

Data driven sustainable agri-food value chains

Practice Abstract

Author: CeTIF/ UCSC

Better food-chain contracts for durum wheat production

The introduction of parametric insurance – Italy

Ploutos' Sustainable Innovation Pilot 2 (SIP2) aims at ensuring the production of high-quality durum wheat for the food industry, through sustainable crop management.

The main results from SIP2 include the adoption of the Decision Support System (DSS) granoduro.net®, helping farmers to apply the best agricultural practices, to obtain the best from their crops while optimising the use of technical inputs. The design of a parametric insurance mechanism, based on DSS model outputs, aims at safeguarding the farmer revenues, in case of reduction of grain yield and quality caused by unmanageable weather events affecting crop performances.

- **Outcomes:** The use of the DSS allowed a reduction in fertilisers and plant protection products application. The parametric insurance mechanism targeting yield and quality losses, caused by weather conditions, allows the development of insurance policies safeguarding farmers revenue.
- **Practical Recommendations:** The DSS provides accurate support to farmers and allows yield and quality forecasts provision for the insurance policy. Analysis of the national regulatory framework is essential to guarantee the application of the parametric insurance policy.
- **Problems:** The complex functioning of the parametric insurance was addressed with extensive communications to the end-users, and simulation on the insurance performances over years were done.
- **Outlook:** For future implementation of the parametric insurance policy, it is important that all the actors in the food-chain keep on collaborating for the further development of a solution fitting the needs of the durum wheat sector.



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Description of project activities

The Ploutos project will develop a Sustainable Innovation Framework that follows a systemic approach to the agri-food sector, building on three pillars: Behavioural Innovation, Sustainable Collaborative Business Model Innovation and Data-Driven Technology Innovation. The project will deploy 11 Sustainable Innovation Pilots, where using a Multi-Actor Approach, new innovative solutions and methodologies will be implemented, tested, assessed and derive practical lessons learned. A Ploutos Innovation Academy will be established as a vehicle for integrating the know-how, best practices and assessments developed across the project and derived from the Sustainable Innovation Pilots.

Objective of the project

The main objective of Ploutos project is to help rebalance the agri-food chain and enhance value sustainability (economic, environmental and social) establishing a Sustainable Innovation Framework that is powered by an combination innovative behavioral change, collaborative business model innovation and datadriven technological services.

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