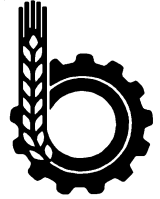




המכון להנדסה חקלאית  
מדינת ישראל - משרד החקלאות ופיתוח הכפר  
מינהל המחקר החקלאי  
מרכז וולקני



**The Institute of Agricultural Engineering**

State of Israel – Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Agricultural Research Organization (ARO)  
The Volcani Center

Israel, April 8-10, 2013

**“USER-PA” Project Kick-off Meeting**

**USER-PA, USability of Environmentally sound and Reliable techniques in Precision Agriculture, is a trans-national project: an operational system for irrigation management based on reliable precision agriculture solutions for orchards and vineyards.**

**USER-PA** proposes a conceptual framework and concrete applications for the farmer, based on an innovative technical architecture that demonstrates reliable Precision Agriculture solution. **USER-PA** integrates canopy and fruit sensors with autonomous mobile vehicles and wireless sensor networks for providing spatial data for high value crops (vineyards and apple orchards). Solutions will be demonstrated to farmers and extension services.

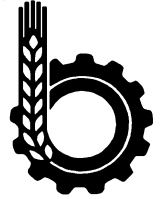
The system will acquire spatial data from sensors; analyze them and present spatial information considered for irrigation and harvesting during the growth season. “It will be based on advanced existing solutions”, Dr. Victor Alchanatis, coordinator of **USER-PA** stated; “developed to include robustness of calibration and synergy of sensors’ data”.

**USER-PA** is a research project in the framework of the ERA-NET ICT-AGRI (European Research Area Network Information and Communication Technologies in Agriculture). The European Commission is supporting the Coordination Action ERA-NET on basis of national funding under the 7th EU Research Framework Program. ICT-AGRI aims to improve the quality and efficiency of transnational research in information and communication technologies and robotics in agriculture – targeting a competitive, sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural production.



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The **USER-PA** brings together the multidisciplinary expertise of nine partners from eight ICT-AGRI member countries: Israel (coordinator), Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Turkey and United-Kingdom. Scientists from universities, other research institutions as well as experts from industry will collaborate in the pan-European project over the next three years in the fields of robotics and automation, sensor technology, spatial decision support systems, irrigation, and plant physiology. The project is coordinated by the Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Research Organization, the Volcani Center, Bet-Dagan, Israel (ARO). [www.agri.gov.il/en/blogs/chapter.aspx?peopleId=21&chapterId=422](http://www.agri.gov.il/en/blogs/chapter.aspx?peopleId=21&chapterId=422)



Participants in the kick-off meeting in Israel  
(from right to left):

Simon Blackmore , Bernd Sumpf , Victor Alchanatis, Pinar Demircioglu, Dominique Fleury, Ismail Bogrekci, Jana Käthner, Spyros Fountas, Søren Pedersen, Ronit Rud, Timea Ignat

Photo: Institute of Agricultural Engineering, ARO