

The potential for remote sensing as a data source for sustainable farming statistics

Project Group:
Dave Fernall, Liz Fox, Paul McDonnell
Agriculture and CAP Strategy Directorate

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- 3 statistics units within Agriculture and CAP Strategy Directorate where remote sensing may be of value
 - ❖ *Surveys, Statistics & Food Economics Division*
 - ❖ *Agricultural Statistics & Analysis Division*
 - ❖ *Agricultural Change & Environmental Observatory*
- Produce a range of economic, structural, environmental and animal health and welfare statistics
- Increasing role in adding value and detailed analysis of data for development and monitoring of evidence-based policy

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Surveys, Statistics & Food Economics Division

- Farm based postal surveys
- Stratified samples used to give national and regional level aggregates
- Large-scale surveys carried out every year to produce estimates on land use, crop area, livestock numbers and farm labour
- Smaller, more specialised surveys also conducted on crop production and yields
- Farm practices survey collects data on farming practices and land management

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Agricultural Statistics & Analysis Division

- Responsible for the indicators for the Sustainable farming and food Strategy (SFFS)
- Includes agri-environment indicators based on a wide range of data sources (farm surveys, administrative data, scientific monitoring etc)
- Coordinating agri-environment indicators for Eurostat and OECD
- Developing a set of environmental accounts to value the positive and negative impacts of farming on the environment

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Potential for remote sensing to provide a cost effective source of data for farm surveys, agri-environment indicators and environmental accounts

Data might:-

- *Replace*
- *Complement*
- *Augment*
- *Validate*

existing sources

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Broad areas of potential include:-

- Estimates of crop areas
- Spatial data on land cover and land use
- Use of spatial data as a “pressure” indicator
- Agri-environment indicators
- Landscape value and change

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Specific areas of potential include:-

- Early estimates of crop areas
- Land use change matrix
- Field margins
- Damage to sensitive habitats
- Impacts of open access
- Estimates of hard-standing areas on farms

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Main issues identified:-

- Cost (low marginal costs?)
- Coverage
- Reliability (aggregation, image availability, image interpretation)
- Resolution
- Frequency
- Timeliness
- Joining up data sets
- Ownership