



## Practical info

### Location

Belgian Science Policy  
Avenue Louise 231 Louizalaan  
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Belgium  
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### How to get there?

More info on: [https://www.belspo.be/belspo/organisation/contact\\_en.stm](https://www.belspo.be/belspo/organisation/contact_en.stm)

### Date

Monday 25 April 2016

### Registration

There is no registration fee, but please confirm your presence before Friday 15 April:

- via e-mail to [Evy.Mettepenningen@UGent.be](mailto:Evy.Mettepenningen@UGent.be)
- via telephone to 0032 9 264 60 67
- to Evy Mettepenningen, Vakgroep Landbouweconomie, Coupure Links 653, 9000 Gent

## *Meteorological risks as drivers of environmental innovation in agro-ecosystem management*

Presentation of the final results of the  
MERINOVA project

Monday 25 April 2016



## Contents

The research hypothesis of the project MERINOVA (sponsored by BELSPO, Science for Sustainable Development Programme) is that meteorological risks act as drivers of environmental innovation in agro-ecosystem management. The major objectives of the project are to characterise extreme meteorological events, assess the impact on Belgian agro-ecosystems, characterise their vulnerability and resilience to these events, and explore innovative adaptation options to agricultural risk management ([merinova.vito.be](http://merinova.vito.be)).

The project comprises of four major parts that reflect the chain of risks:

- Hazard: Assessing the likely frequency and magnitude of extreme meteorological events by means of probability density functions;
- Impact: Analysing the potential bio-physical and socio-economic impact of extreme weather events on agro-ecosystems in Belgium using process-based modelling techniques commensurate with the regional scale;
- Vulnerability: Identifying the most vulnerable agro-ecosystems using fuzzy multi-criteria and spatial analysis;
- Risk Management: Uncovering innovative risk management and adaptation options using actor-network theory and fuzzy cognitive mapping techniques;

During this event the main results of the project, and their implications, will be presented by the research team. The event will finish with a debate and a reception during which the discussion can continue in a more informal setting.

### Research partners

Coordinator:



Partners:



## Programme

- 13.00 Start registration
- 13.30 Introduction to the MERINOVA project  
*Anne Gobin, project coordinator*  
*Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO)*
- 14.00 Occurrence of extreme weather events in Belgium  
*Hans Van de Vyver*  
*Royal Meteorological Institute (KMI/IRM)*
- 14.30 Impact of extreme events on agro-ecosystems  
*Anne Gobin*  
*Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO)*
- 15.00 Coffee break
- 15.30 Identification of vulnerable/resilient agro-ecosystems and zones  
*Frédéric Vanwindekens*  
*Centre wallon de recherches agronomiques (CRA-W)*
- 16.00 Risk management and innovative adaptation strategies  
*Ann Verspecht*  
*Ghent University (UGent)*
- 16.30 Debate  
*Led by Evy Mettepenningen & Myrtle Verhaeven*  
*Ghent University (UGent)*
- 17.15 Reception