

## Press Release

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### **Accelerating Africa's agricultural transformation through the incorporation of Earth Observation in digital smallholder value chains**

Started in November 2017, the [NADiRA](#) project (*Nurturing Africa's Digital Revolution for Agriculture*) aims at strengthening the development of sustainable digital farming solutions to improve inclusive risk management and value chain efficiency, benefiting the productivity, financial security and welfare of African agricultural businesses, including smallholder farmers.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 776309.

NADiRA's mainstreaming of satellite imagery, connected objects and mobile field data inside digital service platforms will facilitate real-time monitoring of agricultural practices, farmer compliance and field-scale performance. It will thus reduce investment risks for agro-industrial stakeholders interested in contracting smallholders, notably bankers, insurers, input suppliers and food processors.

During 30 months, the project will incorporate Earth observation (EO) data from the EU Copernicus constellation and other satellites, along with in-situ sensor information (IoT) into agCelerant™, an agricultural value chain orchestrator platform deployed in 12 African countries by MANOBI. The industrialization of EO products in digital smallholder value chains will:

- Increase the availability of input credit to smallholders through reduced agricultural investment risk and cash-out for financial institutions;
- Reduce exposure to climate risk through more robust, affordable agricultural insurance products (both index and indemnity-based); and
- Improve smallholders' tactical management of crop nutrient deficiencies and post-harvest losses to increase productivity, harvest quality and income.

Four extensive pilots run in parallel in Nigeria and Senegal will validate the economic and commercial viability of this innovative risk management solution in partnership with commercial banks, insurers, input suppliers and agro-industrial buyers. NADiRA business partners will foster the project results dissemination and exploitation in Africa, Europe and Asia.

Coordinated by [SPACEBEL](#) – a leading Space company in Europe, the NADiRA project was jointly conceived by SPACEBEL and [MANOBI](#) – the African pioneer in value chains orchestration covering the agriculture, water, artisan fisheries, sanitation, and local governance sectors. Both key actors are leading an international consortium of reputable organizations comprising [SwissRe](#) (Switzerland), the [University of Liège](#) (Belgium), [Viveris Technologies](#) (France), [ICRISAT](#) (Nigeria) and the [EUGENIUS](#) association (France).

#### *Further information:*

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