

Newsletter #6

LIFE GAIA Sense project

Smart Farming in 4 Dimensions



The smart farming journey

How can smart farming contribute to the conservation of natural resources and inputs in agriculture?

Is smart farming an approach that can lead to the reduction of the environmental impact of agriculture?

Can Circular Economy models be supported by a smart farming-based production management approach?

These are some of the questions that the LIFE GAIA Sense project aims to address during the three years of its implementation. The answers will come from the **18 demonstrators** that the project will launch across **Greece, Spain and Portugal** covering **9 crops (olives, peaches, cotton, pistachio, potatoes, table tomatoes, industrial tomatoes, walnuts, kiwi)** in various terrain and microclimatic conditions.

The project's results will be applied on the field in order to measure the input reduction rate on selected crops. A correlation between the gaisense results and the **Circular Economy** targets set at EU policy level will also take place, in order to highlight the contribution of

smart farming in complying with these policies.
Here are the latest news on LIFE GAIA Sense. Stay tuned for further updates!

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Highlights

Online event "LIFE GAIA Sense: Smart Farming for Sustainability"



With the participation of high-level representatives of the EU institutions and the farming world, the online event **LIFE GAIA Sense: Smart Farming for Sustainability** was held on Wednesday 11 May 2022, organized by [GAIA EPICHEIREIN](#) with the support of the [FARM EUROPE](#)

At his opening speech, Mr. de Castro, Member of the European Parliament (MEP) and former Minister of Agriculture of Italy, highlighted that "projects such as the LIFE GAIA Sense are important in supporting farmers and cooperatives in order to ensure productivity and quality, enhance competitiveness and mitigate climate environmental impacts".

The event programme continued with speeches by **Maria Spyraiki, Clara Aguilera and Alvaro Amaro**, Members of the European Parliament from the three respective countries of project partners: Greece, Spain and Portugal. MEPs referred to the complex goal of sustainability and the catalytic role of digitalization of agriculture in achieving it, while increasing production efficiency and reducing costs for farmers.

"The challenges to be addressed are how to increase productivity while reducing the impact on natural resources. Smart farming can support good decision-making," noted **Humberto Delgado Rosa**, Director, Biodiversity Directorate, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission.

Afterwards, **Vassilis Pyrgiotis**, LIFE GAIA Sense Project Coordinator and Head of EU Funded Projects at [NEUROPUBLIC SA](#), took the floor and presented the outcomes of the

project. Namely, the application of smart farming in 18 regions in Greece, Spain and Portugal and in nine types of crops (olive, peach, cotton, peanut, potato, industrial tomato, walnut, kiwifruit and vines) was analyzed.

Pierre Bascou, Director, Sustainability Directorate-General for Agriculture & Rural Development, European Commission, referred to the importance of biodiversity and the role of the farmer in its protection and conservation and presented the available tools in the new CAP to support the green and digital transition.

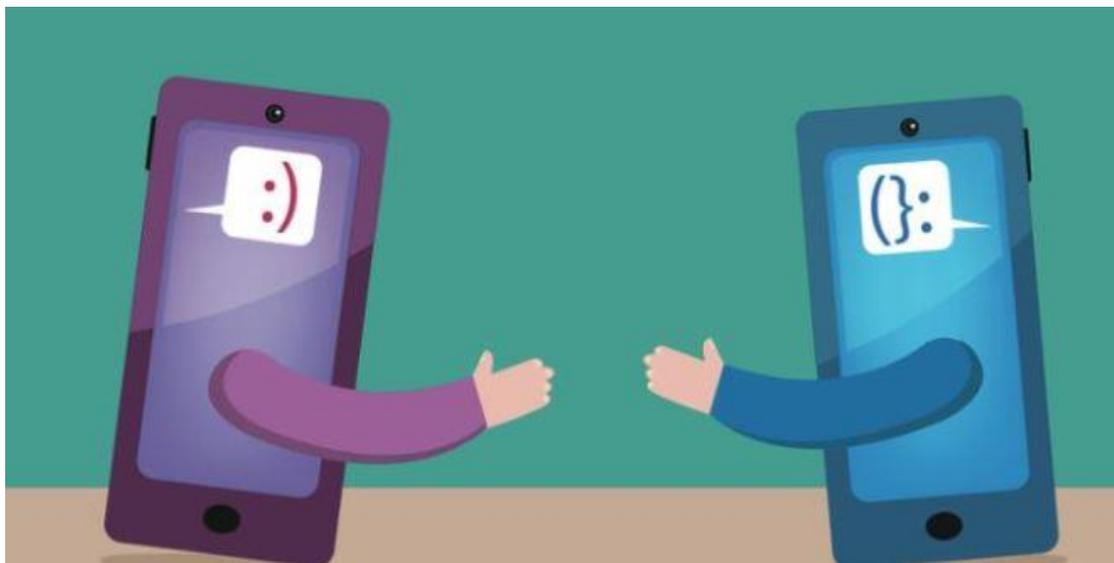
Daniel Azevedo, Director, Commodities, Trade & Technology, COPA-COGECA, stressed that “technology must offer clear benefits to farmers, and all farmers must have access to it.”

The speeches were concluded by **Yves Madre**, President of FARM EUROPE, who referred to the objectives of the EU’s “Farm to Fork” strategy and argued that they should be re-evaluated in line with current conditions and in particular taking into consideration the impact of the war in Ukraine.

More information about the event can be found [here](#).

Project meetings/events

8th Meeting of the project implementation team, March 4, 2022



The 8th project meeting of the LIFE GAIA Sense took place from the 3rd to 4th of March 2022. The first day of the meeting was held at Theoxenia Hotel, Piraeus. On the second day, the consortium members visited the LIFE GAIA Sense’s demonstrator at the island of Aegina. .

The following were discussed during the meeting:

- the progress of the project, its results and the work that has been performed since its inception, as well as the tasks that must be completed during the next – last 3 months;
- the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the project;
- issues of financial management of the project.

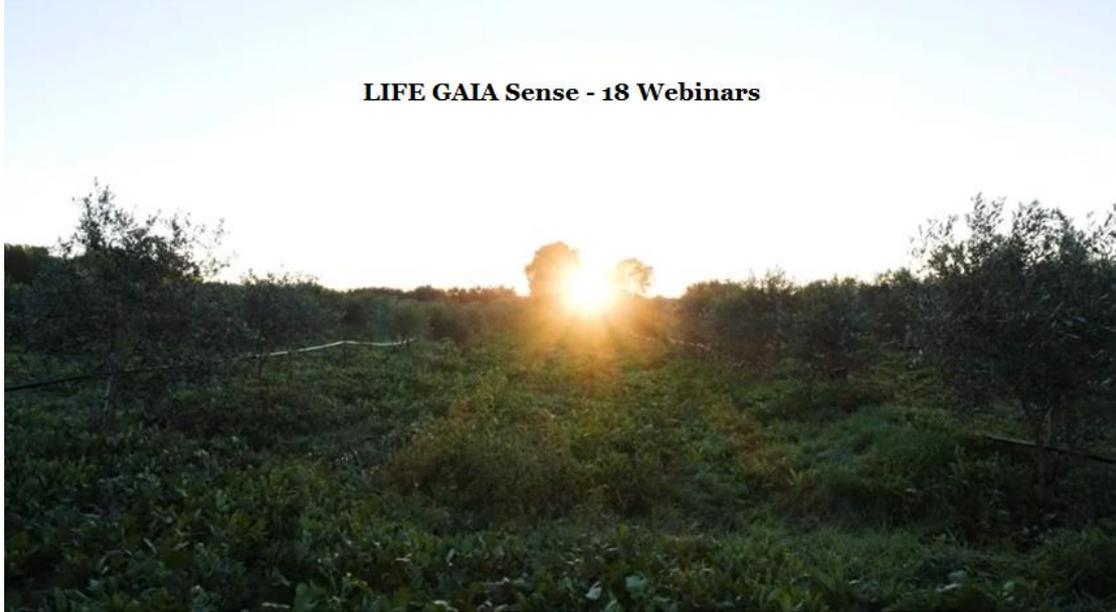
The consortium members that participated in the meeting were [NEUROPUBLIC](#), [GAIA EPICHEREIN](#), [Aristotle University of Thessaloniki \(AUTH\)](#), [Vina COSTEIRA](#), [CONFAGRI](#), [\(ASEPOP\) Velventou](#) and [Mirabello](#).



LIFE GAIA Sense in events and media around Europe

GREECE - LIFE GAIA Sense's 18 webinars

LIFE GAIA Sense - 18 Webinars



In order to investigate the contribution of smart farming in minimizing the environmental impact, through its application in different types of crops and in different microclimatic conditions, 18 differentiated webinars were created. These webinars highlighted the data collected in 18 regions in Greece, Portugal and Spain which concerned nine types of crops: olive, peach, cotton, pistachio, potato, industrial tomato, almonds and kiwi.

More details about the webinars can be found [here](#).

Spain - Presentation of LIFE GAIA Sense project at AGROVID fair



Carlos Alberte from [Vina Costeira](#), partner of the LIFE GAIA Sense project, participated in the [AGROVID](#) fair that took place from 22th to 24th of March 2022 in Valladolid, Spain.

The AGROVID event is an important event for professionals on agricultural sector as it hosts all products and services related to viticulture such as: agricultural tractors, grape harvesters, spray equipment, smart farming application for phytosanitary products, innovative fertilization and irrigation techniques, drones for precision agriculture and all kinds of auxiliary equipment for the wine sector.

During the fair, Carlos Albete referred to the benefits that can be gained from the use of smart farming applications, as highlighted through the LIFE GAIA Sense project.



PORTUGAL - Presentation of LIFE GAIA Sense at the event “Portuguese Fair, OVIBEJA



Aiming at exploring the possibility of meeting the food needs of the planet, from 21 to 25 April 2022, the [38th Ovibeja](#) Exhibition was held at the Beja Exhibition Park, Manuel de Castro e Brito. The event was attended by over 1,000 people from around the world and experts, farmers, entrepreneurs, students and representatives of national and community policy makers, were requested to submit a reply to essential questions such as: how to produce in a sustainable way, how to benefit from the teachings of science by producing more and better, how to minimize the effects of climate change, what is the best way to ensure food security and adequacy, etc.

The exhibition attracts a large number of people every year, who are interested in get informed about the new trends and the global innovative technological solutions of the

agricultural sector. It is considered as a business opportunity and an important milestone in the agenda of members of the government, political parties, diplomats and many Portuguese and international business delegations.

During the event, the project partner [CONFAGRI](#) presented the outcomes of the LIFE GAIA Sense project as well as the experiences of farmers who use the project's smart farming tool - the gaisense, in a specially designed area - booth. CONFAGRI also had the opportunity to discuss with the participants in the exhibition and to inform them about the objectives of the project and to answer their questions.

SPAIN - Presentation of LIFE GAIA Sense at the EXPO FOODTECH FOOD4FUTURE event

[Food 4 Future](#), one of the leading and most important European food technology conferences, took place from May 17 to 19 in Bilbao, Spain.

The conference was attended by more than 400 national and international speakers, 380 exhibiting companies and more than 7,200 registered visitors, while approximately 170 sessions were held, making the event a landmark in the food and beverage sector.

The event was a unique opportunity for participants to learn about developments, trends, new products and modern technology which are transforming the value chain of the food and beverage industry.

Carlos Alberte, representing project partner [Vina Costeira](#), was chosen to be one of the keynote speakers of the session "[Seeking Sustainability to Reduce Environmental Impact](#)", and shared his experience on sustainability and how it can be achieved through the use of smart farming, presenting the results of the LIFE GAIA Sense project. Speakers of the same session were the following:

- Carmen Gómez Acebo, Head of Sustainability Coca Cola Europacific Partners
- Pablo Mazo, Director of Communication and Institutional Relations Heineken Spain
- Harm van Deuren, Founder and CEO Stadshaven Brouwerij
- Aintzane Esturo, Technical Director IFU international fruit and vegetable juice association





With his participation he managed to share more details regarding smart farming application of the innovative gaisense system implemented through the LIFE GAIA Sense project, as well as regarding his support for the circular economy in agriculture.



The main objective of the LIFE GAIA Sense project is to demonstrate GAIA Sense, an innovative Smart Farming solution that aims at reducing the consumption of natural resources, as a way to protect the environment and support Circular Economy (CE) models.

This project will demonstrate a method on how farmers will be able to decide either to use or avoid inputs (irrigation, fertilizers, pesticides etc.) in a most efficient way, without risking their annual production.

The focus is on the resource consumption reduction side of CE, and the results will be both qualitatively and quantitatively, considering the resources' efficiency in agricultural sector.

The Project Consortium

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 CONFAGRI CONFEDERAÇÃO NACIONAL DAS COOPERATIVAS AGRÍCOLAS E DO CRÉDITO AGRÍCOLA DE PORTUGAL Confederação Nacional das Cooperativas Agrícolas e do Crédito Agrícola de Portugal CCRL
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 ΕΝ.Ι.Η. ΜΕΡΑΒΕΛΛΟΥ Agricultural Cooperative Partnership Mirabello Union S.A.
 Βελεντιού ΑΓΡΟΤΙΚΟ ΣΥΝΕΤΑΙΡΙΣΜΟ ΕΠΕΞΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΛΙΣΕΩΣ ΟΠΟΡΟΚΙΠΕΦΤΙΚΩΝ ΠΡΟΪΟΝΤΩΝ (ΑΣΕΡΟΠ) ΒΕΛΒΕΝΤΟΥ Agrotikos Synetairismos Epexergasias kai Poliseos Oporokipeftikon Proionton (ASEPOP) Velventou SYN.PE

Brief Project Info

Project acronym: LIFE GAIA Sense

Project full title: Innovative Smart Farming services supporting Circular Economy in Agriculture

Start date: 01/07/2018

End date: 30/06/2022

Project Coordinator: NEUROPUBLIC S.A. ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΚΗΣ & ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΩΝ



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