users (farmers, managers and decision-makers in the agricultural and agro-industrial sector) on different scales ranging from simple plots to entire river basins.

The project will provide irrigation and fertilisation maps (to be used in precision agriculture machinery), data on water needs and a wide range of products for sustainable crop management. All of this is backed up by innovative strategies as regards the water and energy footprint. All of the information will be introduced into a participatory online system to help with decision-making.

It should be noted that it is already present in seven European countries: France, Italy, Spain, Croatia, Turkey, Greece and the Czech Republic.

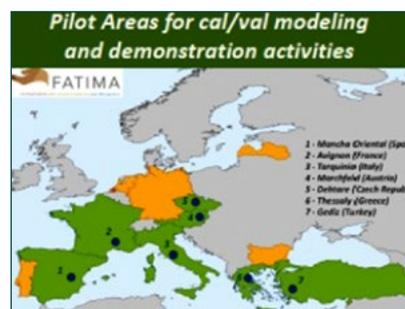
Objectives

- Adapting the supply of fertilisers and water to the crop's demands in terms of space and time.
- Achieving optimal quality and yield in intensive agriculture and improve its sustainability.

Expected results

- ▶ Increased sustainable food production using precision agriculture techniques and integrated agri-environmental management.
- ▶ A reduction in soil pollution by reducing the use of chemical fertilisers and plant protection products.

"Given that fertilisation and water usually account for the main production costs, adapting them to demands will enable a greater profit to be made per unit of product as well as more sustainable management by reducing undesirable pollution".



SURE-FARM: Towards sustainable and resilient EU farming systems

9

H2020 PROGRAMME

YEAR CREATED
2019

PROJECT COORDINATOR
Wageningen University & Research (WUR)

PARTNERS

NL: WUR | **UK:** ABER, UoG | **DE:** UGOE, IAMO
BE: KU Leuven, ILVO | **CH:** ETH Zürich, S.L.U.
ES: UPM | **IT:** UNITUS | **NO:** UiB | **BG:** UNWE
FR: INRAe | **RUS:** IEA-AR | **PO:** IRWiR PAN



www.surefarmproject.eu/



alberto.garrido@upm.es

Description

The European agricultural sector is facing a series of economic, environmental and social challenges. These include climate change, the demographic challenge and the economic crisis brought about by the recent health crisis. The accumulated effect of these uncertainties and their potentially complex interconnections raises concerns about the long-term viability of the production of public and private goods, the sustainability of agricultural systems and the vitality of rural areas.

There is currently no framework to assess whether policies and governance agreements are improving the sustainability and resilience of EU farming systems. Consequently, there is a lack of strategic approaches and roadmaps towards more sustainable, resilient agricultural systems. SURE-Farm aims to analyse, assess and improve the resilience and sustainability of farms and farming systems in the EU. To do so, different scenarios are created, and a set of advanced risk assessment and management tools are developed along with an improved demographic assessment model, as well as a resilience assessment tool for public policies.

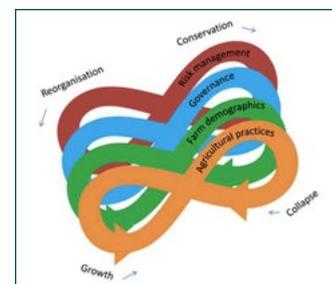
Objectives

- Improving risk management and the analysis of factors that explain the demographics of farms.
- Evaluating the impacts of the new resilience measures and their future definition as regards their implementation.

- An improvement in the capacity of the agricultural sector to deal with the risks it faces.

Results achieved

- ▶ An improvement in applying the framework of policies to agricultural activity, thereby fostering its sustainability.
- ▶ Farmers provided with better risk management tools.
- ▶ An improvement in the capacity of the agricultural sector to deal with the risks it faces.



“SURE-Farm is an H2020 project whose aim is to analyse and improve the resilience and sustainability of agriculture in the European Union through a wide range of innovative solutions based on precision agriculture and integrated agri-environmental management”.

The NRN is the hub connecting all of the people and entities related to the rural environment with the aim of raising awareness of Rural Development Programmes and providing access to them. At the same time, its purpose is to make the population aware of the importance of the rural environment for our present and our future.

The unit responsible for the NRN is the Subdirectorate General for Rural Revitalization within the Directorate General of Rural Development, Innovation and Agri-food Training of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

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IMPROVEMENT IN THE MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL FARMS



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