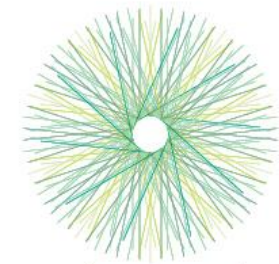


EIP-AGRI Workshop Small is smart

29-30 October 2019– Bucharest, Romania



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AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION



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Programme

DAY 1 - TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER

09:00 - 10:15

Welcoming participants and setting the scene

- Welcome to Bucharest and short introduction about small farms innovation in Romania by the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture, [Dana Reberga](#), Deputy General Director of the [MoA](#)
- Opening words from the European Commission, [Inge Van Oost](#), DG AGRI
- Ice-breaker
- Presentations
 - Small smart farms: how can small farms benefit from digital innovations in agriculture? [Leanne Townsend](#), James Hutton Institute, UK
 - An overview of the CUMA: farm machinery cooperatives, [Stephane Diard](#), FN CUMA, France
 - Direct selling: an instrument to improve profitability in small-scale farming, [Bavo Verwilt](#), Organic farmer, Belgium
 - Combining innovation with tradition for economic viability of Romania's small-scale farms, [Razvan Popa](#), Adept Foundation, Romania
 - Small-scale Bioeconomy Opportunities for European Farmers, [James Gaffey](#), Biorefinery glass project, Ireland

10:15 - 11:00

Breakout session: **What steps could a small farmer take to introduce innovation or good practices?**

11:00 - 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 - 13:00

Continuation of breakout session: **What steps could a small farmer take to introduce innovation or good practices?**

13:00 - 13:50

Lunch

14:00 - 18:30

Field trip to the Romanian Horticultural Institute



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Programme

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER

08:30 - 09:00 **Registration**

09:00 - 09:45 A **welcome back** to participants

Energiser exercise

What is the EIP-AGRI? The importance of knowledge exchange (and the local AKIS in general) in successful EIP-AGRI implementation, **Inge Van Oost, DG AGRI**

An **introduction** to the rest of the day

09:45 - 10:45 Breakout session: **How can best practice sharing, collaboration, digitalisation and knowledge transfer best support innovation in small farms?**

- Which types of collaboration support small farmers to innovate and how?
- How can small farmers be encouraged and supported to utilise digitalisation as a means to innovate?
- Which methods of knowledge sharing work best for small farmers and how can these methods support innovation?

10:45 - 11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15 - 12:30 Breakout session: **How could the innovation support environment for small farmers be improved at a regional, national and European level?**

- What type of advisory services best support small farmers?
- What type of innovation support would help best?
- How can networking help small farmers?
- What areas of research are important for small farmers?

12:30 - 13:30 **Bringing participants together** and reflect on the workshop's outcomes

13:30 - 14:30 **Farewell & lunch**



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Small Smart Farms:

how can small farms benefit from digital innovations?

Leanne Townsend.



The James
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Small farms in Europe

- Small farms across Europe face a number of similar challenges:
 - Geographical remoteness
 - Ageing populations
 - Scales of production
 - Access to markets
- Wider impacts on resilience of rural communities
 - Small farms are important sources of employment, contribute to local economies
- Urban-rural and rural-rural/agricultural digital divides



The promise of digitalisation

- Smart farming technologies (SFTs) e.g. variable rate precision farming, smart sensors, drone technologies revolutionising agriculture (Vuran et al. 2018) :
 - Better productivity, yields, cost savings
 - Support environmentally sustainable farming practices (Rose & Chilvers 2018)



HOWEVER:

- Role of farm size
- Inequalities due to unequal access to SFTs and infrastructures
- Advancing digitalisation of agriculture threatens further marginalisation both for small farms, and their wider rural communities.



Agrilink (Horizon 2020)

- Led by Pierre Labarthe, INRA
- Project exploring the role of advisors in the uptake of agricultural innovations
- 9 innovation areas, including direct marketing, natural resource management and *smart farming technologies (SFTs)*



FINDINGS (SFTs):

- Large farms most likely to adopt SFTs
 - Cost of investment
 - Size of farm and return on investment
 - Values (“the good farmer”), and identifying with tech, modern vs. traditional practices



DESIRA (Horizon 2020)

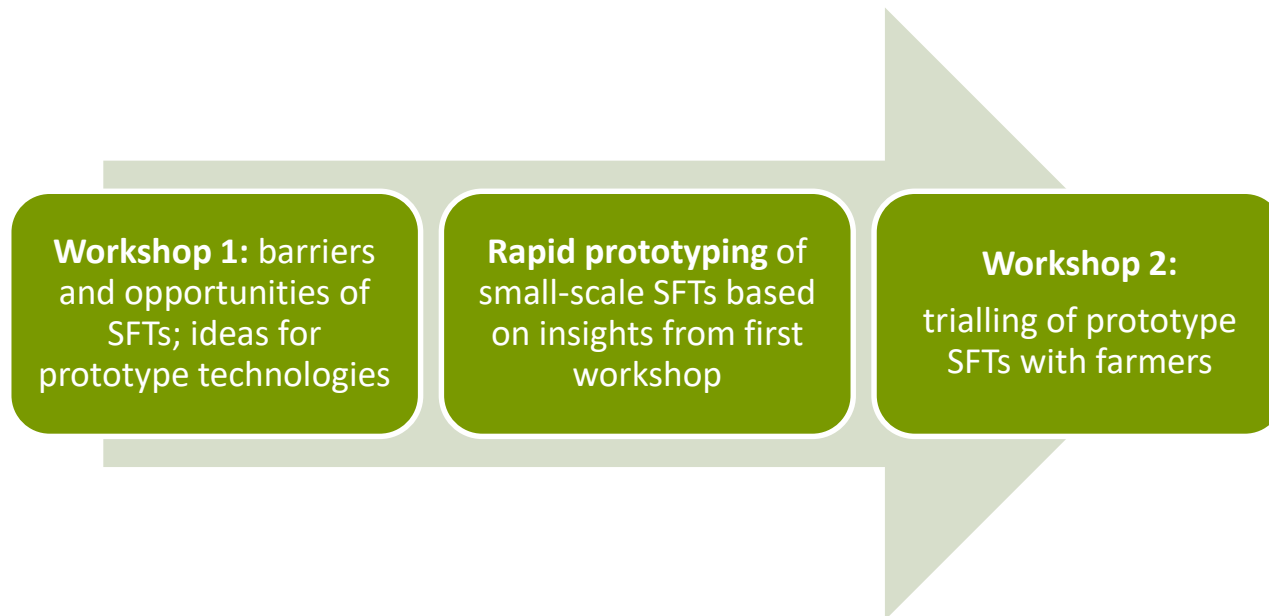
- New project, led by Gianluca Brunori, Pisa University
- The impacts of digitalisation in different rural contexts:
 - Agriculture
 - Forestry
 - Rural community and enterprise
- “New digital technologies are *game changers*... *Game changers* reconfigure social practices generating both opportunities and threats, winners and losers.”
- Comprehensive assessment of opportunities and threats taking UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as points of reference
- Living labs in 21 countries. Scottish case study: Crofters (hill farmers)



Small Smart Farms (EPSRC)

“Small Smart Farms” aims to understand and demonstrate the value of Smart Farming Technologies for small-scale farms, enabling them to benefit from future technological developments.

- Working with small-scale farmers in upland areas:



- Feedback phase following second workshop



Looking forward...

- Research on digitalisation in agro-forestry sector stresses *Responsible Research and Innovation* (RRI) as a possible solution (Bronson 2018; Eastwood et al. 2017; Salemink et al. 2017).
- *RRI = scientific research and technological development processes that acknowledge effects and potential impacts on the environment and society beyond market benefits and risks*
- Importance of participatory, multi-actor approach
- Inclusion of small farm stakeholders in research and innovation projects
- RRI embedded into training and education in the future





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Questions?

Contact:

Leanne Townsend:

leanne.townsend@hutton.ac.uk

