

OECD works on the safety of robotic agricultural machinery

Event

On March 21 and 22, a meeting of the Tractor Codes of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) took place in Paris, France. The “Estación de Mecánica Agrícola” is an active stakeholder in the WeLaser project and, as the official laboratory of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, participated in the meeting. Until now, a review of the state of the art of the technique has been carried out regarding automation and robotics in agricultural machinery. The task for the future focuses on the standardization and testing of systems related to the safety of these machines.

Conclusions

The works on codes and standardization focus on the safety of the machinery and its sensorization or control, for example, in relation to the environment or to the operator, rather than in aspects related to the features of the systems, such as performance measurement or their effectiveness.



Practical recommendations

WeLASER includes safety systems for the vehicle and the laser system in its work plan, taking into account, in the system environment, the protection of (i) humans and animals, (ii) obstacles and vehicles and (iii) the crops themselves. The plan complies with the regulations and standards in force. However, as we can see, the institutions are working in security aspects and the WeLASER consortium must be aware of future indications of those committees with influence in agriculture and specifically the OECD Committee. The role of the WeLASER stakeholders is key in this regard, within the framework of the multiactor approach, so that the evolution of the technological solution is adapted to the reality and to the sector practical and legal needs.

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