

ISAC

Information Service on Agricultural Change

DEALING WITH DROUGHTS IN AN ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Humans have always made use of land to obtain food and other essentials, yet the last two decades has seen unprecedented and rapid changes in Earth's terrestrial surface. Taking on this challenge, the ISAC project intends to improve the current state-of-the-art for agricultural monitoring.

Today extensive use of Earth's terrestrial surface is about to change the face of our planet, deforestation being an important characteristic of these dramatic developments. In Europe, agriculture is regulated through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and private agricultural insurances provide means for drought risk management and mitigation, which is gaining importance as a result of climatic changes.

Meanwhile, in the developing world droughts and other natural disasters make populations more vulnerable to famines and starvation. EU development policy and the Union's emergency response mechanism are means that

aim to mitigate the negative impact of these changes outside Europe.

The ISAC project will develop services in support of such efforts to deal more effectively with climate change. It is designed at the benefit of authorities in Europe and in developing countries, such as in Africa, and, of the insurance sector. Hence the project covers a broad range of sites from mild risk (Belgium) over severe (Spain) to extreme risk (Ethiopia) drought conditions.

Based upon high resolution satellite data from recent DMC/Deimos sensors that are set to expand the capabilities of the GMES Land Monitoring Service and the GMES Emergency Response Service in the agro environment domain, ISAC complements the outputs from existing GMES service projects Geoland2 and SAFER.



ISABELLE PICCARD
IS PROJECT COORDINATOR



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ISAC supports European and African authorities and the insurance sector in monitoring agriculture.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What do you want to achieve with this project?

ISAC aims to develop information services on drought stress and agricultural change in support of the needs of the authorities and insurers involved. Existing methodologies will be significantly improved through the use of frequently available satellite data with high spatial detail.

Why is this project important for Europe?

There is a clear need for transparent and reliable information on our changing agro environment in Europe. Further, the EU made commitments to provide assistance to developing countries, such as in Africa where climate change is expected to have the most impact.

How does your work benefit European citizens?

Climate change is a concern of every citizen. ISAC will provide governments and insurance companies, development planners and humanitarian actors with spatial information concerning drought risks and agricultural productivity according to various climate change scenarios.

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LIST OF PARTNERS

- Vlaamse Instelling voor Technologisch Onderzoek (VITO) N.V., Belgium
- Deimos Imaging S.L., Spain
- Internationales Institut für Angewandte Systemanalyse (IIASA), Austria
- GeoSAS Consulting Service PLC, Ethiopia
- Infoterra Limited, United Kingdom

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PROJECT INFORMATION

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