



<http://lmtool.euporias.eu>

ABOUT

Overview: LMTool provided fortnightly and seasonal winter weather forecasts (up to 3 months ahead) to support land management decisions.

We worked closely with Clinton Devon Estates (CDE) and the National Farmers Union (NFU) to develop a working prototype (via an app, email and website) to provide seasonal winter weather forecasts (up to 3 months ahead) in support of land management decision making, with a focus on cover crop planting, choice, and management in South West England. We also provided 14 day site-specific forecasts to give better short-medium range information. We focused on winter decision making because recent advances in long-range weather forecasting mean it is now often possible to provide advance notice of a colder and drier, or warmer and wetter winter than average conditions.

Focused sectors: Agriculture; Land management; Forestry

Prototype producers: Met Office, University of Leeds, Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, University of Lisbon - Instituto Dom Luiz, University of Exeter, KOR Communications

Main stakeholders: Clinton Devon Estates, National Farmers Union

BENEFITS

- Enabled land managers to make better decisions related to seasonal weather and land management, and raised awareness of the importance of seasonal weather.
- Provided outputs for use and assessment during the 2014 and 2015 winter periods.
- Close links developed with farmers increased understanding of their needs for seasonal forecasts.

OUTCOMES

- We interviewed a representative subset of farmers on their needs for weather information
- We developed a draft three month forecast, sent to the farmer subset monthly during winter 2014/2015
- We surveyed a wider farmer group on their needs for long-term weather information, and their preferences for visualisation, and held a workshop to discuss findings and plan future developments
- We built on forecast feedback and stakeholder engagement findings to develop a second version of the forecast for winter 2015/2016.
- We provided 14 day forecasts and three month outlooks via our microsite (<http://lmtool.predictia.es/en/content/euporias-lmtool-forecasts-south-west-england> - login required)