

## Satellite images to monitor Italian processing tomato production

The north Italian tomato industry, in collaboration with the industry organisation OI Pomodoro, is working on a EUR235,000 (USD256,000) project for monitoring tomato fields with the European Space Agency's satellite in order to improve the production management.

The project, which has received EUR167,000 from the Emilia-Romagna region, will be managed by the Operating Innovation Group which will acquire and process the satellite images of the tomato fields. Those images should help to verify:

- the surface actually grown;
- the development of tomato in the field in the face of different possible climatic trends;
- the early identification of any pathogens or cultivation problems.

An IT platform will be created for producers' organisations, processing industries and the OI Pomodoro, to collate real-time data about the cultivation and delivery of tomatoes for processing together with quantity and quality of the product delivered.

The programme will last 30 months (from 1 March 2020 to 31 August 2022) and will involve several partners and it will provide useful data and information for the studies, in particular among seven tomato processors: Greci, Emiliana Conserve, Conserve Italia, Columbus, Steriltom, Rodolfi and Mutti.

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