RESULT 2: OPEN PLATFORM FOR SHARING KNOWLEDGE

WP 1: Learning Environment for SMEs

CASE STUDIES DEVELOPMENT

APPLICATION OF WEATHER FORECAST STATION SYSTEMS FOR FRUIT ORCHARDS

Part 1: General information for the enterprise

1. Name: Guillaume BERBERS
2. Location: Gembloux
3. Subject of activity: fruit orchards
4. Legal status: Private
5. Management
    a. Gender: Male
    b. Age: 36-45
    c. Education: Higher
6. Farm size
    a. cultivated land: 15 ha

Part 2: Smart technologies used on the farm

What smart technologies does the farm have? When and where are they applied? Is the accumulated data used and how?

The connected weather forecast station technologies has been applied for more than ten years at the farm which covers 15 ha of land with 23,000 fruits trees. This system, Davis Vantage Pro II, displays and records station's weather data, provides graph and alarm functions, and interfaces to the the WeatherLink Cloud, mobile apps with an optional WeatherLink Live™ or data logger. With a WeatherLink data logger, the farm manager can also use WeatherLink Computer Software to access and collect the data on his computer via WeatherLink Cloud platform.

The manager needs to pay a yearly amount for software use.

Part 3: Owners' satisfaction with the use of smart technologies

1. Utility assessment
   Is the farm manager satisfied with the smart technologies used? What benefits and advantages have they brought him?
   The manager responded that the technique is very useful which helps to a better season and working plan of the farm.
2. Observed difficulties and problems

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What difficulties have they encountered or are encountering in using the new technologies? How did they learn to work with them? Do they have maintenance and consumables issues?
Up to day, there is no problem created from the system.

3. Potential risks
Are they worried about issues such as post-warranty service, integration with next-generation technology, and being tied to a specific supplier or brand?

Technical workers might lose their competences on the sector due to non-practice and the manual techniques have no more applied.

Part 4: Financing the investment in smart technologies

How is the purchase of the new technologies financially secured - own funds, bank loan, financing under a particular program? Do they think that the prices of these technologies are beyond the means of most farmers? Do they feel that the decision to purchase their devices was astute and effective?

The new technology was purchased by the manager's financial source and the price was acceptable to invest.

Part 5: Future intentions towards smart technologies

Do they intend to continue using new technologies? Do they plan to purchase new types, and if so, what kinds? What are their intentions with the devices they own - do they plan to replace them with more recent generations as they become available?

The manager does not have ideas on the next generation due to the good quality of the current system.

Part 6: Some photos

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