

## WeLASER Focus Group Interview in Spain: main results

### Objectives

WeLASER held on the 24th February an online Focus Group Interview for Spanish stakeholders interested in this project. The objective was to exchange valuable insights regarding the future implementation of precision agriculture tools in weed control, with special attention to WeLASER technique. Results will help to improve the design and develop of business models of precision agriculture application in weed control and provide European policy recommendations.

### Discussion

Participants were very interested in the topic and very active during the discussion and in the SWOT analysis. They considered that, in an environment with herbicide-resistant weeds, less active substances available, lower dose allowed and high cost / lack of non-chemical alternatives, precision farming techniques in weed control, with less environmental impact, less impact on soil and improving biodiversity are warmly welcomed. However, those technologies should be cost-effective, user-friendly and harmless to the crop. Public support is needed to stimulate the use of low environmental impact technologies and appropriate training is needed.



### Practical recommendation

The main strengths underlined in the SWOT analysis were that WeLASER solution helps in the achievement of environmental strategies and to improve food safety, which is in line with the principal opportunity pointed out: a greater demand for more sustainable products. Regarding the threats, the possible lack of public support for this type of innovation and the lack of companies opting for these technologies for commercial purposes were the two main conclusions. Finally, the cost of the equipment was the principal weakness considered.

**Authors:** COAG

**Date:** March 2022



van den Borne  
aardappelen