Dear Editor,

We would like to submit the following manuscript entitled “Machine learning models to predict daily actual evapotranspiration of citrus orchards” to be considered for publication in the Computers and Electronics in Agriculture.

The authors believe that this research is an original work dealing with the estimation of actual evapotranspiration using machine-learning models. According to the authors’ opinion, these estimation models could help understand and reduce the impact of climate change and water scarcity in the global environmental equilibrium, with the aim to choose the best irrigation strategies for sustainable water management in citrus orchards.

We chose this Journal because we believe that computer science can drive the application of such advanced techniques in the agricultural field. With data available from various sensors, a thorough analysis was performed to select 12 promising feature combinations which, given in input to Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP) and Random Forest (RF) estimators, allow accurate prediction of daily actual evapotranspiration values of a Mediterranean citrus orchard.

The authors have not submitted this paper in other journals or in the press. This manuscript is original and has been exclusively submitted to theComputers and Electronics in Agriculture journal.

Sincerely yours

The authors