

Farmers' perceptions of innovative laser technology for weed removal.

Prospects for the application of the WeLASER robot

CATI survey of farmers in Denmark, Poland and Spain

The quantitative survey was conducted in October 2023 in the form of a computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) based on a survey design and questionnaire. The survey sample consisted of 300 farmers from Denmark, Poland and Spain. Respondents were farmers actively involved in crop production (cereals, vegetables, horticulture) and actively modernizing their farms over the past 10 years.

Main conclusions of the study

- Farmers' attitudes towards innovation are overwhelmingly positive, with 59.3% of all respondents using innovative solutions on their farms and 8.0% considering putting them into practice.
- Almost 78% of respondents believe that innovative machinery and tools are always/usually of good quality and reliable.
- The WeLASER robot is definitely good or a good solution for weed removal in row crops according to 66.3% of respondents.
- More than half of the farmers surveyed (55.3%) believe that the WeLASER robot can definitely or partially solve weed control problems.



Practical conclusions

- The main factors determining the use of the WeLASER robot will be the type of crop, the financial health of the farm, the distribution of the fields and the size of the farm.
- The study confirms that there is a need for reliable information on the performance of WeLASER, including its cost-effectiveness, energy efficiency and functionality for specific crops, as well as an understanding of the practical conditions for its use on farms.
- Public aid (subsidies) can be one of the main factors supporting the use of the WeLASER robot on farms.

Authors: IETU

Date: December 2023



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



van den Borne
aardappelen