

Next-generation platforms

- Already some things will start in Jan 2017
 - BIODATA (Big Data Value Association)
 - IoF2020 (4 year pilot, 73 partners many use cases 19, 5 trials and links to standardisation). Using many existing platforms, FIWARE, FISpace, ISOBus, etc. Opportunities for further projects via Open Call (6MEuro).
- Eco-system building? Farmers central – interested in fertiliser/pesticide/water optimisation and quality of the product
- Different types and sizes of farms across Europe presents a challenge – need platforms that support diverse needs (smart phone/tractor for small farms or server for large farms)
- Lots of sensors – issues are interoperability (need for common protocols), platforms for aggregating data and suitable expert systems to extract insights
- Need data transparency first (which data is being collected and for what?), then consider data ownership
- Farmers do not want to be bound to one platform – need to give plug-and-play freedom to use other platforms

Supporting initiatives

- Which thematic area (environment, resource mngt, benchmarking/strategic farm mngt, ...)?
 - All topics important – farmers increasingly using sensors, robotics and expert systems for managing farms
 - Need for global optimisation of farm operations
- Large-scale pilot deploying digital technologies?
 - Need interoperability
 - Need to be able to meet the needs of large and small farms across Europe
 - Need to be flexible so that farmers can change platforms – avoiding vendor lock-in
 - euROBOTICS – already have defined Health Care project. Want to set up a Agriculture and Agri Food Lighthouse Project
 - Some initiatives being proposed at regional level, e.g. Italy, Tuscany and Andalusia

Action plan

- Needed actions
 - Need a list of all projects in the area
 - An annual general meeting would be useful. Already events in Poland, Kilkenny and Lisbon being organised for next year
 - Dedicated day on digital technologies – rural development programmes and EU projects to get member states involved
 - Living labs for farmers
 - Need seamless connectivity first, then expert systems and prediction tools
 - Need to reach farmers on site – farmers cannot go to meetings
- Contributions from PPPs
 - AIOTI looking at smart farming, euROBOTICS has 7 projects already and is looking for Agri-Food Lighthouse Project, BDVA has new project starting.

- Contribution from the MSs, Regions
 - Different priorities in different regions, e.g. pesticides less of an issue in Eastern Europe
 - Innovation hubs to connect at regional level
 - Living labs useful for testing sensors and ideas
 - Accelerators/incubators at local level
- Links with national initiatives
 - Need to consider sustainability and rural development
 - Need to engage with national ministries and regional centres