

TITLE: MONITORA – ADVANCED MONITORING SERVICE FOR SUSTAINABLE IRRIGATION AND FERTILIZATION, AND INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR OPEN-FIELD VEGETABLE CROPS (POTATOES, TOMATOES, AND ONIONS).

techcoachproject.eu



MAIN CHALLENGE/ OBJECTIVES

Monitora aims to provide an integrated decision support service (DSS) for irrigation, fertilization, and crop protection management. This service is based on advanced, territorially-shared monitoring, making it easily accessible and usable by the entire supply chain in a simple, reliable, and economical way.

MAIN RESULTS/ OUTCOMES

DSS Monitora is a tool that helps farmers make informed decisions: consider the level of pesticide risk, and decide when to sprays apply. Monitora can help reduce the use of pesticides, but in some cases, it's better to talk about sprays rationalization. Recommended pesticide sprays may be more numerous, but they can lead to higher yields.

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

The partnership included a university, a public research institution, private IT consulting and development firms, producer associations, and six agricultural companies. Knowledge and innovation transfer was supported through regular meetings, including on-farm sessions, and a participatory approach.

Farmers can easily use Monitora thanks to its intuitive web interface, requiring just brief training for hardware maintenance, particularly for weather stations. To properly implement DSS-guided pest management, farmers need to be supported by agronomists for at least one growing season. These technicians should provide guidance on the correct interpretation of DSS alerts and on the timely entry of data into the web platform. Not all farmers are willing to introduce significant changes, and this is not solely related to age. This challenge has often limited wider uptake. While the resulting innovation (Monitora) was adopted by the working group, it has not yet been adopted by other farms, representing an important opportunity for future expansion.



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

All project partners, farms, and activities were carried out in the Piedmont region (Italy), specifically in the provinces of Alessandria and Cuneo.

FURTHER INFORMATION

<https://www.progettomonitora.it/>



TECHCOACH has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 101182908.

www.linkedin.com/company/techcoachproject

www.facebook.com/techcoachproject

