

ERMES PRESS RELEASE - NOVEMBER 2014

The website of the FP7 project *ERMES - an Earth obseRvation Model based ricE information Service* is now online

The **ERMES project website** is now active at this link <http://www.ermes-fp7space.eu/>. *ERMES - an Earth Observation Model based rice information service*, is coordinated by [CNR-IREA](#) and is funded under the Seventh European Framework Programme Research (EU-FP7 2007-2013).

The modern agricultural system needs to adopt a more sustainable approach of management both at economic and environmental level; ERMES project means to give its contribution in this direction, proposing tools and solutions that can be adopted and implemented in the near future.

The project, which will last three years (2014-2017), aims at developing a prototype of downstream service dedicated to the **rice sector**.

To this aim, ERMES integrates different tools and research areas, from **remote sensing and the Earth Observation (EO) techniques**, which make use of data acquired from satellite sensors (optical and radar) to customized **crop modeling** solutions, to produce geo-referenced data devoted to the rice cultivation sector. The information generated by the project will be provided to the end users through advanced web services (eg. Geoportal) and **smart applications**.

ERMES aims at providing innovative and cutting-edge solutions addressed to its different users and stakeholders: the public authorities, responsible for regional agricultural monitoring, the farmers, who have to comply with criteria of economic and environmental sustainability of their productions, and the agro-business sector, interested in crops' yield and health status monitoring.

ERMES involves several partners with high competence and expertise in remote sensing, crop modelling, agronomy and ICT sectors. Together with CNR-IREA, participate in the project as Italian partners: CNR IMAA (Institute of Methodologies for Environmental Analysis, National Research Council) and the University of Milan (Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences - Production, Land,

Agroenergy). The research consortium is also composed of Spanish, Greek and Swiss [partners](#). More precisely, for Spain we find the University Jaume I de Castellón (UJI) and the University of Valencia (UVEG); for Greece, the Aristóteles the University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) and Demeter (Greek Organization for the 'Agriculture - Institute for Cereal) at last, for Switzerland, the private Company named SARMAP.

Talking about the ERMES website, Mirco Boschetti (CNR IREA), Project Coordinator, explains that “ *The ERMES website has been designed so that anyone, including **farmers, Regional and Local authorities, entrepreneurs and citizens** can easily follow the research advancements and the expected project’s results. On ERMES web pages **any private or public end-user** can find documents, data, maps, and applications produced by the researchers. The platform, set for a multi-language version, offers the opportunity of sharing on the most important social networks and will be the main communication and dissemination tools exploited by the Project.*”

In addition to a general section dedicated to the description of the project’s objectives, the *News&Events* website pages report the most significant national and international news coming from the agricultural , ICT, EO or agribusiness sectors.

A special attention, at the page named *field activities*, is also given to the description of the field campaigns carried out by the ERMES staff in each European study area (Italy, Greece, Spain) and to the *results* gradually achieved.

Furthermore, under the voice *ERMES Geoportal*, available for registered users, it will be possible to visualize the most relevant information for monitoring the rice cultivations at regional scale (Regional Rice Service) and for planning a more sustainable rice crop management at local level (Local Rice Service).

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