SURVEY: AfriCultuReS – Enhancing Agricultural Systems with Remote Sensing

Agricultural companies can benefit greatly from a broad range of climatic, production, biophysical and economic information as well as the use of specific tools to boost the flow of information in a user-friendly manner. It is however important to determine which tools would be most important to this sector of the grain and oilseeds value chain. AGBIZ can assist in determining these tools.

AfriCultuReS [http://www.africultures.eu/] is a project that aims to design, implement and demonstrate an integrated agricultural monitoring and early warning system that will support decision making in the field of food security. The final aim is to produce a web and/or mobile tool that supports early decision-making for various stakeholders in food production. AfriCultuReS will apply geospatial science to sustainable agricultural development, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, and poverty alleviation.

AfriCultuReS involves key players and partners in agricultural systems, who wish to push forward the services provided by current systems, with innovative fusion of data from multiple sources (EO, in-situ, citizen-based crowdsourcing, climate services and weather, crop models) in a vertical manner. Crop yield and biomass prediction models are enhanced through the integration of EO data and climate models. Geospatial products can be combined in a spatial Decision Support System (DSS) to enrich decision making and risk assessment.

The AfriCultuReS has identified SEVEN main service categories for which tools can be developed:

1. On climate: to improve climate predictions, seasonal climate early warning and climate adaptation advice.
2. On crops: to improve crop condition monitoring and yield forecasts.
3. On droughts: to improve drought early warning and forecasts.
4. On land: to provide advice on avoiding land degradation and to improve soil condition assessment.
5. On livestock: to improve grazing and rangeland monitoring, browsing capacity assessment and identification of available water sources for livestock.
6. On water: to improve monitoring of water availability and productivity, crop water requirements assessment and soil moisture monitoring.
7. On weather: to improve (local) weather forecasts and extreme weather early warning.

In view of the above service categories, kindly see the attached SURVEY and complete the prioritisation of the various categories that are important to your company and its activities. Kindly send your completed survey to nmashiyi@sansa.org.za **before 30 September 2019** with a short description of your company's activities in order to place your responses to the survey in context.