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A DECISIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEM SUSTAINING THE ITALIAN SUGAR BEET GROWERS

**Un système d'aide à la décision assistant les producteurs italiens de
betteraves sucrières / Ein Decisional Support System zur Unterstützung
italienischer Zuckerrübenanbauer**

ABSTRACT

The Italian sugar beet growers in 2014 will have a new technical assistance facility that will allow them to get recommendations, at individual farm level, for the choice of variety, fertilization, irrigation, weeding, arm worms and CLS control. The user, after the registration with the georeferenced coordinates of the sugar beet plots, will have access to a dashboard that will provide a specific guidance on the technical choices that he should take in order to maximize yield. Sugar beet growers will have a number of functions related only to their plot, while the technicians of the sugar factories and growers associations will also have a more general view of the areas, as well as the control of different plots of their clients. The DSS software, whose algorithms have been developed by Beta over the last decade, will be fed with information from over 100 meteorological stations (provided by public and private organizations including Beta), by the results of the monitoring in the field (arm worms traps) and from information provided by the user. This system, designed in 2013, it will be validated at the level of 30 farms in 2014 and subsequently made available to the Italian sugar industries and beet growers associations. This instrument agrees with the Directive 128/2009 on the sustainable use of pesticides and with the directives aimed at mitigating the environmental impact of modern agriculture (EU 91/676/EEC).
