

Polish Focus Group Interview to get insights into the future implementation of the WeLASER technique

Polish Focus Group Interview (FGI) Workshop

The FGI workshop was held on the 3rd of February 2022 gathering 16 participants from Poland including farmers, representatives of farmers associations, agricultural advisors, consultants and researchers. The workshop provided valuable insights into the future implementation of precision agriculture techniques. After the focus group discussion, a SWOT analysis was conducted in order to identify the main factors that impact the implementation of the WeLASER technique.

Main findings of discussion:

- Currently the main issues related to weed control are: (1) lack of workforce for labour-intensive methods, (2) high reliance on herbicides as the best option, difficult to be replaced (3) effective removal of perennial weeds (4) integration of weed removal techniques in rows and interrows.
- In order to implement innovative weeding technologies by farmers, the technology should be economic, efficient, reliable, flexible in use and appropriate advisory support has to be provided.



Practical conclusions

- The WeLASER technique prospectively can be a good solution for crops and agriculture systems.
- The implementation can be driven by stricter policies and legislation regarding plant protection products
- There is a need for reliable information related to WeLASER performance including cost-effectiveness, energy efficiency and its functionalities with regard to specific crops and recognition of practical conditions of its use in the farms.

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