Feeding a growing global population: the role of satellite applications – 1-day workshop

Satellite navigation and satellite imagery can contribute to maintaining food production at sufficient levels to sustain the world's growing population. A session on the topic will be hosted on 1 June in The Hague by the European GNSS Agency (GSA), during the European Space Solutions Conference in The Hague.

By 2050, the world's population is predicted to have increased by 2 billion, reaching a total population of 9 billion people. To cope with this reality, the agriculture industry must maximise the use of available resources – including space solutions. According to the 2015 United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report, Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) such as Galileo, the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) and Copernicus will play a key role in the development of precision agriculture – boosting agribusiness productivity and achieving the kind of food production necessary to sustain the planet's growing population.

For example, precision agriculture, which uses satellite navigation to help increase crop yields and improve efficiency, will play an important role in this effort. Such precision agriculture services can help farmers obtain more yield while cutting the amount of water and fertilisers used; make more informed decisions on how to manage crops;, and use self-driving farming machinery to better manage fleets.

To help European industry better understand – and access – this lucrative market, on 1 June the European Commission and the GSA, under the auspices of the Dutch Council Presidency, are organising a special session on 'Space Solutions for feeding a growing population' as part of the European Space Solutions Conference.

Application developers, equipment and machinery manufacturers, farmers, food producers, agronomists, SMEs, service providers and decision makers will participate in the session to learn about the latest cutting-edge trends in farming applications and technologies.

Speakers will include farmers and agriculture authorities who will illustrate the benefits of satellite applications by sharing their hands-on experience. Examples will include palm farm management in Malaysia, satellite-assisted irrigation monitoring in Italy, and the implementation of Europe's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), among others. Furthermore, application developers and service providers will provide an overview of the recent progress in developing applications that rely on a combination of satellite and non-satellite technologies, thus enabling user communities to reap the full benefits of Copernicus and Galileo.

The session will conclude with a round table discussion on what more can be done, and by whom, to extend the production, use and benefits of satellite applications among businesses and farming communities.
The session will cover both state-of-the-art solutions and the latest research and development (R&D) innovations, with a focus on highlighting the many opportunities available for European businesses.

The session will feature speakers from the European Commission, national agriculture agencies, the GSA, the European Space Agency (ESA), Eurisy, and a range of various research institutions and related businesses. The workshop will discuss the use of Galileo, EGNOS and Copernicus in such arenas as crop

classification, CAP, logistics and land monitoring – among others. Users from both the public and private domains are encouraged to attend.

More information and registration is available european-space-solutions.eu.