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e-agricil

Le numérique au service de l'agriculture

Médias numériques et papier,
un duo qui fonctionne 4

Les visioconférences s'imposent 6

DEMETER 2020: un projet ambitieux pour
le smart farming 8



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ENTWICKLUNG DER LANDWIRTSCHAFT UND DES LÄNDLICHEN RAUMS
DÉVELOPPEMENT DE L'AGRICULTURE ET DE L'ESPACE RURAL
SVILUPPO DELL'AGRICOLTURA E DELLE AREE RURALI
DEVELOPING AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AREAS

DEMETER 2020: an ambitious project for smart farming

The aggregation of micro-data from sensors opens up new possibilities for smart farming thanks to IoT (Internet of Things) technology. DEMETER is a large-scale European project that aims to provide references as well as a framework for this innovative field. We asked Kevin Doolin, project coordinator, and Srdjan Krco, one of the participants, to tell us more about this project.

Pierre Moretti, AGRIDEA

Kevin Doolin, can you give us an idea of the scope of the DEMETER project

DEMETER is part of the framework programme «Horizon 2020» of the European Union. It has a budget of 17.5 million euros, 15 million of which is funded by the EU. It currently involves 60 partners from 18 European countries and represents 6,000 farms. The partners come from the public and private sectors as well as research.

What are the objectives of DEMETER and how is the project organized??

It is a platform that is available to all stakeholders in smart farming. Its aim is to communicate the benefits of this technology across the entire agricultural value chain, with special regard to sustainability. The World Farmers' Organisation is an important partner tasked with sharing the benefits of our work to as many people as possible. DEMETER aims to provide technological references regarding the networking of systems and data, but also to provide references for consulting and farm management.

All interested institutions will have free access to these references according to an open-source cooperation model. The participants are divided into 20 pilot sub-projects in which they will contribute their expertise, e.g. on the possibilities of IoT for saving water in agriculture

agroNET - a project within DEMETER

Srdjan Krco is the director of DunavNet, a company based in Belgrade (Serbia), which offers numerous IoT solutions in several areas. His smart farming platform «agroNET» accounts for about half of the activity and is characterized by great expertise in viticulture and poultry farming. agroNET ensures, in particular, the monitoring of a 2500 ha vineyard in Montenegro. The system provides information to optimize irrigation and control pests and diseases based on in-situ surveys using sensors. The monitoring of insect activity and the use of predictive models provide decision support to avoid overpopulation of insects and the spread of diseases. Authorized consultants can remotely access technical results from the farm.

According to Srdjan Krco, companies offering smart farming solutions increasingly understand the need to provide an open environment for their applications, in order to suit their own interests and those of their customers. Thus, the DEMETER project will also facilitate access to technological solutions.

<https://h2020-demeter.eu>

<https://agronet.solutions/>