

ROADMAP	
TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE	European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability'
TYPE OF INITIATIVE	<input type="checkbox"/> CWP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-CWP <input type="checkbox"/> Implementing act/Delegated act
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	DG AGRI - Unit H.1
EXPECTED DATE OF ADOPTION	Month/Year: 11/2011
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This indicative roadmap is provided for information purposes only and is subject to change. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content and structure.

A. Context, problem definition	
(i) What is the political context of the initiative? (ii) How does it relate to past and possible future initiatives, and to other EU policies? (iii) What ex-post analysis of the existing policy has been carried out and what results are relevant for this initiative?	<p>The Europe 2020 Strategy underlines the role of research and innovation as key elements for preparing the European Union for future challenges. This central role of research and innovation is taken up and developed further in the EU 2020 flagship initiative "Innovation Union" which introduces the concept of European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) as a new way to foster innovation by uniting researchers, stakeholders, Member States and policy-makers around a common societal challenge. Based on the flagship initiative "Innovation Union", a pilot EIP on 'Active and Healthy Ageing' has been launched. Furthermore, preparatory work has been carried out for developing EIPs on 'Raw Materials', 'Water', "Smart Cities", and 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability'.</p> <p>The Communication presents the objectives and the implementation mechanisms for the EIP 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability'. This EIP has been developed in line with the strategic orientations of "Europe 2020" and "The CAP towards 2020". The focus is on smart and sustainable growth in agriculture, involving the entire supply chain.</p>
What are the main problems which this initiative will address?	<p>World food demand will more than double over the next four decades. In addition, global demand for biomass and biomaterial is likely to increase steeply. EU agriculture will have its role in responding to this dramatic increase in demand. However, if this supply response follows established growth pattern, the additional production will be unavoidably accompanied by overexploitation of natural resources and environmental damage at worrying degrees. Climate change will accentuate the challenge for agriculture, implying the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impact of global warming.</p> <p>Meeting this societal challenge requires a radical shift in the established growth path, which calls for major innovation and research efforts. An important bottleneck identified in this context is the huge gap between research and practice. Thus, major efforts are needed to transpose research and innovation faster into practice and giving feedback on practice needs to science.</p>
Who will be affected by it?	<p>The agricultural EIP will address innovations along the whole supply chain and encourage partners at different institutional and geographical levels (Member States, regions and local level) and in different sectors to collaborate and take advantage from the immense potential for synergies. Member States will have an important role in offering and managing existing policy measures that provide interested actors with opportunities for tackling innovation.</p> <p>Stakeholders of various disciplines will be involved in the concrete work of the agricultural EIP. Key actors will be farmers, advisors, rural enterprises, scientists, environmental groups, and consumers. But also other sectors will be integrated in respective actions such as, satellite navigation technology, biotechnology, ICT, bio-chemical industry, fertiliser and pesticide industry, veterinary services, food and biomass processing industry, packaging industry, and retailers.</p>
(i) Is EU action justified on grounds of subsidiarity? (ii) Why can Member States not achieve the objectives of the proposed action sufficiently by themselves? (Necessity Test) (iii) Can the EU achieve the objectives better? (Test of EU Value Added)	<p>Member States and stakeholders have expressed a strong interest in acting on innovation through an EU approach. The European Council of 20 June 2008 pointed to the "need to pursue innovation, research and</p>

development of agricultural production, notably to enhance its energy efficiency, productivity growth and ability to adapt to climate change." A working group report from the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research requests "to have agricultural knowledge and innovation systems functioning as a network" which can be "reinforced by new forms of coordination between innovation policies and agricultural and rural development policies." Similar conclusions have been drawn by farm organisation, Chambers of Agriculture, and environmental groups.

The agricultural EIP will provide EU value-added through exploiting the capacity and the co-ordination potential of EU-wide agricultural research. Smart networking will facilitate the flow of information between science and practice and will help to use effectively measures provided and funded by EU Research Policy and Rural Development Programmes.

B. Objectives of the initiative

What are the main policy objectives?

The agricultural EIP aims to foster sustainable agriculture that 'achieves more from less' and works in harmony with the environment. For achieving this aim, the agricultural EIP will bring partners together in view of overcoming fragmentation of efforts, giving those efforts the right focus, and bridging the existing gap between research and practice.

Do the objectives imply developing EU policy in new areas?

No.

The agricultural EIP will enhance the effectiveness and the integration of existing instruments fostering innovation offered by the EU framework for Rural Development and relevant actions of EU Research Policy.

C. Options

- (i) What are the policy options being considered?
- (ii) What legislative or 'soft law' instruments could be considered?
- (iii) How do the options respect the proportionality principle?

Not applicable

The agricultural EIP follows the line set-out by the Flagship Initiative "Innovation Union". It will make use of existing instruments fostering innovation offered by the EU framework for Rural Development and EU Research and Innovation Policy.

Key acting entities of the EIP will be 'operational groups', involving stakeholders such as farmers, scientists, advisers, enterprises, etc. Operational groups will be installed by Rural Development programmes to carry out projects targeted towards testing and applying innovative practices, processes, products, services and technologies. The EU Research and Innovation Policy will support the EIP by funding cluster initiatives, large scale pilot and demonstration projects, innovation centres, etc acting cross-border or at EU level. Smart networking will be ensured under the umbrella of the Rural Development Network. The network will facilitate the effective flow of information and work as a mediator enhancing communication between science and practice.

D. Initial assessment of impacts

What are the benefits and costs of each of the policy options?

The EIP will contribute to enhancing the position of EU agriculture as a competitive sector, able to assume its role in global food security, and as a provider of feed, biomass, and biomaterial. This development is economically significant: EU agriculture has today a share of 18% in world food exports, worth €76 billion. In production values, EU agriculture provides more than 40% of total OECD food production. Beyond the economic interest, the EIP will provide benefits in terms of preserving soil functionality, water and ecosystem protection and resilience, carbon sequestration, reduction of GHG emissions, reducing energy needs, and preserving eco-system services.

An assessment of advantages and disadvantages of an EIP option have been analysed in the context of the CAP 2020 impact assessment and reported in the specific annex of the synthesis report on Research and Innovation. Without targeted action of the EIP, EU agriculture would have difficulties in avoiding further deterioration of natural resources, decreasing productive capacities, and the loss of eco-system services. The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study suggests in this context that the value of preserving biodiversity from terrestrial systems will be in the order of 7% of estimated GDP in 2050. As an example of eco-system services, the EU Biodiversity Strategy refers to an estimated value of insect pollination of €15 billion per year.

Could any or all of the options have significant impacts on (i) simplification, (ii) administrative burden and (iii) on relations with other countries, (iv) implementation arrangements? And (v) could any be difficult to transpose for

certain Member States?
No
The agricultural EIP implies that Member States and regions make better use of possibilities provided by existing Rural Development policy and EU research policy. This will be achieved through emphasis on communication and facilitating interaction.
(i) Will an IA be carried out for this initiative and/or possible follow-up initiatives? (ii) When will the IA work start? (iii) When will you set up the IA Steering Group and how often will it meet? (iv) What DGs will be invited?
The Communication foreseen is primarily informative and contains no new political commitment. As such, it will not be accompanied with a specific impact assessment. The ideas put forward are aiming to enhance the effectiveness of existing policies and instruments. Indicated priority areas are provisional and were established on the basis of preliminary stakeholder consultations; they aim for an initial structuring of the process and will be further developed in cooperation with the stakeholders as the process unfolds. The problems addressed by the EIP, their underlying drivers, their consequences, together with an assessment of advantages and disadvantages of an EIP option have been analysed in the context of the CAP 2020 impact assessment and reported in the specific annex of the synthesis report on Research and Innovation.
(i) Is any of options likely to have impacts on the EU budget above €5m? (ii) If so, will this IA serve also as an ex-ante evaluation, as required by the Financial regulation? If not, provide information about the timing of the ex-ante evaluation.
No impact on the EU budget

E. Evidence base, planning of further work and consultation
(i) What information and data are already available? Will existing impact assessment and evaluation work be used? (ii) What further information needs to be gathered, how will this be done (<i>e.g. internally or by an external contractor</i>), and by when? (iii) What is the timing for the procurement process & the contract for any external contracts that you are planning (<i>e.g. for analytical studies, information gathering, etc.</i>)? (iv) Is any particular communication or information activity foreseen? If so, what, and by when?
The impact assessment on the future of the CAP assesses also the impacts of the agricultural EIP.
Which stakeholders & experts have been or will be consulted, how, and at what stage?
Relevant stakeholders have been consulted via the Advisory Group "Agriculture and Environment", several seminars and conferences, as well as a series of informal consultations. Through these consultations, stakeholders had a strong implication in identifying key areas for innovative action. For making the agricultural EIP a success, stakeholder involvement and active participation in innovative action and dissemination activities will continue to play an important role.