

United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development

2019 – 2020 Inter-sessional Panel

Side Event

Space Applications for Sustainable Development:

Copernicus and CropWatch in Action

Thursday, 7th November 2019, 14.00-15.00

Room XXVI, Palais des Nations

Description

Space applications offer a huge potential to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. By combining space-based sensors and ground-based technologies, countries can engage in precision farming, predict crops yields, manage natural disaster risks and organize more efficient responses to them, and plan more effective public health strategies. The UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), the focal point of the UN system on science, technology and innovation discourse, promotes international cooperation arrangements that facilitate the access of developing countries to such services. This side event will provide in-depth information on two initiatives offering interested countries free earth observation data and analytics services: the Copernicus Programme and CropWatch.

Copernicus (<https://www.copernicus.eu/en>) is the European Union Earth Observation Programme which delivers near-real-time data on a global level to help us better understand our planet and sustainably manage the environment. Policymakers and public authorities are the main users of Copernicus services across domains such as environmental legislation, natural disasters, and humanitarian crises.

CropWatch Cloud (<http://cloud.cropwatch.com.cn>) is a crop monitoring platform providing a agroclimate, agronomic information service paradigm, and a unique solution for developing countries aspiring to conduct their own crop monitoring. CropWatch Cloud aims to provide an information service to end users at anytime and anywhere for ensuring global food security.

The side event will introduce the two programmes, highlight SDG applications and projects, and provide details about data and analytics services, partnerships, and capacity-building initiatives. It is hoped that this session can link these service providers with countries and other stakeholders seeking novel satellite-based solutions to their developmental challenges.

Agenda

- Opening Remarks by **Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne**, Director, DTL and Head of the CSTD Secretariat, UNCTAD
- Presentation by **Mr. Mauro Facchini**, Head of the Copernicus Unit, Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission
- Presentation by **Mr. Bingfang Wu**, Division Head of Digital Agriculture, Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Interactive Discussion with Panelists