

# **Utilization of Remotely Sensed Data and Geographical Information Systems for Agricultural Statistics in the United States and the European Union**

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The paper will cover the activities in the United States and the European Union with regard to the utilization of remotely sensed data for input to official agricultural statistics and for crop condition and production forecasting, estimation and mapping. Both the U.S. and the EU programs in this topic area are longstanding programs and recent developments since the International Conference on Agricultural and Environmental Statistical Applications in Rome, Italy in 2001. Among the developments in the U.S. are research on the use of administrative data from a GIS to supplement conventional statistical data, research on the use of very high resolution imagery for citrus tree counting purposes, and the expansion of a crop mapping program to more States with resource leveraging partnerships. Among the developments in the EU are the expansion of the Monitoring Agriculture with Remote Sensing (MARS) project into more countries, the continual improvements in their data dissemination bulletin and their use of the French SPOT/vegetation sensor data for crop condition monitoring. Both programs are also evaluating the cost/benefits of their outputs to the statistical agencies and the general public to improve the relevance, timeliness, accuracy and cost effectiveness of their outputs and programs.