

Focus Group Interview strengthens understanding of the WeLASER technique implementation

Focus Group Interview (FGI) Workshop

The FGI workshop was held on 2nd December 2021 gathering over 10 participants including farmers, representatives of farmers associations, and researchers. The workshop provided valuable insights into the future implementation of precision agriculture techniques in weed control. After a fruitful discussion, a SWOT analysis was followed to identify the main factors that impact the WeLASER application.

Main findings of discussion:

- The current main problems related to weed control are (1) low accuracy and efficiency of conventional weeding machines, (2) negative impact of herbicides on the environment and food quality, (3) labour-intensive workload, and (4) high production cost.
- Farmers can adopt innovative weeding technologies by considering the cost-effectiveness of the solution, its working capacity, its business model, and the potential financial supports related to each weed control approach.



Practical conclusions

- The WeLASER solution can potentially bring new opportunities for agricultural development, organisation of farming activities, production of high-value food, meeting consumer expectations, and achieving sustainability.
- The crucial factors for the implementation of WeLASER are the flexibility of the application and its modularity, ease of use, handling safety assurance, and proof of cost-effectiveness.

Authors: IETU, UGENT

Date: December 2021



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



van den borne
aardappelen