

Final demonstration of the WeLASER system

Field day

On September 28, 2023, the final event was organized by CSIC and COAG in the Centre for Automation and Robotics (CAR-CSIC) facilities in Arganda del Rey (Madrid, Spain). The main objective of this Field Day was to present the final prototype to end-users, professionals, authorities, and students. All the stakeholders and attendees could check the system in action in real farm conditions and a fruitful interaction was developed. The general press was also invited to this Final Event to enhance the dissemination and communication of the results.

Program

After a short welcome and introduction by COAG, the project coordinator explained the general objective and achievements of WeLASER. Then, an explanation of the components of the prototype was given by CSIC.

Afterward, the attendees went to the field, and the practical demonstration took place on maize, sugar beet, and wheat crops. The participants were able to see in detail



how the system works and interact with the consortium members, who answered the questions on the different elements of the WeLASER prototype. For instance, the reasons for using a fiber laser source and its lifespan in the system.

Conclusions

Helpful and high-value comments on the prototype were provided by participants. The idea and its practical development were generally recognized and appreciated. Farmers perceived the potential benefits of WeLASER system and considered it a helpful possibility to tackle weeds within a framework of environmental sustainability. However, more practical developments are needed to achieve a competitive and commercial machine.

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