OK-Net Arable

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Project Coordinator

IFOAM EU

Objectives of the project

- Improve exchange of knowledge among farmers, farm advisers and scientists with the aim to increase productivity and quality in organic arable cropping all over Europe
- Specific obectives
  - Synthesize knowledge available about organic arable farming and identify the best methodologies for exchanging this knowledge.
  - Select and develop easily understandable advisory (end-user) material
  - Create a European network of farmers to exchange experiences and discuss the advisory material
  - Create an online platform offering advisory material and facilitating farmer-to-farmer learning across Europe

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How did it all start?

- EIP-AGRI Focus Group Organic Farming
  - Complexity of organic farming requires very high level of knowledge and skills, but exchange on organic farming techniques remains limited

->objectives targeted to needs/problems and opportunities of end-users

- Core group of organisations initiated project
  - Farmer organisations: IFOAM EU, AIAB
  - Research organisations: Organic Research Centre, FiBL, ICROFS
  - Many years of working together on different aspects of research in organic agriculture

How is the consortium built?

- 9 farmer innovations groups
  - Farmers actively involved
  - Working with arable farming
  - Mix of well established groups and starting groups (capacity building)
  - Regional spread (North, South, East, West)
- 3 organisations working in advice and research dissemination at EU/national level
  - Bioland, EUFRAS and IAMB
- Core group of 5 organisations

-> complementary types of knowledge (scientific and practical)

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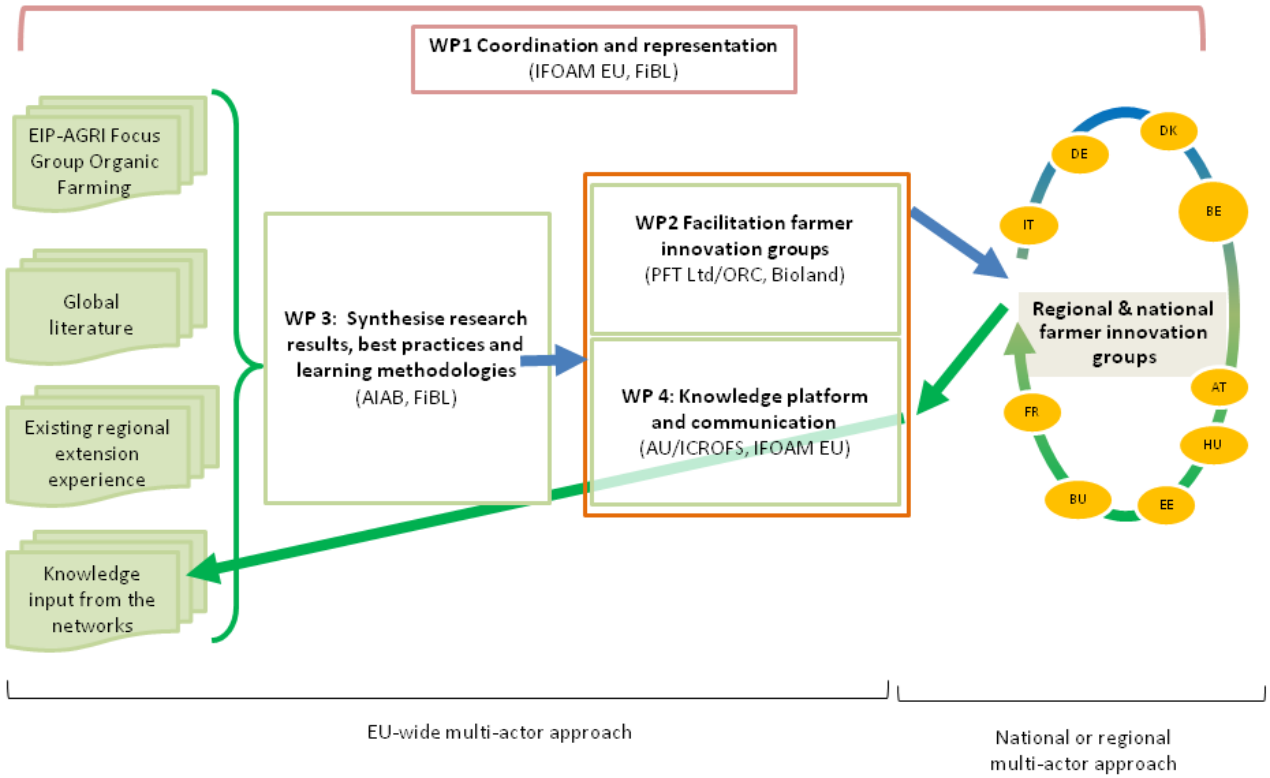
Project structure



- Full interaction between farmers and scientists
- Clear role for all partners
- Genuine and sufficient involvement of all actors all along the project

Reach-out beyond the consortium

- 2 linked third parties
- Cooperation with operational groups envisaged
- Online knowledge platform
  - Present advisory material
  - Integrated with social media
  - Will continue after end of project
- Other dissemination channels
  - Social media
  - Online training courses
  - Existing communication channels of project partners
  - Relevant national farmer media
  - Events and conferences
  - EIP-AGRI website

Thank you for your attention

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