



PRACTICE ABSTRACT

Digital technology

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CAPSAT: USING SATELLITE DATA TO USE IN CAP COMPLIANCE CONTROL

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The CAPSAT initiative aims to provide the farmer with a tool for sending data to the government using geotagged pictures. This tool, proposed by the Flemish government and currently under development, is meant to help controlling support of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Presently, the controls represent a heavy administrative burden on both farmers and governments. Ideally, the CAPSAT tool is intended to support the compliance to the CAP objectives.

This is achieved through a smartphone application where farmers can send evidence of their conformity to CAP.

Geotagged pictures at farm level can be uploaded by farmers as evidence of compliance to EU regulations linked to CAP. The benefit for the public administration is a reduced need for auditors in the field. At the same time, the tool is also intended to show an augmented visualisation of the farmers' fields, displaying the CAP requirements to the farmer. This allows the farmer to visualize the complex regulation, reducing the learning curve for farmers in following this regulation.

Challenges remain in ensuring that the system works correctly, and privacy can be an issue. It might also be seen as an increase in government control of farmers.

Application scenario
Farm data reporting for auditing in CAP payments using satellite data to monitor compliance.
Digital technologies
Satellite imagery, smartphone app, online platform
Socio-economic impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social: access and provision of data, bureaucratic and administrative burden, regulatory knowledge, autonomy, responsibility, privacy and transparency. ▪ Economic: public resources intended to CAP's control, strengthened control/surveillance system. ▪ Environmental: land and resources management and risk management prevention.
More info:
https://www.innovatieveoverheidsopdrachten.be/en/node/6098



Purpose of the tool

The purpose of this tool is to monitor farm management and field changes that need to comply with standards and obligations of CAP enhanced conditionality. Up to this point this has been done through spot-checks, where a percentage of individuals receiving CAP support income are randomly selected for a field control visit to ensure that the farmer respects a set of basic rules. This tool is meant to reduce both the administrative burden on farmers and to allow public administration to monitor that criteria and requirements for the associated payments to beneficiaries are complied. For the government, this tool will automate part of the auditing process and increase the efficiency of this process. The tool is also intended to lead to a fairer system, since all farmers are monitored in the same manner and the random and limited control is no longer used.

Description of the tool

The CAPSAT tool is a satellite imaging technology complemented with a smartphone app for use by farmers. It is currently in development, and follows a trend in Europe to use satellite data in the monitoring of CAP compliance. In the Flemish case, the CAPSAT initiative is focused on providing the farmer with a tool or app to provide data to the government using geotagged pictures. This tool will support the current monitoring system and improve compliance to the CAP. Additionally it provides a tool to visualise information to farmers using augmented pictures and augmented reality. This would be a way in which complex regulation can be visualised for the farmer, allowing them to understand this regulation while reducing the learning curve for farmers, and the time and effort needed to understand this.

Areas of socio-economic impacts

Social	This tool has a high social impact potential due to its envisioned monitoring capacities. Increased surveillance plays into aspects of access and provision of data, bureaucratic and administrative burden, regulatory knowledge, autonomy, responsibility, privacy and transparency, which might impact feelings of autonomy and responsibility by farmers.
Economic	Reduction of resources allocated to spot checks, changing and complementing the way compliance is enforced. Strengthened control/surveillance system that will help to support the compliance to the CAP objectives.
Environmental	By improving compliance to CAP regulation, this tool impacts the (pro-active) land and resources management of environmental risks.