



WORKSHOP CONNECTING INNOVATIVE PROJECTS: WATER & AGRICULTURE

30-31 MAY 2018 - ALMERÍA, SPAIN



EIP-AGRI Workshop

'Connecting innovative projects: Water & Agriculture'

Wednesday 30 May – Thursday 31 May 2018, Almería, Spain

"Water scarcity and climate change are serious challenges for agriculture worldwide. A wide range of multidisciplinary strategies need to be adopted, from breeding to soil and crop management, to secure the sustainability of EU yields and quality of production"

- Brunella MORANDI (Italy), expert from the EIP-AGRI [Focus Group on Water and Agriculture](#) –

Building on the work carried out by in the Focus Group on Water and Agriculture, the EIP-AGRI network is hosting a two-day thematic workshop on water and agriculture. The workshop is dedicated to Operational Groups, research and other type of projects working on water-related innovation in agriculture.

More than 65 Operational Group projects, supported by the Rural Development programmes, are currently dealing with issues about water and agriculture. Most focus on irrigation (precision irrigation or fertigation) or on the protection of groundwater or surface water by testing / developing good agricultural practices. Some projects are also looking at water reuse, water treatment or purification.

The EIP-AGRI network aims to promote cross-border knowledge exchange, networking and continuous cooperation between Operational Groups. This workshop aims to bring these Operational Groups together, provide the possibility to exchange views, experiences and establish new partnerships with others and with research and other types of projects working on water-related innovation in agriculture.

The workshop is organised by the European Commission Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development and the EIP-AGRI Service Point with support of the Andalusian Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development and the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Environment.

Workshop objectives

- Connect Operational Groups with each other and to relevant research/innovation activities
- Exchange good practices
- Identify common challenges and explore potential solutions
- Promote continuous cooperation beyond the workshop

Other thematic EIP-AGRI workshops for Operational Groups

Over 500 Operational Groups have now started, supported by the Rural Development Programmes. This workshop is the third thematic EIP-AGRI workshop for Operational Groups. The first, called [Organic is Operational](#) (Hamburg, June 2017) offered an opportunity for improved networking amongst the first Operational Groups working in organic farming or on closely related subjects across Europe. The second was held in Lyon, France: [Innovation in the supply chain, creating value together](#). It brought together Operational Groups and other innovative projects working on supply chains in agriculture.



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Draft programme

Participation at the workshop is by invitation only

Please note that this workshop will be held in English only

Day 1 – Wednesday, 30 May 2018

- 8:15 – 9:00** **Registration**
- 9:00 – 9:30** **Welcome and introduction**
- **Ricardo Dominguez**, Vice-minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, *Regional Government of Andalusia*
 - **Anikó Seregélyi**, *European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development*
- 9:30 – 10:45** **Setting the scene**
- Part 1: The Framework**
Policy background and European Innovation Partnerships
- **Gerard Shortle**, *European Commission DG Environment*
 - **Anikó Seregélyi**, *European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development*
 - **Carlos Mario Gomez**, representative of *EIP Water*
- Part 2: The Projects**
Interviews with EIP-AGRI Operational Groups, EIP-Water Action Group, LIFE and INTERREG project representatives
- Part 3: The Discussions**
Main outcomes of Focus Groups at European and National level
- **Helena Gomez Macpherson**, coordinating expert of *EIP-AGRI Focus Group: Water & agriculture: adaptive strategies at farm level*
 - **Raquel Bravo Rubio**, coordinator of *Spanish Focus Group on Water management, energy and environment*
- 10:45 – 11:00** **Coffee break**
- 11:15 – 13:00** **Interactive exhibition of projects**
Meet and learn about Operational Groups, research, EIP-Water, LIFE and INTERREG innovative projects
- 13:00-14:00** **Lunch**



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14:00

Departure for field visits

14:00 – 17:00

Field visits to innovative projects near Almeria

(Most of the field visits will be in greenhouses, please consider wearing light clothes and taking some water with you since temperatures may be high)

1. Water quantity; irrigation technologies and techniques

- Las Palmerillas experimental farm of the CAJAMAR foundation: Sensors to automate irrigation systems and make a more optimal use of water.
- Institute for agriculture and fishing training and research of the Andalusian regional government: Evaluation of the effect of irrigation uniformity on crop growth and productivity. Optimisation of water supply when using water from different sources (desalinated, brakish).
- Brief visit to projects in field visit 3

2. Water quality; protection of groundwater or surface water by testing / developing good agricultural practices

- Caparrós Nature company: Experiences in recirculation of nutrient solution in hydroponic systems and organic pest and disease control.
- Bio Campojoyma company: organic vegetable production using strategies to take the most advantage out of available water and local weather conditions.

3. Water reuse, water treatment or purification

- Institute for agriculture and fishing training and research of the Andalusian regional government: Cleanleach technology to treat greenhouse drainage water for later reuse in irrigation.
- Las Palmerillas experimental farm of the CAJAMAR foundation: PURASOL project on the treatment of animal slurries using microalgae and bacteria associations to recover water for irrigation and types of products for use in agriculture.
- Brief visit to projects in field visit 1

4. Multi-scale integration for conservation and efficient use of water resources

Biosabor project: Project on management of water resources in organic agriculture by using desalinated water and rainwater. The project also seeks to increase biodiversity and improve landscape by growing native plants on water basins. This in turn increases water oxygen content and reduces copper consumption.

18:00

Return from field visits

19:00

Visit of Alcazaba and networking dinner

Courtesy of the Andalusian Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development. Buses leave the hotel at 19:00



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22:00 **Return to hotel (by bus)**

Day 2 – Thursday, 31 May 2018

8:15 – 9:00 **Registration**

9:00 – 9:30 **Interactive plenary**

Feedback from the morning session and field visits from day 1

9:30 – 11:00 **Breakout groups on 4 topics:**

- Water quality (pollutants, pesticides and nutrients)
- Water quantity (irrigation technology and techniques)
- Integrated water management (governance, quality + quantity, water resources)
- Water recycling and re-use

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30 – 12:30 **Discussions in open space**

Working in groups on the conversations of your choice, to innovate, explore common issues, share expertise and solve problems

12:30 – 13:00 **Plenary session: Main outcomes and next steps**

Reviewing our time together, what we have shared, solutions we have found and where we are going next.

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch and goodbye**