

## **ECPA Position on Precision and Digital Agriculture**

---

The European Crop Protection Association (ECPA), as well as stakeholders in the agri food chain, European policymakers, and EU citizens all believe the impact of food production on the environment must be carefully taken into consideration when striving to provide safe and high quality food for 500 million EU citizens. The crop protection industry is committed to playing its role in contributing to a food production system that is more productive and resource efficient, whilst delivering on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

ECPA shares the opinion of European policymakers that precision and digital agriculture could be one of the key drivers to achieve such a model in the future. Our member companies who are developing digital products and services are working to:

- Develop and promote precision and digital agriculture technologies to all farmers across Europe, be they holders of small, medium or large farms.
- Support and further promote the integration of the Code of Conduct on Agricultural Data Sharing<sup>1</sup> in a fair manner amongst all actors in the agri-food chain so that all actors may benefit from these digital technologies.

In order to ensure the optimization of input management and decision making for farmers to produce in a more sustainable way with the use of such technologies, as well as ensuring their uptake in the near future by European farmers, ECPA would like to underline the need for European decisionmakers to:

- Work towards ensuring broadband and connectivity access, especially in Europe's rural areas, as the proper functioning of precision and digital agriculture technologies is completely dependent on access to fast and reliable internet connection.
- Support the development and promotion of "Smart Villages" as well as the uptake of precision and agricultural technologies within this concept. It is critical that rural Europe remains competitive and benefits from the technological advances of the digital economy.
- Integrate precision and digital agriculture within the Common Agricultural Policy whilst encouraging the European Institutions to promote the uptake of precision and digital agriculture technologies, including financial incentives.
- Develop a regulatory system that will oversee the safe and optimal use of precision and digital agriculture technologies, in order to produce food in a resource efficient manner, as well as a system that is fit for purpose which seeks to promote and foster research and innovation in order for companies to develop the most up to date technologies.
- Policymakers must ensure that farmers, operators, advisory services and competent authorities are equipped with the digital and IT skills necessary to benefit from precision and digital agriculture technologies.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ecpa.eu/news/code-conduct-agricultural-data-sharing-signing>