

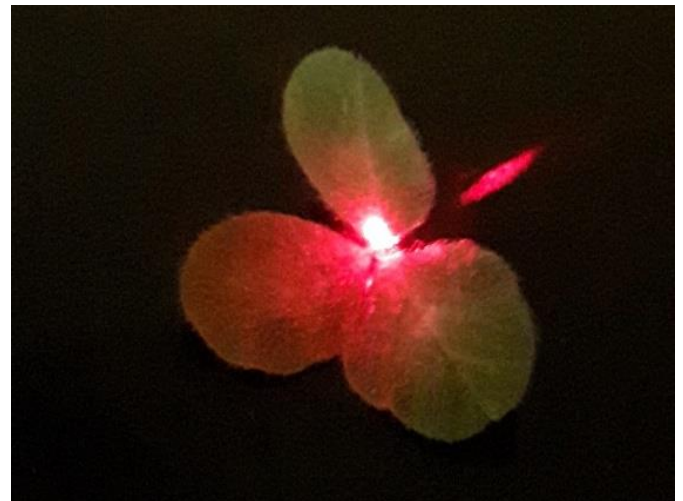
An efficient and profitable weeding system friendly with the environment and health - WeLASER project is on its way

Opportunities

Increasing food production is a must for feeding the growing global population. This means to increase crop productivity what forces us to increase the use of herbicides that persist in the environment, kill non-target plants and insects benign for the soil and produce negative health effects in humans and animals. Furthermore, current herbicides are turning ineffective due to the evolution and spread of herbicide-resistant weeds.

Solution and expected outcomes

To overcome the issue of producing more food while limiting or eliminating the use of herbicides, WeLASER will develop a non-chemical weed management systems based on applying lethal doses of energy on the weed meristems using a high-power laser source. This system will preserve the soil properties, protect beneficial soil organisms and improve in-row weeding.



Practical recommendation

The WeLASER project started officially on October 1st, 2020, and the consortium has already focused on the first actions (kickoff meeting held on October 13th, 2020) with important activities and events to communicate and a commitment for involving stakeholders in the project decision making since the very beginning of the project. A procedure inspired in the multi-actor approach will join farmers, engineers, local, regional and European governments, EU policy-makers, research institutions, universities, standard institutions, industry (manufacturers, users), investors, NGOs, and the general public.

Information about the coming project outcomes can be followed in the YouTube channel and social media (welaser-project). Involvement in the project as a stakeholder can be done through registration on the project website (<https://welaser-project.eu>).

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Date: November 2020

