Press article
Digital Innovation Hubs

DECEMBER 2017

Press article 500words

Farming sector to benefit from cooperation with IT suppliers

FarmHackNL connects farmers with customers, techies and hackers

Bringing together farmers, IT suppliers, technology experts, investors and other relevant actors will lead to new digital applications that are adapted to the real needs of farmers. That is one of the aims of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH) which are mushrooming all over the European Union. Initiatives such as FarmHackNL can play a major role in initiating DIHs. FarmHackNL is a privately run network organisation that focuses on using digital technology to generate innovations in agriculture. Josien Kapma, co-founder of FarmHackNL, explains: "More people are using technology to develop radically new solutions. In agriculture this is especially interesting. Where digital technologies were used mainly to optimise the production process, they are now also used to create new value propositions. We help to build new data-driven partnerships to do just that."

In FarmHackNL, Kapma mobilises creative people, like developers, planners and architects, who use their expertise in designing solutions for ICT issues in agriculture. Kapma: "We have the same goal as a DIH: to build a healthy Agri and Food Tech innovation ecosystem. To reach that goal, we organise trade missions, workshops, hackathons and other events." All these events serve to share knowledge, get intelligence and make valuable connections between different parts of the FarmHack community. Whether it is connecting farmers to potential customers, companies to tech talent or hackers to mentors and investors. If new value propositions arise from the events, FarmHackNL offers support to start-ups."

Kapma: "We facilitate on-farm hackathons built up around challenges and ideas of individual farmers. Teams of coders, hackers and designers work for 32 hours and try to solve as many problems on the farm as they can, or develop an idea."

FarmHackNL runs five hackathons a year. One of these focused on high quality data for precision agriculture. Kapma: "Potato farmer Jacob van den Borne was looking for ways to visualise his data, to make better decisions on the farm and in the field, because most of his precision agriculture data were stored and locked in static databases on desktop computers." The interdisciplinary teams found three solutions, the winning idea being software to program an on-machine camera to take automated pictures of points of interest in the field.

As a concrete result of another hackathon, the Future Food Hack, three entrepreneurs have developed Boer&Bunder: a free web application that has brought together open data for the last six years, to visualise land parcels. Kapma: "Data on crop rotation, soil types, satellite imagery and nature conservation measures were already public, but hidden in large portals, so individual farmers did not use them. Thanks to the visualisation at land parcel level, the data are now massively used."

FarmHackNL uses GitHub, an online open-source development platform to urge teams to make everything open and available from the start. Kapma concludes: "FarmHackNL also supports FarmHack.org, a worldwide community of farmers that build and modify their own tools. They share their hacks online and at FarmHack events, because 'we become better farmers when we work together'."

funded by European Commission

Press article 250words

Farming sector to benefit from cooperation with IT suppliers

FarmHackNL connects farmers with customers, techies and hackers

Bringing together farmers, IT suppliers, technology experts, investors and other relevant actors will lead to new digital applications that are adapted to the real needs of farmers. That is one of the aims of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH) which are mushrooming all over the European Union. Initiatives such as FarmHackNL can play a major role in initiating DIHs. FarmHackNL is a privately run network organisation that focuses on using digital technology to generate innovations in agriculture. Josien Kapma, co-founder of FarmHackNL, explains: "More and more people are using technology to develop radically new solutions."

FarmHackNL facilitates on-farm hackathons built up around challenges and ideas of individual farmers. Kapma mobilises creative people, who use their expertise in designing solutions for ICT issues in agriculture: "Teams of coders, hackers and designers work for 32 hours and try to solve as many problems on the farm as they can, or develop an idea. Potato farmer Jacob van den Borne, for example, was looking for ways to visualise his data, to be able to make better decisions on the farm and in the field." The interdisciplinary teams came up with three solutions, the winning idea being software to program an on-machine camera to take automated pictures of points of interest in the field.

Kapma concludes: "FarmHackNL also supports FarmHack.org, a worldwide community of farmers that build and modify their own tools. They share their hacks online and at FarmHack events, because 'we become better farmers when we work together'."

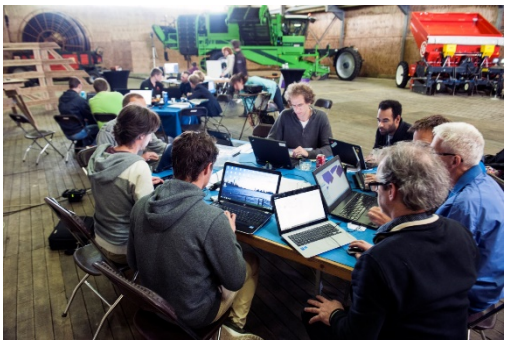
Background information

More information on Farmhack

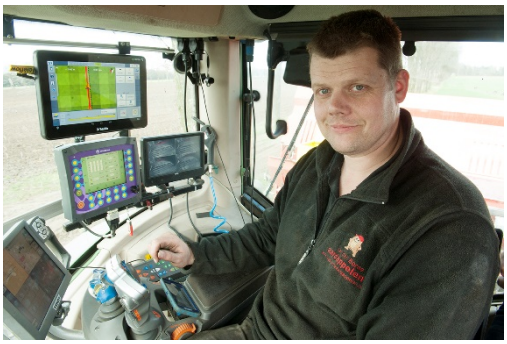
Farmhack website:

- www.farmhack.nl (including an English version)
- www.farmhack.org

Pictures



FarmHackNL organises on-farm hackathons as competitions, where three dedicated and interdisciplinary teams tackle challenges of individual farmers and come up with data-driven and tech-driven solutions- Copyright: Ernst Ruijgrok (Ruigwerk)



One hackathon took place at the farm of Jacob van den Borne, a Dutch potato farmer who produces large amounts of high quality precision agricultural data- Copyright: Ernst Ruijgrok (Ruigwerk)

funded by European Commission

Download the high resolution versions

More information on Digital Innovation Hubs

- EIP-AGRI Seminar on Digital Innovation Hubs (including short report and final report)
- EIP-AGRI Factsheet 'Shaping the digital (r)evolution in agriculture'

+30 Digital Innovation Hubs will be selected to take part in a programme which will provide training, workshops and mentoring on business development skills and on sustainable activities as part of the project "Smart Factories in new EU Member States" the European Commission. The DIHs should be an important pillar for the digitisation of the industry in the selected countries and regions, where at the moment companies are investing less in digital technologies than in other parts of Europe or in other sectors. More info

- Smart Applications Platform from the European Commission: Online Digital Innovation Hubs catalogue
- AIOTI WG06 Reports on Smart Farming and Food Security (Alliance for Internet of Things Innovation WG 6 is the key meeting point of EU- based stakeholders interested in developing and exploiting the benefits of IoT (technologies, ecosystem and infrastructure) in the domains of farming for food production and food safety, from farm to fork.)
- FAO brochure – national e-agriculture strategy

EIP-AGRI Inspiration from your country on digital innovation hubs

Here below you find a list of topics that have been covered in one of the EIP-AGRI events and / or EIP-AGRI publications.

Germany	Presentation: DIH for smart agriculture	Seminar Digital Innovation Hubs
Italy	Presentation: Mainstreaming Digital Agriculture': Agricultural Multi-Regional Guarantee Platform (AMGP)	Seminar Digital Innovation Hubs
Spain	Presentation: Galician DIH for Agrifood industry	Seminar Digital Innovation Hubs

More inspiration from your country on digitisation, can be found in the previous press article 'Web-based information and advisory system help German fruit growers optimise returns'.

EIP-AGRI

The European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability' (EIP-AGRI) is one of five EIPs which have been launched by the European Commission in a bid to promote rapid modernisation of the sectors concerned, by stepping up innovation efforts.

The EIP-AGRI aims to foster innovation in the agricultural and forestry sectors by bringing research and practice closer together – in research and innovation projects as well as via the EIP-AGRI network.

EIPs aim to streamline, simplify and better coordinate existing instruments and initiatives, and complement them with actions where necessary. Two specific funding sources are particularly important for the EIP-AGRI: the EU Research and Innovation framework, Horizon 2020, as well as the EU Rural Development Policy.

- EIP-AGRI Brochure on the EIP-AGRI Network (2015) (EN – FR – GR – HU – IT – PT – RO - SP)

- EIP-AGRI Brochure on Thematic Networks under Horizon 2020 (EN – FR – HU – SP)
- EIP-AGRI Brochure Horizon 2020 multi-actor projects (EN)
- EIP-AGRI Brochure on Funding opportunities under Horizon 2020 - 2018 Calls: (EN)

funded by European Commission

EIP-AGRI Operational Groups

EIP-AGRI Operational Groups are groups of people who work together in an innovation project funded by Rural Development Programmes (RDPs). Operational Groups are the EIP-AGRI's main tool for turning innovative ideas into real solutions for the field.

An Operational Group consists of several partners with a common interest in a specific, practical innovation project. The people involved in the Operational Group should bring in different types of practical and, where necessary, scientific expertise. They may include farmers, scientists, agri-business representatives and many others. Every country or region has the possibility to define specific national demands or restrictions on how to put together an Operational Group.

- Visit the **Operational Groups page** on the **EIP-AGRI website**
- **EIP-AGRI Brochure on Operational Groups: Turning your idea into innovation (update 2016)** (EN – CZ – FR - HU – PT – RO – SK – SP)

Contact information

Communication officer
EIP-AGRI Service Point
ina.vanhoye@eip-agri.eu
+32 486 90 77 43

funded by European Commission