

eip-agri
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

agri innovation

WHERE RESEARCH AND PRACTICE MEET

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3

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- By the farmer, for the farmer: New tools for exchanging knowledge
- Looking for real solutions: Operational Groups' first steps
- Horizon 2020 Thematic networks: Field-ready research
- Your network: EIP-AGRI ambassadors spread the word

Cooperate to innovate!

FINLAND: Getting more out of forests

POLAND: Supporting agricultural innovators

SPAIN: RETHINK organic vegetable production



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Welcome to the third edition of Agrinnovation!

One year ago from these same pages, EU Commissioner Phil Hogan said that “more than ever, innovation is key for the agricultural sector” considering the global challenges ahead. This is still true today, and the European Commission has invested even more in research and innovation. Great importance is given to approaches which generate new knowledge and knowledge exchange between farmers, foresters and other actors. After all, “knowledge is no good unless it can be used by those who benefit most from it.”

In this spirit, the EIP-AGRI is continuing to work towards an agriculture of knowledge by connecting farmers, scientists and everyone working with them to generate innovative ideas for a more productive and sustainable EU agricultural sector.

With the approval of the 118 EU Rural Development Programmes, the first Operational Groups have been launched to generate innovative, ready-to-use solutions to real agricultural challenges. Some of these groups met in an EIP-AGRI workshop in April to start exchanging experiences and to learn from each other. The EIP-AGRI network collects information on these projects and ensures that this is shared across the EU. Its aim is to enable even more interaction and speed up the uptake of innovations in the agriculture and forestry sectors.

Making this information available through the EIP-AGRI network should also improve mutually beneficial connections between Operational Groups and research consortia under the EU research policy Horizon 2020. Including the 2017 calls published this year, so far the EU has invested over EUR 370 million in the Horizon 2020 work programme for 2016-2017 for multi-actor projects, including thematic networks. These Horizon 2020 projects can help to make a difference in the field, making EU agriculture more competitive and more sustainable. To do this, they will need to focus on effective communication, making sure it is well targeted, and feed into Operational Groups and other innovative projects and advisory services.



And this all starts from you! By communicating about yourself, your questions, your projects and by spreading the word about the EIP-AGRI to your own network of contacts in your own language, you can help the EIP-AGRI network to grow and make an impact! In this magazine, you'll learn about first experiences of Operational Groups and success stories in knowledge sharing. You'll also find a roundup of recent EIP-AGRI activities, inspirational ideas and networking opportunities across the EU, and ways to get involved.

We hope you enjoy reading it.

Rob Peters
Head of Unit Research & Innovation
Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission



Looking for real solutions Operational Groups' first steps

"We were happy to present our project and show that farmers have a real interest in this kind of collaboration. The workshop brought us new contacts and answered specific questions we had about managing our project."

**- Jean-Marc Gautier,
OG ROBUSTAGNO -**

Over 100 Operational Group (OG) projects were already launched across Europe in April 2016, and the number is still going up. Each OG makes the most of knowledge from their project partners, which have different backgrounds and expertise, to tackle the real needs of farmers and foresters.

Operational Groups are projects to catalyse innovation in agriculture and forestry, funded through the EU national and regional Rural Development Programmes. The projects bring together farmers, advisers, scientists and others to find innovative solutions for problems faced by farmers and foresters.

First experiences

The first Operational Groups are up and running, and sharing knowledge is crucial at this stage. This is why the European Commission's DG AGRI organised a two-day workshop in Italy in April 2016. Participants from 23 European countries came and shared practical experiences from the setting-up process and the early implementation of Operational Group projects.

A selection of OGs were given centre stage at the event, to present their

experiences, lessons learnt and needs for the future:



Zero herbicides in Mediterranean perennial crops - Languedoc- Roussillon, France

Evaluates and promotes innovative soil management techniques without herbicides in perennial crops, such as vineyards and orchards. The project focuses on soil protection, and on management systems that save farmers time and money.





Fiery Clearwing
(*Pyropteron Chrysidiformis*)



ROBUSTAGNO - Midi-Pyrénées, France

Identifies innovative solutions to reduce lamb mortality by making lambs more robust at birth. The project strongly involves farmers in all stages of the project.



Population management - Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

Aims to find solutions for small and local populations of old breeds of domestic animals to ensure long-term genetic diversity.



Winter harvest - Austria

Explores suitable species and cultivation dates for winter vegetables - harvested in winter and produced with a low-energy input to let farmers extend their existing product range.



ENU-Wheat - Hessen, Germany

Set up a wheat value chain with different partners, to find a reliable way to produce sustainable and environmentally friendly wheat with high protein quality, that requires less nitrogen fertiliser application.



Organic dock control - Austria

Evaluates whether native clearwing moths can be applied as an effective organic measure to control broad-leaved dock weeds, which cause heavy loss of cattle fodder in Austrian grassland.

The shared knowledge and lessons learnt from this workshop should help the successful implementation of new projects. The EIP-AGRI website www.eip-agri.eu will keep you up-to-date!



#EIP_OG



▶ All presentations and workshop documents are available in the [events section of the EIP-AGRI website](#).

▶ To find out more about these and other OGs present at the workshop, read the [dedicated booklet](#).

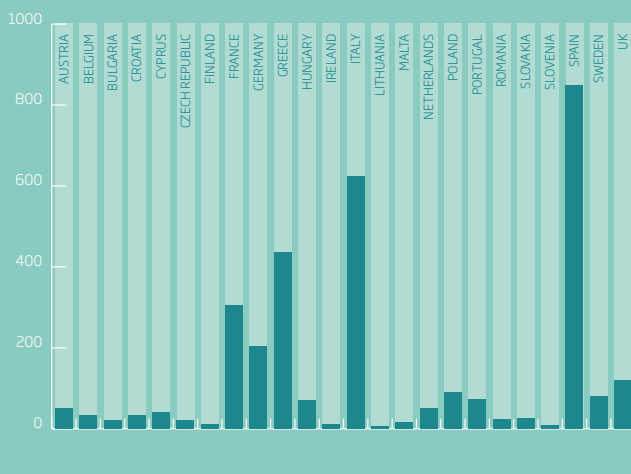
▶ For more details, [download the EIP-AGRI brochure on Operational Groups](#).





Did you know?

- ▶ A total of 3,205 OGs are expected to be set up under the approved rural development programmes (2014-2020) in 94 EU countries and regions. An overview is available on the [EIP-AGRI website](#).
- ▶ Find more facts and figures, and download interesting graphs on the [EIP-AGRI website](#)



Germany has set up its own database where information on all regional OG projects is being added.



The workshop was organised in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, the Italian National Rural Network, the Veneto Region and Veneto Agricoltura (Regional Agency for Agriculture, Forestry and Agri-Food Sectors). ●



Inspirational idea



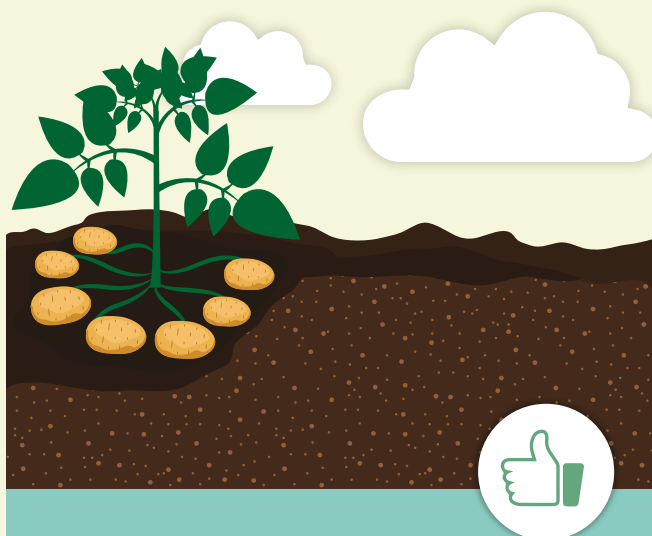
Smart solutions for salty soils

Soils are becoming increasingly saline, which is turning out to be a real challenge for the cultivation of arable crops worldwide. In cooperation with farmers and breeders, the Dutch company 'Salt Farm Texel' is now developing solutions for saline agriculture by identifying salt-tolerant crops and new cultivation methods.

Salt Farm Texel has an open-air laboratory in the Dutch Wadden Sea region where salt-tolerance levels of potatoes, carrots and other crops are screened and cultivation methods for saline crops are tested under field conditions. The company is developing specific fertilisers and strategies to cope with saline soil properties and irrigation.

Collaboration across the agro-food chain

"Salt Farm Texel works closely with farmers, breeders, market distributors and others in the food chain. This allows us to test and cultivate many different crops and varieties", says Dr. Arjen de Vos, head of Research and Development. Remarkable results for salt-tolerance have been found for potatoes, and also for barley, carrots, onion, cabbage, and even strawberries. Salt Farm Texel is involved in many projects which show that saline agriculture can be developed as a resource for increased food production in salt-affected areas which would otherwise be considered unproductive. ●



Future-proof potatoes

A collaboration between Salt Farm Texel and two Dutch potato breeders has resulted in a salt-tolerant potato that can withstand salinity levels of up to three times the average potato. This variety does not need freshwater irrigation to grow, which means that it offers future solutions for saving water. This variety is now being introduced in salt-affected fields in Pakistan and Bangladesh.



More information:

- ▶ <http://www.saltfarmtexel.com>
- ▶ [@SaltFarmTexel](https://twitter.com/SaltFarmTexel)



Innovation support services

Hands-on guidance for innovative ideas

Innovation support services can help in setting up Operational Groups and other projects to stimulate innovation in agriculture and forestry. Rural development programmes offer opportunities for member states and regions to fund and set up innovation support services and brokering. These play a crucial role in collecting grassroots ideas from the field and bringing the right partners together, to get innovative projects off the ground. Have a look at the following examples of innovation support from Poland, Austria and Wales.



Poland: Open network with a focus on innovation

The Polish “Network for innovation in agriculture and rural areas” (SIR) is part of the National Rural Network. It is funded by the technical assistance measure of the

“We want to ensure knowledge exchange between farmers, advisers and scientists, and give them inspiration to find innovative solutions to their problems.”

- Iwona Obojska, Agricultural Advisory Centre Poland -

Polish rural development programme. The Agricultural Advisory Centre in Brwinów acts as a central coordinator while regional agricultural advisory offices carry out specific support tasks. The SIR is an open network and it includes farmers, foresters, research institutes, advisers, rural residents and agri-businesses. SIR organises events to facilitate knowledge exchange and support innovative projects. In March 2016, 200 people from the agriculture and food production sector in Poland joined the ‘Farmer Days’ to discuss innovative and competitive solutions in crops, milk, cattle and livestock production.

- ▶ <http://cdr.gov.pl/sir>
- ▶ Please contact Iwona Obojska for more information: i.obojska@cdr.gov.pl





Austria: Innovation support that informs and connects

Austrian innovation support services are funded through the technical assistance measure of the national rural development programme. They connect people and organisations that work on similar topics, give practical advice, and support Operational Group members in finding new and sometimes unexpected partners to form innovation partnerships. In March 2015, a kick-off meeting introduced 250 participants to the EIP-AGRI. The Austrian brokers are currently on a tour to each of the Austrian federal states, giving tailor-made information to small groups of stakeholders (between 10 and 50 people). The size of the groups lends itself perfectly for in-depth discussions and for collecting individual innovation needs.

- ▶ <http://www.zukunftstraumland.at/> (website in German)
- ▶ Contact Johanna Stieblehner for more information: johanna.stieblehner@zukunftstraumland.at



Wales: Farming Connect

Farming Connect is funded by the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The Farming Connect's 'Knowledge Exchange Hub' supports the implementation of the EIP-AGRI in Wales by helping farmers, foresters and businesses with an innovative idea to set up Operational Groups. The project idea is discussed at a very early stage to make sure it is relevant to the EIP-AGRI. If it is, an innovation broker is available to assist the project members in identifying relevant partners and in preparing the Operational Group application. If the application is successful, the innovation broker can also facilitate the project implementation: ensuring all milestones are met. Research results and advice on best practices from EIP-AGRI Wales will be disseminated to the wider industry.



- ▶ www.gov.wales/farmingconnect



Inspirational idea



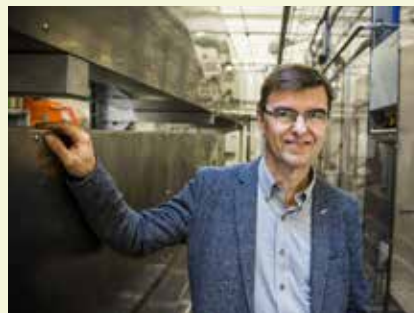
Producing protein feed and fuel from biomass

The natural process that turns organic material into oil normally takes millions of years. Researchers from the Danish AU Foulum (Aarhus University) have now developed an innovative energy facility that can do the same thing in only half an hour. It is particularly promising for farmers as it involves new methods for converting grass and clover into both protein feed and green energy.

As a first step, a dual processing plant extracts the protein from grass or clover, which farmers can use as protein feed for pigs and poultry. This feed forms an excellent source of protein for monogastric animals that would normally not be able to fully take up the grass because of its high cellulose and lignin content. The feed can also potentially replace soybean imports from South America, saving farmers money. A second process then turns the waste from this product and from other biomass sources into CO₂-neutral fuels by converting the wet biomass into bio-oil under high temperature and pressure – imitating processes that naturally take place in the ground.

The researchers expect this new technology will enable farmers to double their protein yield. Clover crops, for instance, are green in winter and can, compared to grain crops, be grown for a longer period of the year.

They have a smaller environmental footprint and do not require nitrogen fertilisers and pesticides. Using protein crops for producing feed,



“This innovative technology caters to the growing demand for non-fossil energy, and researchers expect that it will also improve economic stability for farmers.”

*- Ib Johansen,
Associate Professor
at the department of
Engineering, Aarhus
University -*

chemicals and fuel from biomass would open further perspectives for developing high-yield cropping systems in organic and conventional agriculture, with a lower environmental impact. Aarhus University is now working with businesses that are planning to put the whole process into wider use within the next 2 to 5 years. ●

Read more on biobased production from Aarhus University:



► <http://dca.au.dk/en/research/biobase>





Tomato Masters

Reducing waste in the circular economy

Closing the loop

For many decades, our economy has depended on a 'linear' production method. We use natural inputs like oil, gas, water, minerals, we make products and throw away or - at best - recycle the waste produced. However, as populations are rising in number and resources are not endless, a new 'circular' model has come about. In the 'circular economy', efficient use of resources is placed at the heart of the production chain. However, this model can lead to challenges for entrepreneurs, who need to think about where to get their inputs from and how to manage their by-products (which were previously seen as 'waste'). Practice has shown that new, sometimes unexpected, partnerships can be established to find sustainable solutions for dealing with both inputs and outputs.

Horticulture meets aquaponics

The Belgian horticultural company 'Tomato Masters' set up a successful cooperation with a neighbouring fish farm called 'Aqua4C'. Water is captured from Tomato Masters' greenhouse roofs and recycled to fill the fish tanks. Johan Vlaemynck from Tomato Masters explains: "We make optimum use of energy and nutrients by setting up a recirculation system with very low waste of water." Waste water from the fish tanks is filtered, treated with UV sterilisation, and used to irrigate and fertilise the tomato plants, saving the company 25% on



fertilisers. For energy-efficiency, the surplus heat from the Tomato Masters' 'combined heat and power plant' (CHP) is used to keep the temperature in the fish tanks at 27°. The surplus electricity is used to power the fish farm's pumps, aerators, lighting and other electrical equipment. To power their CHP, Tomato Masters are now exploring the possibility of replacing natural gas with renewable energy. ●



More information:

► <http://tomatomasters.be/>
(website in Dutch and French)

All publications and presentations from the EIP-AGRI workshop 'Opportunities for agriculture and forestry in the Circular Economy' held in October 2015 are available in the events section of the [EIP-AGRI website](http://EIP-AGRIwebsite).



Designing the path for EU agricultural research and innovation

European Research and Innovation (R&I) can play a major part in solving long-term agricultural challenges. What are these challenges exactly? And how can EU Research and Innovation have a lasting impact and help bring change for farmers and foresters in the field? To answer these questions, DG AGRI held a three-day conference in January 2016.

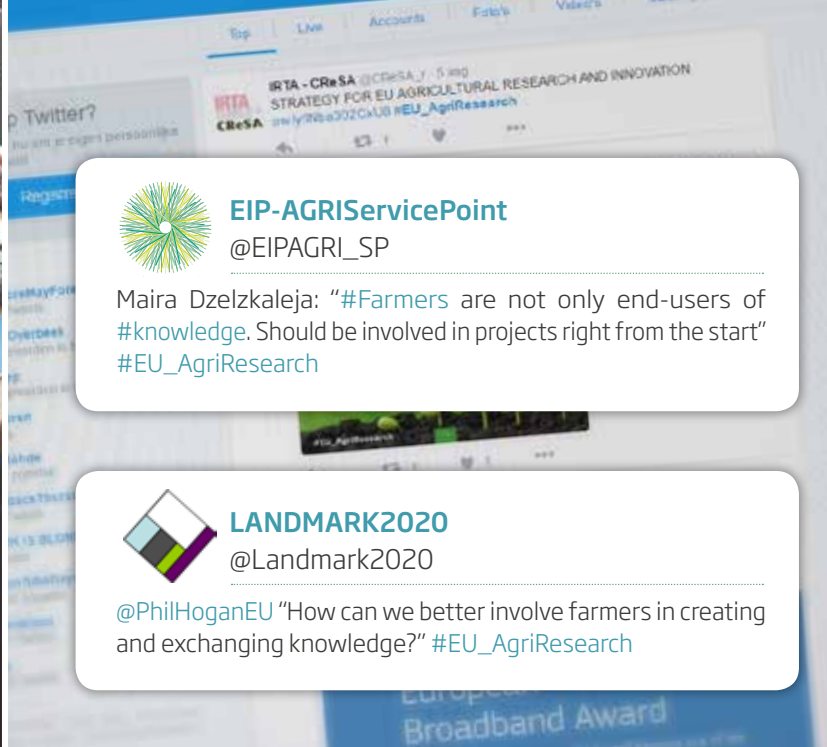
A long-term vision for agricultural research and innovation

Research takes time. A long-term strategy makes it easier to identify priorities and to make sure the solutions have an impact. The conference in January 2016 was called 'Designing the path: a strategic approach to EU agricultural research and innovation' and it presented a long-term strategy to tackle challenges in agriculture, forestry and rural development in a sustainable way. The event concluded a year of discussions and activities, including a workshop at EXPO Milan in June 2015.

Over 500 participants, including scientists, science networks, international organisations and other interested stakeholders attended the conference to weigh up the priorities and discuss ways to implement the proposed strategy. Commissioner Hogan opened the conference, stating that investing in research and innovation is vital to be able to meet the challenges that lie ahead and help the agricultural sector to become "smarter, leaner and cleaner". He also encouraged all research providers and funders to set up partnerships and "build new fora for true collaboration".

"Agricultural research and innovation will play a vital role in improving the future prospects of the agricultural sector and of rural areas"
- European Commissioner Phil Hogan -





Building bridges

Many of the conference activities highlighted international cooperation and involvement as an important theme. Participants also thought of concrete suggestions to better involve society, sector representatives, and especially farmers, and ways to support this. By closely involving farmers in the entire process of knowledge creation, research can make a real impact. ●

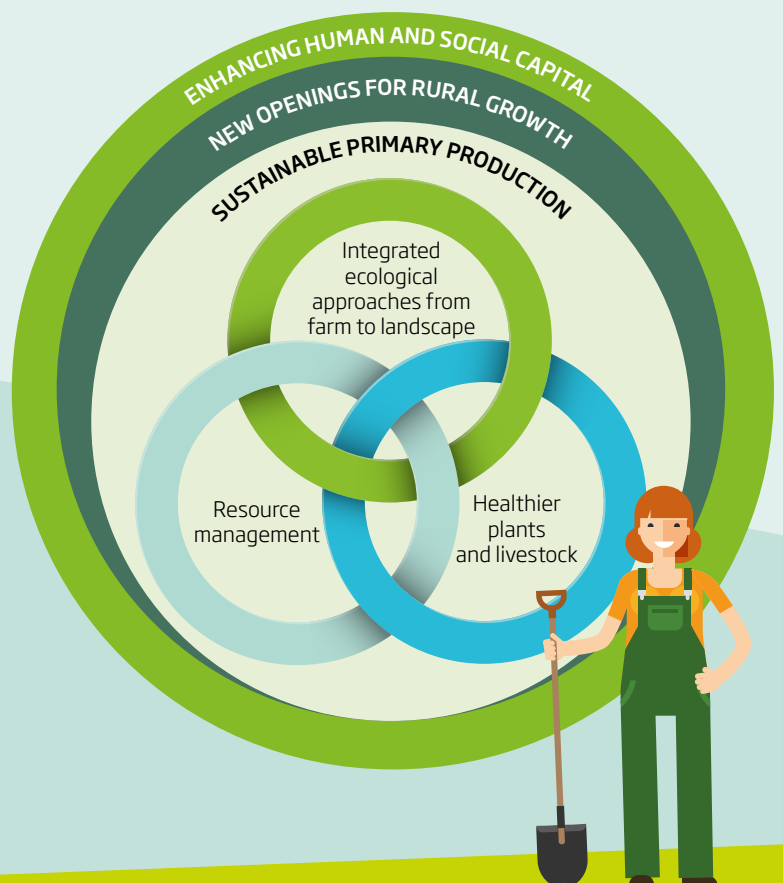
What's next?

Conference results were used to complete the final strategy paper, and will be used to prepare the Horizon 2020 work programme for 2018-2020 and the next framework programme for European research and innovation.

#EU_AgriResearch



Main priorities presented at the Research & Innovation conference:



All videos, presentations and conference papers are available at <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/designing-path-strategic-approach-eu-agricultural-research-and-innovation>





Thematic networks

Knowledge and best practices for agriculture and forestry

Thematic networks are a type of multi-actor project funded under Horizon 2020, the European Commission's programme for research and innovation. Partners from both research and practice collaborate to collect and share existing but insufficiently used scientific knowledge and successful practices from the field.

Thematic networks focus on themes that address urgent needs of farmers and foresters. The networks collect research results and innovative techniques and practices that are ready to be used, but that are not well known. The practical recommendations are then presented in the form of leaflets, guidelines, videos etc. that are easy to understand and can be shared across Europe through the channels commonly used by farmers.

Thematic networks are also required to produce [Practice Abstracts](#) briefly summarising the main findings in a very practical way, and make them available on the EIP-AGRI website. Farmers and other producers are involved in thematic networks from the start, which should lead to the knowledge being quickly adopted and widely disseminated.

In the Horizon 2020 Work Programme for 2017, around €10 million will be dedicated to thematic networks focusing on a more competitive and sustainable agriculture. Have a look at the new [EIP-AGRI brochure on Horizon 2020 - calls 2017](#) for more details. The existing and future thematic networks will enrich the EIP-AGRI network with readily applicable solutions for farming and forestry. ●



Thematic networks: some examples



Winetwork focuses on controlling and fighting Grapevine Trunk Diseases and Flavescence Dorée, which are a major concern to European wine producers



The **AgriSpin** network identifies best practices for innovation brokering and innovation support systems in European agriculture



FERTINNOWA deals with innovative water management in fertigated crops (nutrients added to irrigation water) to improve water quality and water use efficiency and reduce environmental impact

11 thematic networks (calls 2014-2015) have been launched since 2015. To see the full list and to find out more: read the new [EIP-AGRI brochure on Thematic Networks under Horizon 2020](#).



Inspirational idea

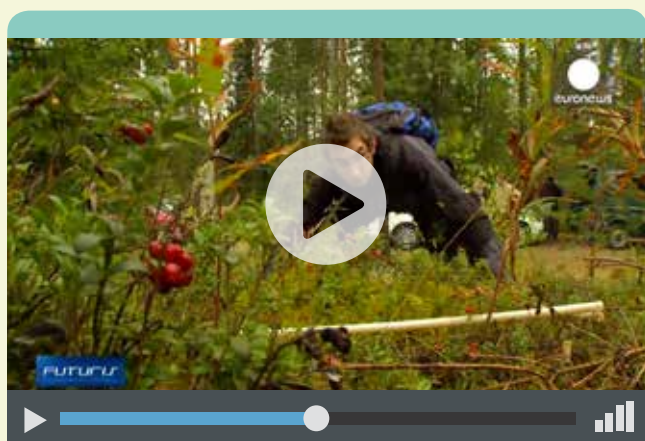


StarTree

New value chains for European forests

European forests have a range of environmental, social and economic functions. Wood is still the main source of financial income in EU forests, providing over 3 million jobs. However, many other services

Forest land in North Karelia is dominated by timber production, but in the last 10 years there has been a growing interest for other products like edible berries and mushrooms. North Karelia has the right climate conditions for the chaga mushroom (*Inonotus Obliquus*) to thrive in. The wild chaga variety was traditionally collected for its medicinal properties and is now, due to a growing demand, cultivated as well as picked in the wild from the Karelian birch trees it lives on. North Karelian chaga is mainly harvested by private pickers and by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Currently, the main part of the harvested mushroom is processed into tea and sold locally. Although chaga is not the main source of income for most SMEs, the rising demand and new products available such as instant chaga tea and chaga solutions, may offer new opportunities in local and foreign markets. ●



The YouTube video "Money grows in the forest, with the help of science" shows that mushrooms can form an additional income for people living in rural areas.

(e.g. ecosystem, recreational) and non-wood forest products such as cork, mushrooms, nuts, resins, game and berries are increasingly gaining value on the market. The FP7 project StarTree explores sustainable ways to add value to forest resources and non-wood forest products, to help create more diverse sources of income in rural areas. The StarTree project selected 14 regional case studies from across Europe that highlight the possibilities of new value chains for non-timber forest products. One of these case studies shows the potential of multifunctional forests in the Finnish region of North Karelia.



More information:

► <http://star-tree.eu/>



An EIP-AGRI workshop on 'New value chains from multifunctional forests' will explore the potential of existing and new forest value chains on 10-11 November 2016 in Vienna, Austria.



By the farmer, for the farmer

New tools for exchanging knowledge

“Knowledge is no good unless it can be used by those who need to benefit most from it.” This was the key message from European Commissioner Phil Hogan in his speech at the EIP-AGRI seminar on ‘agricultural knowledge systems and interactive innovation’ held in Dublin, Ireland, in December 2015.

The system where knowledge flows in one direction from researchers and advisers to farmers is increasingly outdated. Instead, we are seeing it being replaced by mutual learning between farmers and foresters and other key players in the agricultural, forestry and rural development sectors. New forms of media and information technology offer exciting possibilities for working together and learning from each other.

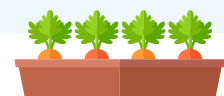
Success stories

Finding better ways to share knowledge and expertise is essential to keep agriculture and food production competitive in the 21st century. By working together, farmers, researchers, advisers and businesses can make sure knowledge is shared by everybody so that it can address the real needs of farmers.

140 people attended the EIP-AGRI seminar on agricultural knowledge systems, including nearly 50 farmers. All of the information and presentations from the event can be found on the [EIP-AGRI website](#)

“Farmers do not need one-size-fits-all advice - our needs are individual and farm-specific.”

- Amos Venema, German farmer -





Success stories describing innovative tools and ways to find, co-create and use knowledge are especially valuable. From social media for farmers to interactive tools created by farmers, and creative problem-solving, the agricultural community is becoming more creative and resourceful:



#AgriChatUK is an online Twitter community of 19 500 farmers and others that holds weekly conversations on contemporary agricultural issues in the UK: [@AgriChatUK](http://www.agrichatuk.org)



MyKuhTube (Germany) is a video channel online where 16 German dairy farmers have been working together to communicate the reality of their day-to-day lives: www.mykuhtube.de

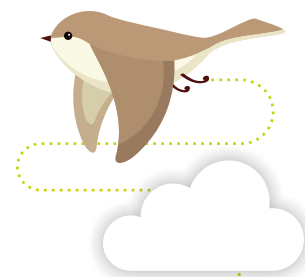


A goat farm in Flanders decided to set up an advisory board composed of external experts to help bring in new ideas and information. Board members include the CEO of a biscuit factory, a hospital manager and a retired cheese factory CEO: <http://www.polle.be> (website in Dutch)



In Ireland, a farmer and a computer software developer worked together to design a simple benchmarking tool for the real-time measurement and online exchange of key data from grassland dairy farms: www.agrinet.ie

► **Find more** [success stories on the EIP-AGRI website](#) ●





"The people in our team are our greatest asset. Their commitment helps us to bring high quality products to our consumers."

- Adolfo Garcia, Camposeven president -



New realities, more diverse farms

RETHINK promotes innovative strategies to make rural areas more vibrant

Many farmers are actively exploring alternatives in farm management, production methods and resource use, to make their farms more prosperous and resilient in the light of new social and economic realities. The FP7 research project RETHINK highlights innovative and successful connections between farm modernisation and sustainable rural development. Dr. Karlheinz Knickel from RETHINK says: "We need to reconsider what 'modernisation' means. Resource-efficiency, cooperation and sharing knowledge are valuable resources that can help shape stronger production systems and make rural areas more vibrant."

Cooperate to innovate: organic vegetable production in Spain

One success story highlighted by RETHINK is the organic cooperative 'Camposeven', which was founded by seven experienced farmers in the Spanish region of Murcia in 2007. The cooperative produces organic and biodynamic fruits and vegetables, taking advantage of the region's ideal climatic conditions.

Thanks to its product diversification, Camposeven can adjust to changing market demands and ensure its profitability. The cooperative produces and markets 20 different products, uses both open air and greenhouse production systems, and caters to different types of clients (national, international, supermarkets) with 34% of the products being directly marketed to final customers through online sales.

Camposeven also wants to create a favourable environment where farming partners make decisions together and benefit from different ways of learning (training, informal

meetings, experiments on their own farms). By stimulating the farmers involved to exchange knowledge, and by upholding strong partnerships with universities and research groups, knowledge can be created, shared, and efficiently used. The idea behind this approach is that it strengthens the capacity of small farmers to adapt to challenges and opportunities through networking and joint learning.



More information:

- ▶ <http://www.rethink-net.eu>
- ▶ <http://www.camposeven.com>





EIP-AGRI Focus Groups: what's new?



High Nature Value farming, Integrated Pest Management for Brassica species, Ecological focus areas, Water in agriculture, Fertiliser efficiency in horticulture, ... these are some of the topics which have been covered by EIP-AGRI Focus Groups over the past few years. Their final reports have been published on the EIP-AGRI website, together with a two-page factsheet summarising the main findings. Some reports have even been translated (see page 22). The table on the next page shows the full list of EIP-AGRI Focus Groups, and the outputs they have produced.

Five new EIP-AGRI Focus Groups have started in 2016 on the following topics:

- ▶ Agronomic use of recycled nutrients
- ▶ Sustainable mobilisation of forest biomass
- ▶ Robust and resilient dairy production systems
- ▶ Agroforestry: integrating woody vegetation with specialised crop and livestock systems
- ▶ Diseases and pests in viticulture



The [EIP-AGRI newsletter](#) will inform you about the latest Focus Group results, and about new Focus Groups that will start in the course of 2017.

For more information on EIP-AGRI Focus Groups and their tasks, see the [Focus Group brochure](#) and the [EIP-AGRI Focus Group charter](#) on the EIP-AGRI website.



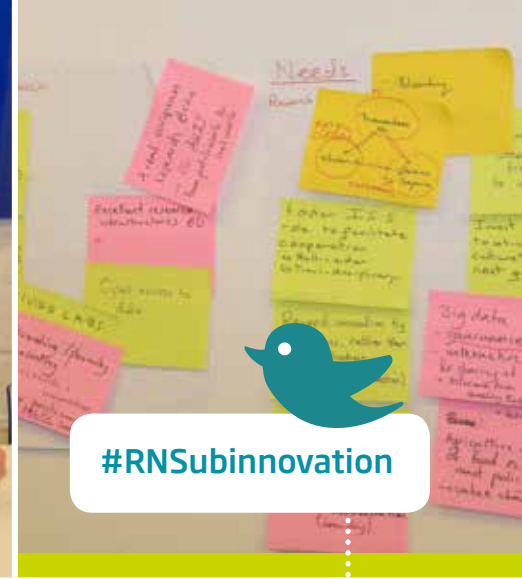
All Focus Groups have their own page on the EIP-AGRI website. Find all results on: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/content/focus-groups>



EIP-AGRI Focus Group results

Update August 2016

EIP-AGRI Focus Group			What's available?
1	Organic farming	Optimising yields in organic arable farms	Final report Factsheet Brochure
2	Protein crops	Improving the competitiveness of protein crops in EU farming	Final report Brochure
3	Animal husbandry	Reducing antibiotic use in pig farming	Final report Brochure
4	Genetic resources – Cooperation models	Promoting stakeholder cooperation in the field of genetic resources	Final report Factsheet Brochure
5	Soil organic matter	Cost-effective ways to improve soil organic matter content in the Mediterranean region	Final report Factsheet
6	IPM for Brassica	Finding cost-effective IPM solutions for Brassica vegetables and rapeseed	Final report
7	High Nature Value	How to make HNV farming more profitable without losing the HNV characteristics	Final report Factsheet
8	Precision farming	How to mainstream precision farming to optimise inputs and yield	Final report Factsheet
9	Permanent grassland	Managing permanent grassland to combine profitability, carbon sequestration and biodiversity	Final report Factsheet
10	Fertiliser efficiency – Focus on horticulture in open field	Ways to fertilise crops and comply with legislative requirements regarding water quality through innovative fertilisation and nutrient recycling	Final report Factsheets
11	Ecological Focus Areas	How can landscape features contribute to the profitability of crop production	Final report
12	Short food supply chains	How to stimulate innovative short food supply chains in Europe to increase farm income	Final report Factsheets
13	Soil-borne diseases	IPM practices to suppress soil-borne diseases (fungi and nematodes) in vegetables and arable crops	Final report Factsheets
14	New entrants into farming	New entrants in farming: patterns and lessons to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture	Final report Factsheets
15	Water & agriculture	Farm level adaptation strategies to deal with water scarcity	Ongoing
16	Mixed farming systems	Livestock / cash crop interactions as a sustainable alternative to farm or territorial specialisation	Ongoing
17	Benchmarking farm performance	Benchmarking data to improve farm productivity and sustainability performance	Ongoing
18	Livestock emissions	How to reduce cattle livestock emissions in a cost-effective way for farmers	Ongoing
19	Nutrient recycling	Improving the agronomic use of recycled nutrients (N and P) from livestock manure and other organic sources	Ongoing
20	Forest biomass	How to improve the sustainable mobilisation of biomass from our EU forests	Ongoing



#RNSubinnovation



Subgroup on Innovation

Paving the way for agricultural productivity and sustainability

The EIP-AGRI network strongly depends on its members and their involvement. The ‘Permanent Subgroup on Innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability’ was put in place to help guide the activities of the EIP-AGRI network to catalyse innovation in EU agriculture.

The Subgroup on Innovation works with DG AGRI and the EIP-AGRI Service Point to support knowledge exchange in the EIP-AGRI network. Subgroup members help identify challenges, good practices and needs from farmers and networks in their countries, and use this to provide input for EIP-AGRI activities and events. For example, the Subgroup members help identify topics and themes for the EIP-AGRI Focus Groups, workshops and seminars, and publications. The Subgroup supports the EIP-AGRI network’s main goals to improve the dialogue between farmers and researchers, and to help involve all network members in the knowledge exchange process. One of the ways to achieve these goals is to support networking between EIP-AGRI Operational Groups.

“All subgroup members have the responsibility to harvest the needs from their national farming sector and from relevant networks, to transmit their priorities at EU level! Each participant should really take this role to heart.”

- Subgroup member Adrien Guichaoua - French Network of Agricultural Technical Institutes (ACTA) -

The Subgroup on Innovation includes representatives from 56 organisations: National Rural Networks and Managing Authorities, agricultural advisory services and research institutions, and civil dialogue groups, such as farmers’ organisations and NGOs. ●

► The Subgroup on Innovation meets around three times a year. An overview of all meetings and presentations, and the full list of member organisations is available [on the EIP-AGRI website](#)

► The Subgroup on Innovation operates under the [European Rural Networks’ Assembly](#). This platform coordinates the activities of both the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) and the EIP-AGRI Network.





You are the EIP-AGRI network!

EIP-AGRI ambassadors spread the word across Europe

People who share information about the EIP-AGRI network are key to the success of the European Innovation Partnership. Many people

and organisations from different EU countries have already taken up an ambassador role and are spreading the word on the EIP-AGRI. Some of them have also translated EIP-AGRI publications into their own language. Brochures, factsheets and infographics are now available in Bulgarian, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish and Swedish! Network members from Hungary and Estonia are even translating our monthly newsletter.

"We want to give our network members direct access to EIP-AGRI Focus Group results by translating EIP-AGRI factsheets and brochures into Portuguese. We share all information through our Portuguese newsletter, and believe this can support people in the field in solving practical problems in their daily work."

**- Maria Custodia Correia,
Portuguese National Rural
Network -**

► [Visit our dedicated webpage](#) to find out which publications are available in your language, and to download logos and other useful material.

"Our Hungarian translations of the EIP-AGRI newsletter and brochures make it easier for Hungarian farmers and other potential Operational Group members to become involved in the EIP-AGRI network. The translations give clear information about setting up Operational Groups, and they show the benefits of joining the agricultural innovation network."

**- Livia Kranitz, Hungarian
Ministry of Agriculture -**


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- 1 You get in touch with the EIP-AGRI Service Point and provide us with a list of publications that you would like to translate
 - 2 We send you the Word documents of these publications
 - 3 You provide us with the translated texts - we put them in the right layout and we add a line in the publication thanking you for the translation
 - 4 We send you all files that you need for web publication or for print
 - 5 We promote your translation through our communication channels (EIP-AGRI website, social media,...)
- **Interested? Contact us** at servicepoint@eip-agri.eu

Get connected:



Visit the EIP-AGRI website www.eip-agri.eu and find out how to communicate about the EIP-AGRI.

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