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Challenge



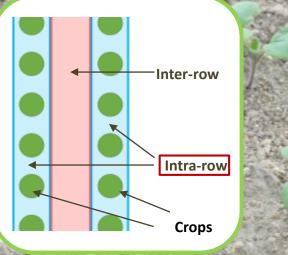




Robotique et Capteurs au Service d'Ecophyto

Robotics and sensors at the Service of Ecophyto

#### **By Virginie Barbosa - LNE**



Goal : encourage the development of autonomous innovative solutions for intra-row weed control
in field crops with wide spacing and,
in vegetable crops
in order to reduce by 50% the use of phytosanitary products, and thus contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Ecophyto II plan.



The main issue of the Challenge ROSE : intra-row weeding



Participants	Develop solutions Contribute to the definition of the scientific and technological objectives of the challenge	4 research projects funded to develop intra-row weeding solutions BIPBIP Come Come Come Come Come Come Come Come
Operational organizer (trust third party) Orga	Leads the definition of competition objectives and ensures that they are measurable	Challenge co-organised by LNE and Irstea
	Organizes and leads the challenge	LABORATOIRE LINE INRAG
	Ensures fair treatment of participants	
Funding bodies	Finance the challenge	Project funded by the French National Research Agency and the French Office for Biodiversity
	Statue on the objectives of the challenge	

The actors of the ROSE challenge

Challenge

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### Four evaluation campaigns

Challenge

## Six meetings in the experimental field

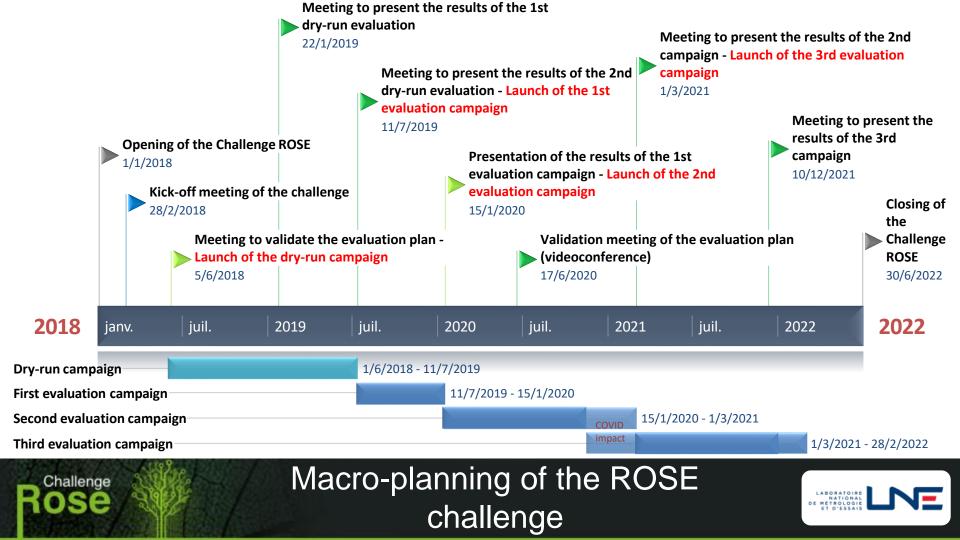


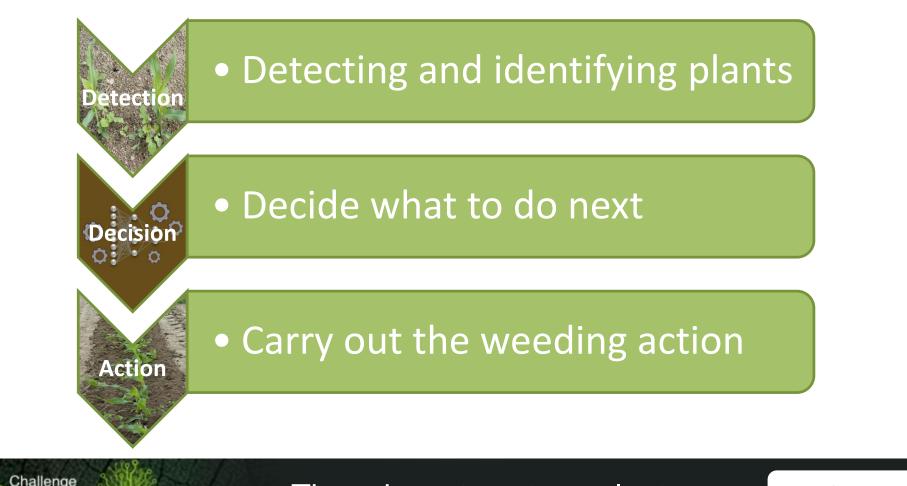
# Operational organisation

A surface area of four hectares dedicated to experimentation

# Operational organisation of the ROSE challenge







Three key steps to evaluate



## AgroTechnoPôle site : INRAE Montoldre Plot challenge ROSE





A surface area of four hectares dedicated to experimentations



## **Types of crops planted :**

- large crop with wide spacing: <u>maize</u> (row spacing 75 to 80 cm, foot spacing 14 cm)
- field vegetable crops: <u>beans</u> (row spacing 15 to 30 cm, foot spacing 3 to 8 cm)

## **Types of "artificial" weeds planted:** spread out (horizontal) :

- Model weeds : <u>mustard</u>
- Natural weeds : <u>matricaria</u>.
   with upright (vertical) :
- Model weeds : <u>ray grass</u>
- Natural weeds : <u>goosefoot</u>.







## Crops and weeds planted

(the result of an in-depth study at the beginning of the challenge)





Prototype presented by BIPBIP



Prototype presented by ROSEAU





#### Prototype presented by PEAD



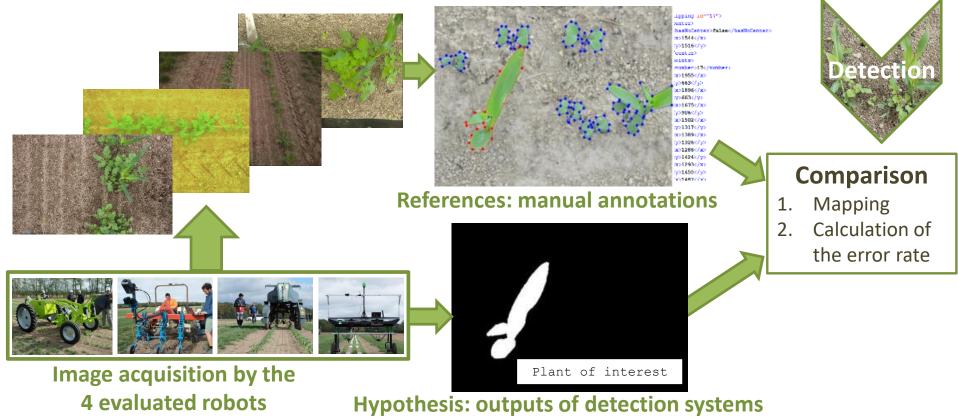
Prototype presented by WeedElec



Evaluation of the detection task



#### **Objective:** determine the position of weeds and/or plants of interest on the images

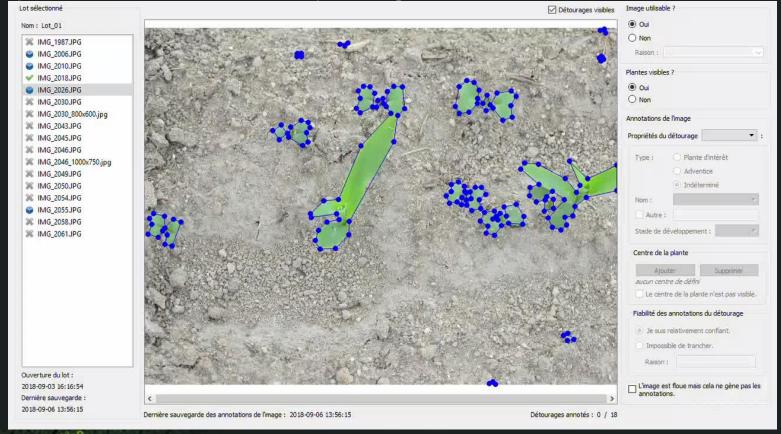


Evaluation of the detection task: methodology

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#### Development of the DIANNE software (trimming, identification and annotation for Evaluation)





## Tool development to share beyond the ROSE challenge





Prototype presented by BIPBIP





Prototype presented by PEAD



Prototype presented by WeedElec



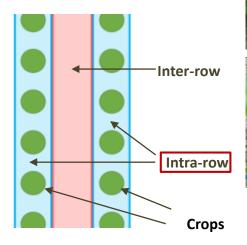
Prototype presented by ROSEAU



Evaluation of the action task



**Objective:** control weeds indicated by yellow markers without damaging crops indicated by blue markers.





Visual observation of each marked plant



The aim of the markers (easily detectable) is to be as independent as possible from the "detection task"

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## Evaluation of the action task : use of markers



#### **Objective:** weeding entire rows of crops (maize or beans)

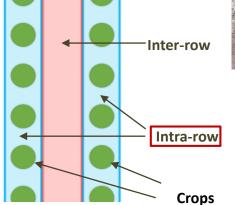




Manual counting of crops and weeds before and after the passage of the robots



up to 4700 raygrass stems for example  $\rightarrow$  a <u>delicate</u> <u>and meticulous mission</u>





ROSE

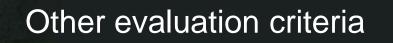
Evaluation of the action task : weeding some rows



### **Other evaluation criteria** (methodology in course of definition or validation) :

- Environmental impact (soil pollution, carbon balance, soil settlement and compaction effects, energy consumption)
- Techno-economical criteria (working rate, degree of automation, energy autonomy, cost, etc.)
- Acceptability

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Common rules

Homogeneity of the evaluation environment



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- Evaluation metrics must be applicable to all robots
- The rules of the challenge well described and the same rules for all participants
- The evaluation of systems capacity must be objective
  - All participants must have the same level of difficulty (**repeatability** of the environment)
  - The evaluator must have reliable, high-quality data at his disposal to guarantee the **comparability** of the systems to be evaluated
- → Meticulous floor preparation : Decompacting, heat treatment (to avoid « natural » weeds), precision sowing
- → <u>Plot monotoring :</u> sowing protection (meteo but also animals like birds, rabbits..), irrigation

→ Evaluation plan written and validated by all participants

→ <u>Guidelines</u> + <u>training/qualification</u>, for each role or type of mission (counting of the plants, positionning the markers, annotating images)

 $\rightarrow \frac{\text{double counting or}}{\text{verification}}$ 



Main operationnal challenges



## Regular and annual meetings in the field

## At least two plenary meetings per year

## Joint communication events

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Competition and collaboration

Experimental campaigns in a spirit of cooperation



Definition of a common evaluation methodology and associated metrics

Sharing evaluation and annotation tools → See the challenge ROSE website www.challenge-rose.fr Sharing tools and standards

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Sharing an annotated image database First reuse example : competition ACRE – H2020-METRICS

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Definition of standards reusable beyond the ROSE challenge

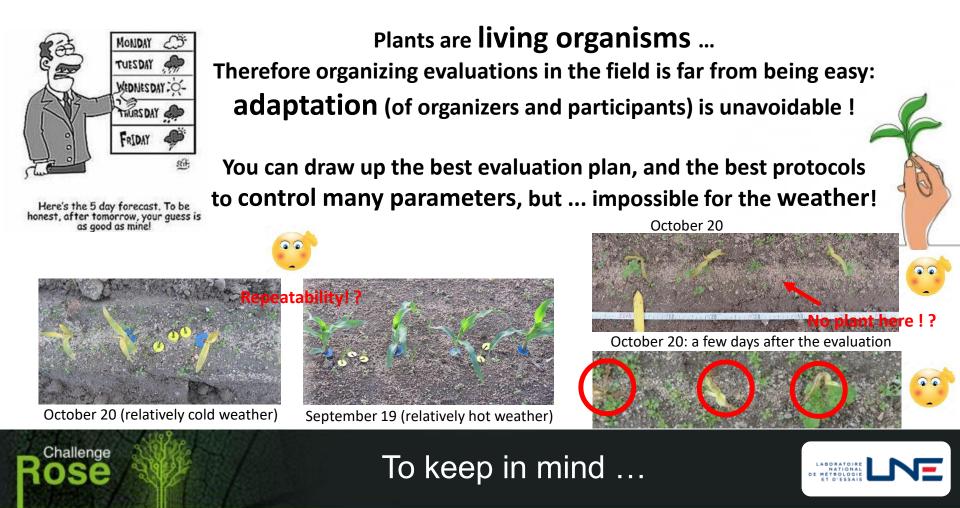


8 workpackages leaded by LNE or INRAE



Rose

The operationnal consortium organisation





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INRAe

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