

Participatory multi-Level EO-Assisted Tools for Irrigation Water Management and Agricultural Decision Support (PLEIADeS)

This project focuses on efficient and sustainable water use in water scarce areas for food production and aims to improve irrigation plan, environmental and economic performance through measuring range. Earth observation (EO) data coverage application and utilization of Information and Communication Technology's (ICT) capacity to connect to interactive network enabled many important technical innovations. Thusly, the key point here will be to determine basic services for river basins, irrigation plans and integrated water sources for farms with EO and ICT integrated systems. This will also establish a basis where the farmers will learn to take responsibility on both technical and social terms by adjusting their water management finely according to the water status in the basin and decisions taken by the management itself.

With this project we aim to acquire technological innovation (easing active participation) synergy with economic, environmental, technical, social and politic thinking and approaches requiring network technology and distributed spatial information.

A number of pilot areas have been selected in order to show examples of certain conditions of Europe, South Mediterranean and Latin America containing Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, Greece, Malta, Turkey, Morocco, Mexico, Peru and Brazil in a large area. Technical, environmental and economic performances of pilot area irrigation systems will be determined, trials will be established by using EO and ICT tools with the participation of cooperative countries and effects of these tools on water efficiency and irrigation system performances will be evaluated.

This project is within the scope of STREP and is an European Union project. Its coordination is undertaken by Spain. Project was launched in 2006 with 22 institutions from 11 countries. (Project duration: 3 years)