

## HARNESSTOM with farmers: a technical session on wise use of water

Water management is a key aspect in tomato cultivation as it affects plant development, yield and nutritional and organoleptic quality of the fruit. With climatic change it is even more important that farmers become aware of the importance of monitoring and practicing an efficient use of the water they use for irrigation so they maximize sustainability in their tomato fields.

HARNESSTOM partners from "Fundacion Miquel Agustí UPC- UPV" and "Fundacion Cajamar Comunidad Valenciana" in collaboration with "Arreu Acompanyament Agroecologic" organized an online workshop that took place on Thursday 22nd April 2021. The whorkshop was directed to farmers and agronomists to introduce the basis of an efficient water use strategy in the case of open field tomato cultivation. Particular attention was given to the effect of limited water stress on tomato fruit quality and shelf life on "de penjar" tomatoes. A total of 54 farmers and technicians attended the seminar. During the discussion farmers showed great interest in the digitalization of irrigation (web-based tools to calculate irrigation doses), the calculation of crop requirements based on evapotranspiration and soil balance analysis, and finally the best practices to use water deficit to increase fruit quality and enhance water use efficiency.





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