Participation of AEMET in the AGROASESOR PROJECT (Customized advanced GIS advisory tools for the sustainable management of extensive crops in Spain)

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The sigAGRoasesor project goal is to develop and put in operation a set of decision-support tools (DST) for extensive agriculture in Spain. The system, supported by a Geographical Information System, develops a Services Web Platform for farmers. It aims at helping farmers to carry out their activities in a more efficient and competitive way, based on a principle of environmental and social sustainability. The partners involved in the project are public entities from regional administrations in Spain. This project started in September 2012 for a period of 40 months and it is carried out with the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community (LIFE+11 programs).

As an aid in the decision making, four tools (fertilization, irrigation, sowing types and techniques, risks of plagues and diseases) have been defined in the context of this project. These tools make use of different meteorological variables data, real time forecasts and climatic information. Pilot programs to calibrate and validate tools will be carried out in a set of 600 plots of land located in 5 Spanish regions (Navarra, País Vasco, Cataluña, Albacete and Andalucía).

The contribution of AEMET to the project is linked to the operating capacity as well as the improvement of the different tools to help in the decision making process. AEMET will facilitate geo-referenced climatic information, extended to the whole national territory, for the following variables: precipitation, temperature, relative humidity, wind and radiation. This will allow identifying the different agroclimatic zones in order to modulate the parameters concerning each crop (cultivar). The real time outputs of AEMET′s new hydrological balance, made on a grid of 0.05º resolution, together with the local quantitative forecasting (up to seven days in advance) of the diverse variables, will serve as input data.