European farmers benefit from EGNOS for variable rate applications with Teejet Technologies systems

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Credits: Teejet Technologies

Teejet Technologies products have been part of farming applications since the first crop protection products came onto the market in the 1940's, dating back the earliest use of electronics in agriculture. This experience in the fields of spraying, fertilising, and seeding allows Teejet Technologies to provide quality products and suitable technical solutions for farmers, such as guidance and steering systems, field computers and devices for application control and monitoring. In this sense, EGNOS plays a significant role as the basic GNSS correction system for all European farmers who employ precision farming devices from Teejet Technologies.

José María Alonso de Robador Lorente, Precision Farming Customer Support Engineer at Teejet Technologies in Europe, confirms that "all guidance and rate controller systems we offer throuhout Europe include EGNOS and start using it as soon as they are plugged into a GNSS antenna." Jose María also highlights as a main added-value that "EGNOS is a quite accurate free-of-charge solution that provides high performance to our customers". In terms of application, "EGNOS can ensure high-quality spraying and spreading jobs, avoiding gaps and overlaps when using ABSC (Automatic Boom Section Control)."

 EGNOS can also be employed a for other tractor-based jobs labours, recommended especially for those types of crops that do not require centimetre level accuracy, i.e. extensive crops in dry areas, such as dryland cereals, legumes and sunflowers. In general, "if the crop allows a pass-to-pass error of up to 20 cm, there is no reason to spend a huge amount of money on more precise correction services", José María explains. Additionally, Teejet Technologies promotes the use of EGNOS as an "inexpensive autosteering solution" among their customers, emphasising that "the availability of EGNOS corrections makes Teejet autosteering products more competitive in the market."

EGNOS performance and reliability are greatly appreciated by Teejet Technologies, because "our customers always give positive feedback with regard to EGNOS corrections. It is common to receive calls asking for support on EGNOS, which means that the farmers are actually using it." In this sense, Jose María also remarks on the usefulness of the EGNOS User Support Website: "we consult it mainly to know the current availability and forecast of the EGNOS SIS (signal in space). When we get support requests related to EGNOS, we always check its current configuration online, to ensure that the device's set-up is the appropriate one."

Mario Bonzano is one of the many European farmers who benefit from EGNOS capabilities through Teejet Technologies products. Mario grows mainly rice, along with other rotation crops, in his fields at Agiliano Vercellese in the north of Italy. Mario has been using EGNOS, integrated in his guidance system and rate application controller, in all instruments from Teejet Technologies, since 2017. Mario describes the process to configure EGNOS in his equipment as "simple and easy. Just install the system in the tractor, plug it in and select the option "EGNOS MODE – AUTOMATIC in the settings menu." This way, the GNSS receiver connects automatically to the EGNOS satellites.

Mario takes advantage of the high availability of the EGNOS signal over Europe by satellite, stating that "I always run both my autosteering system and the ABSC of my sprayer in EGNOS mode." Among the multiple benefits that EGNOS offers to farmers, Mario highlights that he obtains "much better precision control of my spraying jobs. I never overlap because the autosteering system works very accurately. Also, every boom section switches on/off exactly where it should." For these reasons, Mario promotes GNSS in general and EGNOS in particular, recommending that all European farmers "install as many satellite controlled systems as possible. It improves work, reduces costs and makes your life easier."

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