



## Focus Group Water & agriculture: adaptive strategies at farm level PROGRAMME

### First Focus Group Meeting

25 – 26 June 2015, Best Western Rome Airport Hotel

### Rome, Italy

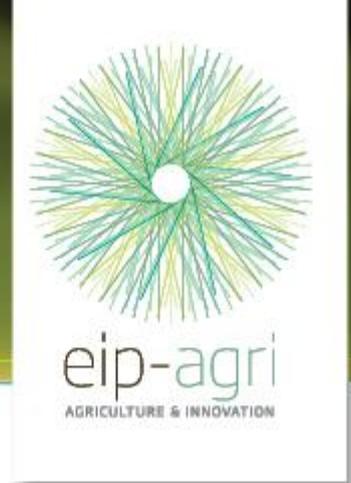
#### Preamble

Water is an essential resource for crop and livestock production. Climate change is generating variation in rainfall forcing farmers to rethink how to produce their crops, breed their animals or manage their farms. To counter negative impacts of climate change on agriculture due to water scarcity, management strategies at the farm level need to be identified. It is also needed to establish channels and mechanisms to make this information available so that farmers can adapt their businesses in economically viable ways. Going beyond the "easy" solution of using more water for irrigation and livestock, this Focus Group will collect innovative approaches and adaptive strategies to counter water scarcity at farm/local level and discuss the related challenges and opportunities.

The aim of this Focus group is to discuss these issues in the specific context of the EIP-AGRI – a new policy instrument for 2014-2020 that aims to stimulate innovation and seek practical solutions to practical on-farm problems by bridging the gap between the practice and science of agriculture.

The specific objectives of the Focus group are:

- Make an inventory of competitive farming management practices and strategies which are currently available and/or adopted to tackle water scarcity at farm/local level in the EU. How will they cushion against feed and food insecurity and rural vulnerability? What working examples can be found in the EU?
- List promising alternative and cost effective, competitive (novel) crops and/or cropping/livestock/agricultural systems able to deal with water scarcity. • Assess the potential for soil and landscape management to improve water holding capacity.
- Identify the success (or the fail) factors (financial, environmental, societal...) concerning the transferability of adaptive strategies beyond the farm/local boundaries as well as to farms in different European regions.
- Identify needs from practice and possible gaps in knowledge on particular issues concerning adaptation(s) to water scarcity which may be solved by further research.
- Identify the main challenges farmers have to face when changing "business as usual" to counter the effects of water scarcity due to changing rainfall regimes.

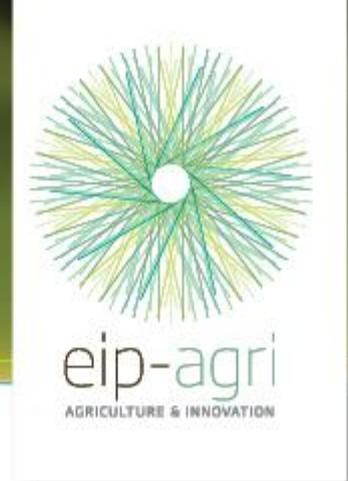


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It is anticipated that subsequent activities of the Focus Group after the first meeting in Rome will include:

- Discussing the following questions: Are the local Agricultural and Innovation Systems sufficiently equipped to discuss adaptation strategies with farmers? What active role for extension services, training systems, information campaigns? Who shall initiate an "adaptation strategy"? What role for the (innovative) farmer? Can advisors play a role? How/when can they provide support?
- Proposing potential innovative actions to stimulate the knowledge and use of adaptation measures/strategies to water scarcity and to multiply positive effects within the agricultural sector.
- Proposing directions for future research work, and
- Proposing priorities for relevant innovative actions, including practical ideas for EIP-AGRI Operational Groups.





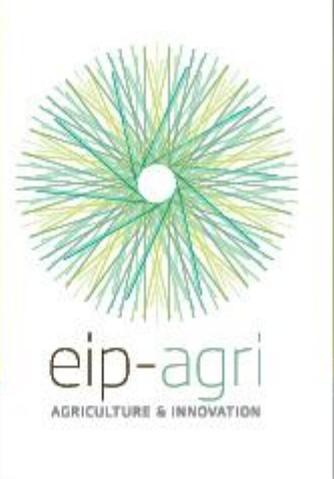
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### Day 1: Thursday 25 June 2015

12:00	13:00	Get together Lunch
13:00	13:05	<b>Welcoming words</b> Céline Karasinski (Task manager, EIP-AGRI Service Point)
13:05	13:20	<b>Introduction of EIP AGRI and concept and purpose of the Focus group</b> Anikó Seregélyi (DG AGRI)
13:20	13:35	<b>Presentation of Service Point and agenda of the meeting</b> Céline Karasinski (Task manager, EIP-AGRI Service Point)
13:35	14:15	<b>Introduction round of the focus group members</b>
14:15	14:45	<b>Setting the scene: presentation of the discussion paper</b> Helena Gomez (Coordinating expert of the Focus Group)
14:45	15:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
15:00	15:30	<b>Short presentations of 2 current practices by Focus Group members</b>
15:30	16:50	<b>Break out session 1</b>  Identify <b>current strategies</b> to tackle water scarcity at farm level. Identify success and fail factors (financial, environmental, societal...)
16:50	17:05	<b>Coffee break</b>
17:05	17:25	<b>Plenary session</b> : results of break out session
17:25	17:55	<b>Setting priorities on the results</b> of the break-out session Helena Gomez, Céline Karasinski
17:55	18:15	Conclusion of Day 1 Helena Gomez, Céline Karasinski, Anikó Seregélyi
20:00	22:00	Networking dinner





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### Day 2: Friday 26 June 2015

9:00	9:15	<b>Summary of the first day and validation by the group</b>
		<b>Break out session 2</b>
9:15	10:00	<b>Identify alternative strategies</b> to tackle water scarcity at farm level.  Identify success and fails factors
10:00	11:00	<b>Plenary session</b> : results of workshops and discussion
11:00	11:15	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:15	11:45	<b>Mini-papers – concept and discussion of topics</b>
11:45	11:55	<b>Presentation of the website and collaborative area</b>
11:55	12:05	<b>Conclusion and next steps after the meeting</b>
12:05	13:00	<b>Lunch</b> and departure

