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AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

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Natalia Shukadarova (Bulgaria)



Breakout Session II
'Applying to Horizon Europe Work Programme'
EIP-AGRI brokerage event
'Get involved in the EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe'

NGPA PARTICIPATION IN HORIZON 2020 PROPOSAL

LIMA PROJECT



NGPA – NATIONAL GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

- Branch organization – the largest, the most well-structured and the most dynamic agriculture community in Bulgaria
- Legally established in November 2006
- Non-governmental, voluntary, non-political, independent and non-profit organization
- 20 regional organizations of grain producers from all over the country, with overall membership above 1000 farmers
- NGPA farmers produce mainly wheat sunflower, maize, rapeseed and barley, cultivating more than 600 000 ha of arable land
- Most of the members – conventional farmers, however growing number of farmers involved in conservation and regenerative agriculture



LIMA INITIATIVE

- The proposal “Less inputs more agroecology“ – LIMA was submitted to the European Commission on January 21st, 2021, as an Innovation Action addressing the Horizon 2020 Green Deal call LC-GD-6-1-2020 – Testing and demonstrating systemic innovations in support of the Farm-to-Fork Strategy, Subtopic C. [2021] Reducing the dependence on hazardous pesticides; reducing the losses of nutrients from fertilisers, towards zero pollution of water, soil and air and ultimately fertiliser use.



LIMA GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

- The goal of LIMA – to boost reductions of chemical pesticide use, chemical fertilizer use and nutrient losses via the uptake of systemic innovations.
- The plans – to test and demonstrate combinations of highly promising and mature biotechnical and organisational/social innovations.
- The idea – to use these pilots as catalysts to deploy innovations and best practices across EU food chains.
- A key objective of LIMA – to foster combinations of ecological, technological, organisational, social and institutional innovations that will ultimately unlock the use of low-input/loss practices at farm-level.



LIMA ESSENCE

- Includes most major types of supply chains with concerns on pesticides, or fertilizers and nutrients losses or both.
- Implements innovation strategies combining on-farm low-input systems with complementary organizational innovations.
- Assesses sustainability impacts of innovative practices/systems at the field, farm, landscape and supply chain levels.



LIMA CONSORTIUM

- LIMA involves a consortium of partners distributed over 16 countries covering all EU agroecological zones:
- 22 economic actors with a downstream activity, 26 technical/research actors supporting them, 5 companies providing innovations, 4 organisations working specifically on dissemination and engagement.
- Overall – 57 participating partners. Type: Research, Industry, Academic Institution, Other non-profit organisations; Small and Medium Enterprise
- 22 ISS (Innovative sustainable systems) clusters – combination of pilot organization (coordinator) and partner/s
- LIMA Leading organization: National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (France) – INRAE



LIMA STRUCTURE

LIMA is organised in 10 work packages that ensure to successfully develop, test and upscale the selected innovations, combinations of innovations and systems among the 22 ISS (Innovative Sustainable Systems) over the 48 months of the project:

- WP1 on Co-design
- WPs 2-4 on Testing, Demonstration & Deployment
- WP5 – Impact assessment
- WP6 - Capitalizing on existing initiatives
- WP7 – Training and education
- WP8 – Policy engagement
- WP9 – Communication, dissemination and stakeholder engagement
- WP10 – Coordination & Project Management

LIMA PROPOSAL

- Overall 380 pages proposal
- Requested EU contribution: 11 999 998,88 euro
- Despite its merits, the LIMA project was not funded

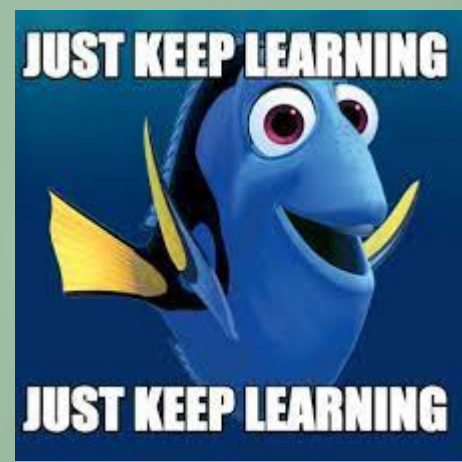


NGPA INVOLVEMENT IN THE LIMA PROJECT



- NGPA – the leading organization for the Bulgarian ISS, invited by the Institute of Soil Science, Agrotechnologies and Plant Protection “Nikola Poushkarov”
- NGPA’s partner from Bulgaria was the Institute of Soil Science “Nikola Poushkarov”.
- 12 NGPA farmers were organized to participate in the LIMA project with conservation agriculture.
- The main agro-technical measures in the new ecological technology are minimal, partial, surface tillage or no-till; direct sowing with certified seeds; covering the soil with plant residues from the previous crop, sowing of cover crops; observance of appropriate crop rotation; minimal use of nitrogen and phosphorus; reduced use of pesticides; introduction of biological substances into the soil.
- Researchers from the N. Poushkarov Institute were assigned to observe and analyse the technology and help farmers to improve it.
- Training classes were envisaged for the participating farmers.

LESSONS LEARNED:



1. Start with being a partner, not a leading organization
2. Clear focus of the project, less participants, not necessarily the highest possible budget
3. Proactive managing team



THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION!



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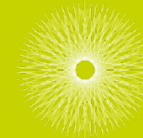
web: www.grain.bg

EIP-AGRI brokerage event **'Get involved in the EU Mission:** **A Soil Deal Europe** **8-9 June 2022, Brussels, Belgium**

All information on the brokerage event is available on
www.eip-agri.eu

on the event webpage:
<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/eip-agri-brokerage-event-%E2%80%99get-involved-eu-mission>

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