



OK-Net Arable

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Objectives

- Improve the exchange of knowledge among farmers, farm advisers and scientists to increase productivity and quality in organic arable cropping all over Europe
- Specific objectives
 - Develop easily understandable communication material
 - Create a European network of farmer innovation groups to test the communication material
 - Create an online platform for knowledge exchange across Europe unique in organic farming



Consortium overview

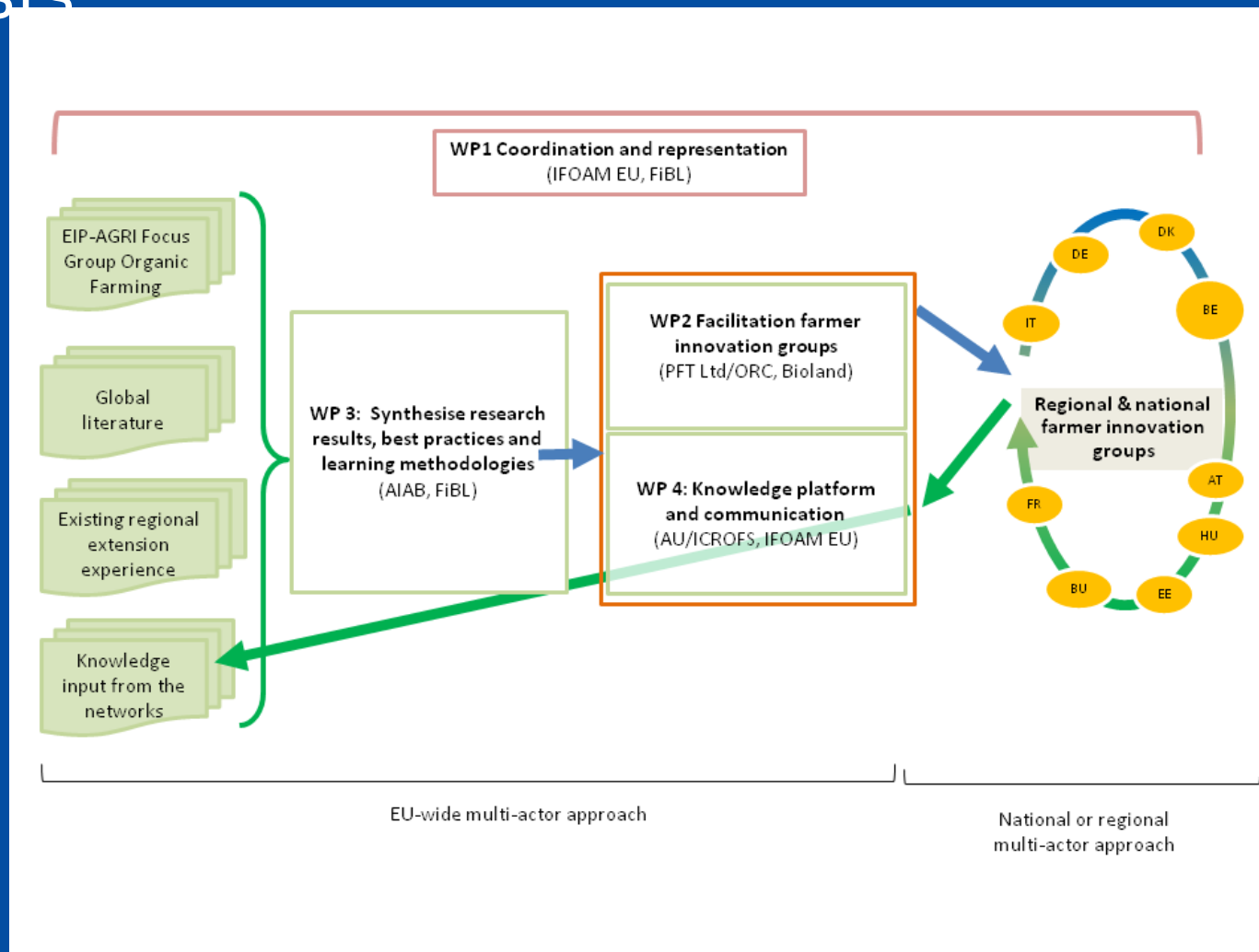
- 17 partners from 13 European countries
- Good balance between experienced farmer groups and organisations engaged in advice / dissemination
 - Core group of 6 institutions
 - 9 farmer innovation groups
 - Another 2 organisations engaged in advice / dissemination



Role of the farmer innovation groups

- Identify needs and challenges
- Decide topics of communication materials
- Test the communication materials
- Ensure that materials work in the “real world” of farming

OK-Net Arable: full interaction between farmers and scientists



Expected results

- Materials for dissemination of new methods / technologies
 - soil fertility
 - fertilization strategies
 - weed management
 - pest and disease control
- Examples
 - new crop rotations, intercropping with legumes, habitat design
 - biogas slurry, biochar, digestates
 - mechanical weed control
 - novel botanicals, functional agro-biodiversity, parasites and predators, predictive information models
 - variety choice

Communication channels

- Online knowledge platform
- Email, social media (facebook, twitter, slideshare, youtube)
- Online training courses
- Existing communication channels of project partners (newsletters and homepages)
- Relevant national farmer media
- Events and conferences
- EIP-AGRI website

Online knowledge platform

- Collect communication material
- Integrate with social media
 - Bringing the platform to the farmers , not attracting them to the platform
- Will continue after end of project



OK-Net Arable: pilot project of EIP-AGRI

- One of four first thematic networks
 - All should improve flow of knowledge between scientists and practitioners
- New approach: learning by doing
- All outcomes will feed into the EIP-AGRI website



OK-Net Arable: multi-actor approach

- Roots of organic farming lie in multi-actor approach
- OK-Net Arable: multi-actor approach on two levels
 - EU level: balanced consortium of farmer groups and scientists
 - Local level: co-operation between farmers, farm advisers, scientists in farmer innovation groups



EIP-AGRI: more than Horizon 2020

- OK-Net Arable builds on the work of the Focus Group on organic arable cropping
- OK-Net Arable will connect with upcoming Operational Groups (Rural Development Programmes)
- Look broader than Horizon 2020!



Thanks

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www.ok-net-arable.eu (*available soon*)

