

**Session 1B: How can Decision Support System (DSS), Irrigation Management and Risk Warning tools help Small-holder Farmers in Developing countries using open source technologies?**

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**Rapporteur: John Gordon**

The presentation was focussed on the use of Pessl manufactured weather stations and software in developing decision support systems in agriculture in both industrialized and developing economies. The focus of the presentation was the use of weather monitoring systems to mitigate the impact of climate change, to avoid losses due to insects and pests, to identify and mitigate water shortages, to implement integrated pest management and as a good business opportunity.

A number of examples/case studies were presented on the use of equipment and in the context of using the company's open source software—these included examples of:

- A coffee rust forecasting system for Kenya;
- An irrigation management system in Egypt on an 70 Center Pivot Cluster; and
- A weather index based input insurance programme in Africa (Ghana and Kenya).

**Discussion**

There was some discussion about whether the data collected and distributed by the company could be considered open data. The speaker suggested there were instances in which the weather data could be distributed openly, for example if the owner of the instrument collecting the data agreed to have it published. Cases were also discussed where governments or other organizations could purchase instruments and make the data available to whoever they wished. It was suggested that it would be necessary to clarify the business model before a conclusion could be reached on the “openness” of the data.