



EU-project "Future Farm"

PROGIS is technology partner of the EU-project " Future Farm", which is funded by the Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Union under Grant Agreement No 212117."

The consortium consists of 15 partners, thereof 13 research and science institutes, and PROGIS as software technology provider for farm management and holistic rural area management solutions. The partners are coming from 10 European countries.

Project summary:

In the future European farmers will have to effectively manage information on and off their farms to improve economic viability and to reduce environmental impact. All three levels, in which agricultural activities need to be harmonized with economical and environmental constraints, require integrated ICT adoption: (i) improvement of farm efficiency; (ii) integration of public goods provided by farming into management strategies; (iii) relating to the environmental and cultural diversity of Europe's agriculture by addressing the region-farm interaction. In addition, the communication between agriculture and other sectors needs improvement. Crop products for the value added chains must show their provenance through a transparent and certified management strategy and farmers receiving subsidies are requested to respect the environment through compliance of standards. To this end, an integration of information systems is needed to advise managers of formal instructions, recommended guidelines and implications resulting from different scenarios at the point of decision making during the crop cycle. This will help directly with making better decisions as the manager will be helped to be compliant at the point and time of decision making. In FUTUREFARM the appropriate tools and technologies will be conceptually designed, prototypes developed and evaluated under practical conditions. Precision Farming as well as robotics are very data intensive and provide a wealth of information that helps to improve crop management and documentation. Based on these technologies a new Farm Information Management Systems (FMIS) will be developed. As most relevant farm data will be readily available in the proposed information system, or may be automatically integrated using standardised services and documentation in the form of instructions to operators, the certification of crop production process and cross compliance of standards can be generated more easily than with present systems.

After a presentation of the PROGIS AGROffice-software-technology and the public-private partnership business-models during the Private Stakeholder Consultation at the recent FAO meeting in Rome (food and agriculture organisation of the United Nations), PROGIS was invited by The Earth Institute at Columbia University to present its holistic technology to high ranking scientists who are working on a big project to enhance agricultural development in the SubSahara region.

The Earth Institute is involved in key-climate change questions on a very high level and has also strong connections to the former vice-president of the US, Al Gore and his climate change movement for which he got the nobel peace prize in 2007.

The Earth Institute was very interested in the technology of PROGIS and there are negotiations under way on how the PROGIS software can be included in the SubSahara project.