



EIP-AGRI SEMINAR DIGITAL INNOVATION HUBS
FOR AGRICULTURE
1-2 JUNE 2017 - KILKENNY, IRELAND



EIP-AGRI Seminar **'Digital Innovation Hubs: mainstreaming digital agriculture'**

Thursday 1 – Friday 2 June 2017
Kilkenny, Ireland

The farming sector has never stopped innovating and every generation brings new technological and organisational improvements and competencies. However, the pace of technological innovation is proceeding faster than ever before and it is important to ensure that EU farmers take full advantage of this "digital revolution".

ICT developers and agricultural businesses are keen to assess which technologies, including the most disruptive ones like the Internet of Things, Big Data, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence etc., could help the sector meet the current challenge of 'producing more with less'. However, the farming sector can find it difficult to see the real added value of these technologies, to decide which ones to invest in, when to invest and to what extent.

Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) can act as one-stop-shops enabling any business to access the latest knowledge, expertise and technology for testing and experimenting with digital innovations. They provide connections with investors, facilitate access to financing for digital transformations, and help connect users in agriculture with ICT suppliers of digital innovations across the value chain. DIH can help both agricultural businesses and ICT companies to become more competitive, thus boosting growth and job creation.

The seminar's main objective is to enable policy makers, research and technology organisations, the agricultural sector, and investors to share knowledge, expertise and needs to develop Digital Innovation Hubs for agriculture.

In order to achieve its overall objective, the event will aim to:

- Clarify the concept of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) and how they can contribute to mainstream digital innovations in agriculture.
- Identify and connect existing initiatives and entities in Europe with the capacity to share technical, financial, training and/or other services to contribute to the development of DIHs in agriculture.
- Identify and discuss the specific needs and potential barriers to develop DIHs in Europe focused on agriculture.
- Define main priority steps to further develop DIHs in agriculture and to foster collaboration among them at European level.



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Programme

Please note that this seminar will be held in English only.

Wednesday, 31 May 2017

- 18.00 – 19.00** **Welcome Event**
Visit of Kilkenny Castle, *hosted by the Kilkenny County Council*
- 19.00 – 20.30** **Reception**
Welcoming words, *Patrick O'Neill, Mayor of Kilkenny*
Intervention, *Pekka Pesonen, Secretary General COPA-COGECA*

Day 1 – Thursday, 1 June 2017

- 8.30 – 9.00** **Registration**
- 9.00 – 9.30** **Welcome and introduction**
Opening speech
Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
- Digitisation of European agriculture in the political agenda
Paolo De Castro MEP, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
- Introduction to the objectives of the seminar
European Commission - DG AGRI

Session 1: Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) and their contribution to mainstream digital innovation in agriculture

- 9.30 – 10.00** The policy framework: Digitising the EU Industry and Digital Innovation Hubs
Ronan Burgess, European Commission - DG CNECT
- Building effective innovative ecosystems: an example of Digital Innovation Hub
Cato Bechtold, Ministry of Economic Affairs - The Netherlands
- 10.00 – 11.15** The main building blocks of a DIH in agriculture
- *Peter Liggesmeyer, Fraunhofer - DE*
 - *Tom Kelly, EUFRRAS/TEAGASC - IE*
 - *Mihai & Stefan Stanescu, AGRISO - RO*
 - *Hubert Cottogni, EIF*
 - *Alfonso Ribas Álvarez (INGACAL) & Luis Pérez Freire, (Gradiant) - ES*
 - *Daniel Azevedo, COPA-COGECA*
- 11.15 – 11.40** **Coffee break**



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Session 2: Building the concept of DIH together

11.40 – 12.40 What does DIH mean to me?
Breakout session

12.40 – 14.00 **Lunch**

Session 3: Specific needs and potential barriers to develop DIHs in Europe focused on agriculture

14.00 – 17.00 Specific needs & barriers of DIHs in agriculture
Breakout session in 'World Café' format

17.00 **End of day 1**

19.00 **Networking dinner at the conference venue**

Day 2 – Friday, 2 June 2017

Session 4: Developing DIHs for agriculture in Europe: what is there to support the process?

9.00 – 9.45 Wrap up of Day 1 and introduction to Day 2
Plenary

9.45 – 11.00 Identify & connect initiatives which can be developed to DIHs
Open Space

11.00 – 11.20 **Coffee break**

Session 5: Priority actions to further develop DIHs in agriculture and to foster collaboration among them at European level

11.20 – 12.15 *Open Space - continued*

12.15 – 13.00 Wrapping up and conclusions: "Priority actions towards DIH in agriculture"

Closing speech
Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development

13.00 **End of the seminar and lunch**