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Decision Support Systems in agriculture



Need to take decisions and make critical day-to-day and long-term planning on farm management (strategic and tactical).

Support have to be relevant, timely, user-friendly to assist and manage crop cultivation. DSS offer scientific-technical tools often developed by multidisciplinary teams to combine to skills and experience.

The top 100 questions of importance to the future of global agriculture

J. Pretty et al., INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY 8(4), 2010, 219–236



A challenge is how to feed an incoming population of 9 B. To meet the demand without significant increases in prices, the need is to produce 70–100% more food, in the light of growing impacts of cc, concerns over energy security, and the Millennium Development target of halving world poverty-hunger by 2015.

The goal is no longer simply to maximize productivity, but to optimize across a far more complex landscape of production, rural development, environmental, social justice and food consumption outcomes.

The top 100 questions of importance to the future of global agriculture

1: **Natural resource inputs:** Climate, water, soil nutrition, erosion, biodiversity, ecosystem services and conservation, energy, climate change and resilience

What are the predicted impacts of cc on yield, cropping practices, crop diseases, irrigation...? What approaches can be developed to increase water use efficiency in agriculture and what is the cost-effectiveness of this approaches?

2: **Agronomic practice:** production systems and technologies, genetic improvement, P & D management, livestock

How we can accelerate the rate of technological change to propel sustainable production? Which approaches to P&D are the most economically and socially sustainable?

The top 100 questions of importance to the future of global agriculture

3: **Agricultural development:** networking, solidarity, reciprocity and exchange, farmer participation in technological development.

Farmers involvement enables novel technologies and practices to be learned directly, adopted and adapted. Agricultural and agrometeorological extension services are vital elements to address needs and provide critical services.

4: **Markets and consumption:** food supply chain, food standards, LCA, energy, C footprint, environmental impact.

As energy prices rise, how can agriculture increase its efficiency and use fewer inputs to become economically sustainable and environmentally sensitive, yet still feed a growing population?



Climate resource Water resource Genetic resource Energy resource Landscape resource Human resources Economic resources New-light technologies, saver inovation, DSS Crop protection Crop production Crop quality Environmental impact









Mean Annual Losses to Weather Hazards in the United States



Hazard

Spring frosts: when temperature falls below the melting point (0°C) sensitive crops can be injured



Style, ovary, petals necrosis



Scarring, distortion, russet



Dehydration, brown tissues

Whether or not there is frost damage at a particular minimum temperature

species, crop variety, hardening, cultural practices (pruning, fertilization, irrigation), INA bacteria, weather conditions.



It occurs in most countries with temperate climates and even in tropical countries at high elevations





Advices for frost protection

Define meteo & micromet conditions during frost events

Define the most appropriate methods for protection in relation to the climatic hazard and sustainable resources management

Develop instruments able to evaluate the risk

Support farmers in avoiding or mitigating the detrimental effects (active-passive protection)

Foreword to Agricultural Meteorology by Sir John Stuart Forbes of Pitsligo

The Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland July 1853 - March 1855

effects. Thus, shelter is indispensable for tempering our climate; but when too close or continued, especially in low situations, the want of circulation condenses the moisture into hoar-frost, and checks early vegetation. So drainage increases







Regional topoclimatic model including phenological and growth models to be used operationally

Define the risk maps for the various crops

Weekly agrometeorological bullettins
Climatic regional data-base for land capability



Reduce or to avoid the impact of these extrems -microclimate management & manipulation

Awareness of the meteorological risk

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Effectiveness

Efficiency

Risk

Active protection

Selection of the appropriate method:

- crop
- location
- climate
- costs

WHY FARMERS NEED PREVISIONS ?

Awareness of the risk

Active protection

What a probability for a frost tonight? Can the thermal levels predicted compromize my crops at this stage ? Shall I activate my protection devices? What the ratio cost sustained/cost of the possible damage?





Radiation frosts: calm wind - clear sky: heat is lost in form of radiant energy. Temperature falls faster near the surface causing a temperature inversion



Active protection





High consumption rates

Expensive to operate (2000 €/ha/night)

Total efficiency proportional to the number of heaters and depending on the air temperature



Active protection

Over-plant sprinklers

Under-plant sprinklers

Water freezing:

when 1 Kg of water freezes at 0°C, the phase change converts 334 kJ of latent to sensible heat

Low operational costs. High installation costs but sprinklers can be used for irrigation, fertilizer applications, evaporative cooling...Disadvantages: large amounts of water



Over-plant sprinklers

Uniform application, continuous and adequate water amounts. Problems under windy conditions. Errors in operating (late starting, early stopping, accidental interruptions) can induce major damages

Under-plant sprinklers

The goal is to maintain the wetted cover crop temperature near 0°C

Intermittency, lower amounts of water (higher sustainability, lower costs). Same sprinklers are used for irrigation. Protects large surfaces



Frost Protection

English Frost Protection Training Units (videos)

Spanish Frost Protection Training Units (videos)

When to Turn Sprinklers On and Off for Frost Protection

FP001 Quick Answer—This quick answer provides information on using a psychrometer or temperature and dew point data to determine when to start and start sprinklers for frost protection.

Predicting Temperature Trends during Freeze Nights

FP002 Quick Answer—This quick answer gives a method for predicting the change in temperature during a calm, radiation freeze night.

A Simple Method to Measure the Dew Point Temperature

FP003 Quick Answer—This quick answer provides information on how to measure the dew point for use in estimating minimum temperature and for starting and stopping sprinklers for frost protection.

Sprinkler Application Rates for Freeze Protection

MEASURING THE DEW-POINT TEMPERATURE

Materials:

- Metal can
- Thermometer
- Water
- * Ice
- Salt, if very cold
- When the temperature of the ice-water mixture reaches the dew point, dew or ice forms on the can
- When surface temperature reaches the dew point, condensation forms releasing sensible heat to retard temperature drop.

Table 3. Minimum turn-on and turn-off air temperatures (°C) for sprinkler frost protection for a range of wet-bulb and dew-point temperatures (°C)*

Dew-point						
Temperature	Wet-bulb Temperature (°C)					
°C	-5.0	-4.0	-3.0	-2.0	-1.0	0.0
0.0						0.0
-1.0					-1.0	0.7
-2.0				-2.0	-0.4	1.3
-3.0			-3.0	-1.4	0.2	1.9
-4.0		-4.0	-2.5	-0.9	0.8	2.4
-5.0	-5.0	-3.5	-1.9	-0.4	1.3	2.9
-6.0	-4.5	-3.0	-1.5	0.1	1.8	3.4
-7.0	-4.1	-2.6	-1.0	0.6	2.2	3.9
-8.0	-3.6	-2.1	-0.6	1.0	2.6	4.3
-9.0	-3.3	-1.7	-0.2	1.4	3.0	4.7

*Select a wet-bulb temperature that is above the critical damage temperature for your crop and locate the appropriate column. Then choose the row with the correct dew-point temperature and read the corresponding air temperature from the table to turn your sprinklers on or off. This table assumes a barometric pressure of 1013 millibars (101.3 kPa).



- Forecast of night temperatures depending on foreseen weather conditions and on temperature at sunset. At 10.00 and 01.00 forecasted temperatures and measured temperatures are checked.
- In case of temperatures below 0 °C, a SMS is sent to all registered



Appropriate pest management using meteorology and microclimatology can reduce losses: the tactical use of weather information in the prediction of p&d development may allow for near-optimum use and timing of pesticides and/or release of predators.





SAFE

- To guide farmers in the integrated pest management, improve effectiveness of treatments, reduce or avoid pesticides impact and improve quality
- A network of monitoring sites, using phaeromone traps or test plots, gives the basic informations to run simulation models
- The system uses weather forecasts and climatology to estimate periods of next insect generations, guiding farmers to choose the best moment for the treatment
- When a threshold is approaching, a SMS alerts the farmer, so that he can plan a treatment if necessary







🥝 Internet

Deutscher Wetterdienst

Agrometeorological Research Braunschweig

The activities of the German Weather Service in the field of agroclimatology

Plasmo Project - PLASMO on-line

http://agromet-cost.bo.ibimet.cnr.it/plasmo/

Irrinet Emilia Romagna – Online DSS on Irrigation:

2020 MILLIONS m3 water are withdrawn

Withdrawal is 130 Mm3 higher than recharge, thus inducing a progressive subsidence

What is a "best management practice for water?"

A practical, affordable approach to conserving water without sacrificing productivity, maximizing its use efficiency.

Good practices for water management

- Re-utilization
- Depuration/ phytodepuration
- Irrigation using waste water

- Dry farming
- Crop selection and management
- Improvement of efficiency of irrigation equipments, reduction of losses

- Water balance calculation, agrometeorological support
- Decision Support Systems and Advisories

To save water, there is not a unique solution, but several strategies can be used together. The saving may reach 20-25 %.

IRRIGATION METHODS

The selected irrigation technique has a great importance in limiting water use, and also on leaching of nutrient in soil.

At basin level

Global efficiency

Transport between the source and the farm

Information to the farmers:

Decision support systems for irrigation

Improvement in efficiency of irrigation is possible by modulating timing and quantity of water as a function of meteorological variables, evapotranspiration assessment, and using informating tools for dissemination

When and how much to irrigate? What is the proper irrigation system?

CER is a consortium distributing water and the most important idraulic infrastructure

Founded by local Authorities and from regional reclamation consortiums

•Through a channel from Po river water is made available over a 3000 Km² area and the water resources (68m³/s) allow to satisfy the irrigation needs.

•Water is furnished together with the information for its rational and sustainable utilization (IRRINET).

Irrinet in pills

- Started in 1984 with public founding to test telematics in agriculture (Videotex)
- In the WEB in 1999
- GIS extensions & advanced WEB interfaces in 2002
- From 2003: WEB + SMS (IrriSMS)
- Involves more than 11000 farms, covering almost 22% of the irrigated area in the region
- Its application in the 2010 allows a water saving for more than 50 millions m3

Irrinet irrigation model

) Irrinet Emilia Romagna - Servizio di assistenza irrigazione via Web - Netscape					
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CONSORZIO DI BONIFICA DI SECONDO GRADO PER IL CANALE EMILIANO ROMAGNOLO					
venerdi 28 novembre 2003 Servizio interattivo di suj	pporto all'irrigazione				
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Subscription Form

CONSORZIO DI BONIFICA DI SECONDO GRADO PER IL CANALE EMILIANO ROMAGNOLO	Irrinet			
<u>Home</u>	Richiedi assistenza			
Registrazione nel servizio di una nuova azienda				
Inserire i dati necessari alla registrazione. I campi contrassegnati con (*) sono obbligatori. Il codice azienda viene fornito in automatico dal sistema al termine della registrazione. I dati inseriti possono essere modificati in qualsiasi momento dal menù principale del servizio. Ricordarsi che la password scelta sarà sensibile al maiuscolo/minuscolo che va rispettato in fase di accesso. Se viene inserito un indirizzo di email valido si riceverà una email di conferma con i dati di registrazione.				
Codice azienda Descrizione	Password (*) Fare attenzione al maiuscolo/minuscolo delle lettere			
Indirizzo	Località			
Provincia Scegliere una provincia 💙 Comune Scegliere un comune 💙				
Email	Cellulare Necessario per attivare il servizio IrriSMS			
Registra la nuova azienda				

Irrinet GIS approach

Click on the map to find user farm and download the following data:

- METEO DB: Meteorological data: daily ET, temperature; hourly rainfalls
- PEDO DB: Soil texture
- WATER DB: average water table depth

Input Data Form: focus on soil data

Dati terreno

Impianto irriguo

TIPO IMPIANTO IRRIGAZIONE

CARATTERISTICHE IMPIANTO

MICROIRRIGUO

ORIZZONTI e GRANULOMETRIA

PENDENZA

377

Registrazione nuova coltura =		PRAFT 🔁		
Tipologia colturale				
COLTURA	Scegliere una coltura	Il menù a tendina contiene la lista delle tipologie di coltura irrigua gestite dal sistema		
DESCRIZIONE		Campo facoltativo: serve per differenziare appezzamenti diversi della stessa coltura		
	Distanza sulla fila m			
Dettaglio colture a	rboree			
SESTO DI IMPIANTO	Distanza tra	Le informazioni sul sesto di impianto sono obbligatorie per le colture di tipo arboreo		
CONDUZIONE INTERFILARE	Plante per littaro risultanti			
DATA DI RACCOLTA				
VIGORE PORTINNESTO	Vigore Medio			
ANNO di IMPIANTO	2008			
FORMA di ALLEVAMENTO	Qualunque			

Dati climatici			
STAZIONE METEOROLOGICA	S.BRIGIDA		La stazione meteo viene assegnata in base alla localizzazione sulla mappa operata nella pagina precedente, può essere modificata manualmente scegliendo dal menù a tendina
BATTERIA FALDA	17B0 Rilevazioni già registrate per la batteria selez Data rilevazione 12704/2008	ionata 288	La batteria di falda viene assegnata in base alla localizzazione sulla mappa operata nella pagina precedente, può essere modificata manualmente scegliendo dal menù a tendina. Se compare "Batteria di falda aziendale" significa che non ci sono batteria di falda presenti nell'area; in questo caso gli eventuali dati di uroficolità falda noscono passen
	1704,200	200	registrati dall'utente andando in menù principale > Falda.
PLUVIOMETRO AZIENDALE	Principale V		Per definire un nuovo pluviometro aziendale ritornare al menù principale. Per ogni pluviometro possono essere registrati durante la stagione dati di pioggia in alternativa a quelli forniti dalla stazione meteo

The system provides soil data, automatically downloaded from Regional Soil Information System; if the data are not similar to those of the farm, the user can input their own data from field analysis.

10 %

DA GRANULOMETRIA 🛩 Sabbia 15 % Argilla 32 %

Scheletro 0

Scorrimento Distanza erogatori sulla fila m

Distanza erogatori

tra le file m

Portata singolo gocciolatore l/h Pluviometria ris

Aggiorna dati Annulla modifiche

O Modiž

Possono essere inseriti un (obbligatorio) o più orizzonti di suolo ciascuno

con la propria granulometria. Inserire i valori di sabbia argilla (opzione "da granulometria") oppure

Questi valori sono obbligatori nel caso

reirrigazioni

scegliere una classe

tessiturale standard Nel caso di unico orizzonte

usare lo spessore standard di 1.4 metri

Irrinet Output page

IrriSMS structure

Message sender: who is providing this service: an irrigation company, a public body etc..

Farm crop: peach, corn, sugar beet

Irrigation scheduling: yesterday crop evapotranspiration; when you have to irrigate; (forecasted data); water applying to that date

programs, able to

save 15-20% water

Micrometeorological approach to assess water requirements of crops:

1.8 → Kc IRRINET → Kc Ibimet 1.6 1.4 1.25 1.25 1.2 1.16 1.17 1.08 1.0 х К **0.91** 0.82 0.8 0.8 0.78 0.81 0.80 0.77 0.82 0.70 0.6 0.4 0.2 0.0 Maggio Giugno Luglio Agosto Settembre Ottobre

Criteria

Stima delle esigenze irrigue

H2O - Irrigazione (mm) Conduzione Colturale: Storia della particella 01/01/2008 - 20/09/2008 0 50 100150200250300350400450500

DSS on Digital Agriculture: farm-level mapping, comprehensive data base creation on resources generated through space- based inputs and field observations to make a detailed plan of work for maximizing yield and reducing inputs and their costs.

5 R rule: "applying the Right input in the Right amount at the Right time in the Right place and in the Right manner".

World Meteorological Organization

Information for farmersgovernment/agrobusiness

DSS on agricultural management strategies, land use planning, water resource management, depletion/erosion of soil resources, economic evaluation of impacts on yield

