

VISCA: Vineyards' Integrated Smart Climate Application

Description

Internationalization of the markets has allowed for the globalization of agriculture, benefiting - directly or indirectly relevant countries or even entire regions like the EU, who is the first trader in agriculture products of the world. Among the different varieties of agriculture species, the wine-grapes are specially threatened by climate change, since subtle differences in microclimate impacts directly through over-ripening, rising acidity levels, greater vulnerability to pests and diseases, etc., resulting in changes in wine quality and properties. The wine industry needs therefore to tackle adaptation measures, and long term adaptation planning will provide producers with a comparative advantage over competitors. VISCA is a Climate Service (CS) and Decision Support System (DSS) that integrates climate, agricultural and end-users' specifications in order to design medium- and long-term adaptation strategies to climate change. VISCA will be validated by real demonstration with end-users on three demo sites belonging to three wine stakeholders from Spain, Italy and Portugal, which are included as partners in the consortium (Codorniu, Mastroberardino and Symington).

The main objective of VISCA is making South-European wine industries resilient to climate changes, while minimizing costs and risks through an improvement of the production management (quality and quantity of final product). This objective will be achieved with the integration of climatic data, phenological, irrigation models, and end-users requirements into a Decision Support System (DSS) co-designed with wine producers from Spain, Italy and Portugal. VISCA will supply well-founded decisions of specific aspects of crop planning (e.g., budburst, harvesting, defoliation, minimum water needs), and suggest preventive actions against extreme events and long-term suitability maps.

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