

eip-agri
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION



Subgroup on Innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability

7th Meeting

16 February 2017

Subgroup on Innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability

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Morning sessions

08:00 – 09:00 Registration & welcome coffee

09:00 – 10:45 Welcome / introduction - Rob Peters, Head of Unit AGRI B2

09:30 – 10:45 Session I "Ready, steady, go: launching new EIP-AGRI networking activities for 2017"

The overall plan for 2017 and the activities for the first half the year

On-going and new Focus Groups

Supporting Operational Groups through thematic activities



10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12:45 Interactive Session II "Working more effectively with Focus Groups"

Presentation of the study on the results of EIP-AGRI Focus Groups

- Tanguy Chever, AND International

Q&A

Break-out sessions



12:45 – 14:00 Lunch break





FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

ASSESSMENT 2016

**Subgroup on Innovation
for agricultural productivity and sustainability**

16 February 2017

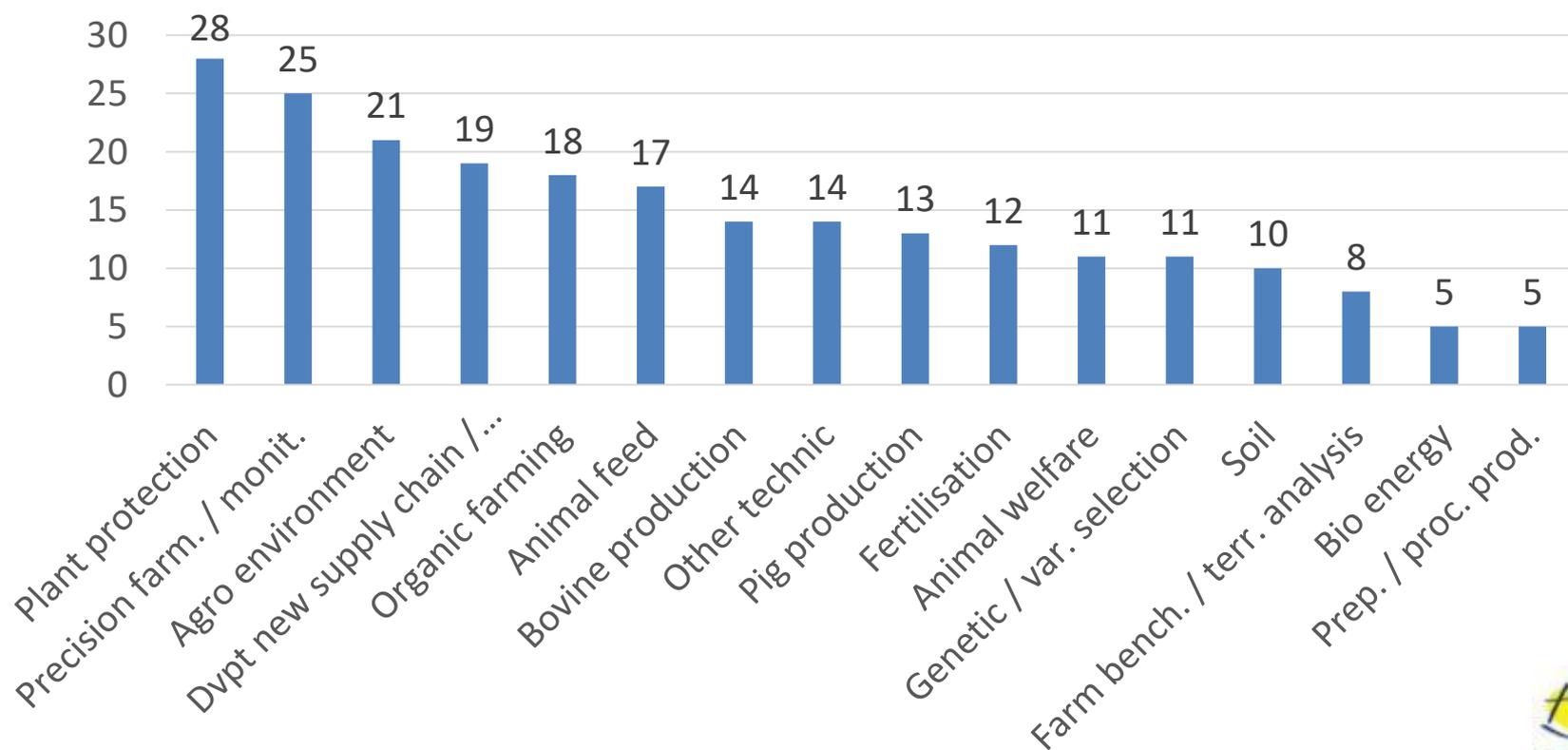
**EIP Service point
DG AGRI**

Objectives & method

- Objectives :
 - Assess the awareness and the use of FGs
 - Provide recommendation to increase the use of FGs results
- Method :
 - Study led between Sept 2016 and January 2017
 - Clustering analysis: links between FGs topics and OGs topics
 - Data collection:
 - Online survey among OGs (5 languages)
 - Online survey among FGs members (led by EIP SP)
 - Case studies: 10 RDPs in 4 MS
 - Interviews of research platform managers
 - Analysis and recommendations

Clustering analysis (1/2)

- 231 OGs in 7 MS (AT, BE, DE, ES, FR, IT, UK)
- 16 different clusters identified



Links between OGs topics and FGs topics

- The link between the projects covered by the 231 projects selected and themes covered by 23 FGs has been analysed :
 - Strong link
 - Medium link
 - No link
- Among the 231 projects from OG analysed:
 - 25% have no strong link with any FG's topic
 - 59% have strong links with 1 or 2 FGs' topic,
 - 16% have strong links with 3 FGs' topic or more.
- 94% of OGs projects have medium or strong link with at least one FG

Online survey among FGs' members (75 answers)

- Profile of respondents: 55% of researchers
- Most of the people who have been involved in FGs shows a **great interest** in FGs results:
 - 60% of them have **evidence of take up** of FG results (research programmes, calls, presentation...)
 - 88% of them indicated that it **influenced their work** (better understanding of the stakes)
 - 86% of them indicated they **disseminated results** from the FG they were involved in (conferences, colleagues)

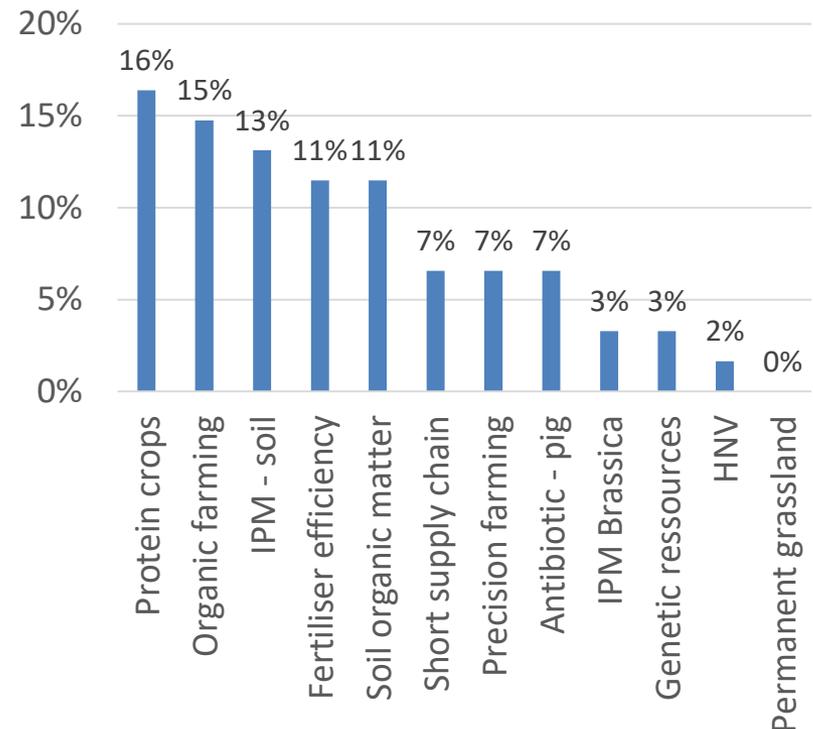
Online survey among OGs (1/2)

- Survey in 5 languages DE, EN, ES, FR and IT
- 48% answer: 110 answers

Awareness of FGs (54% of total)

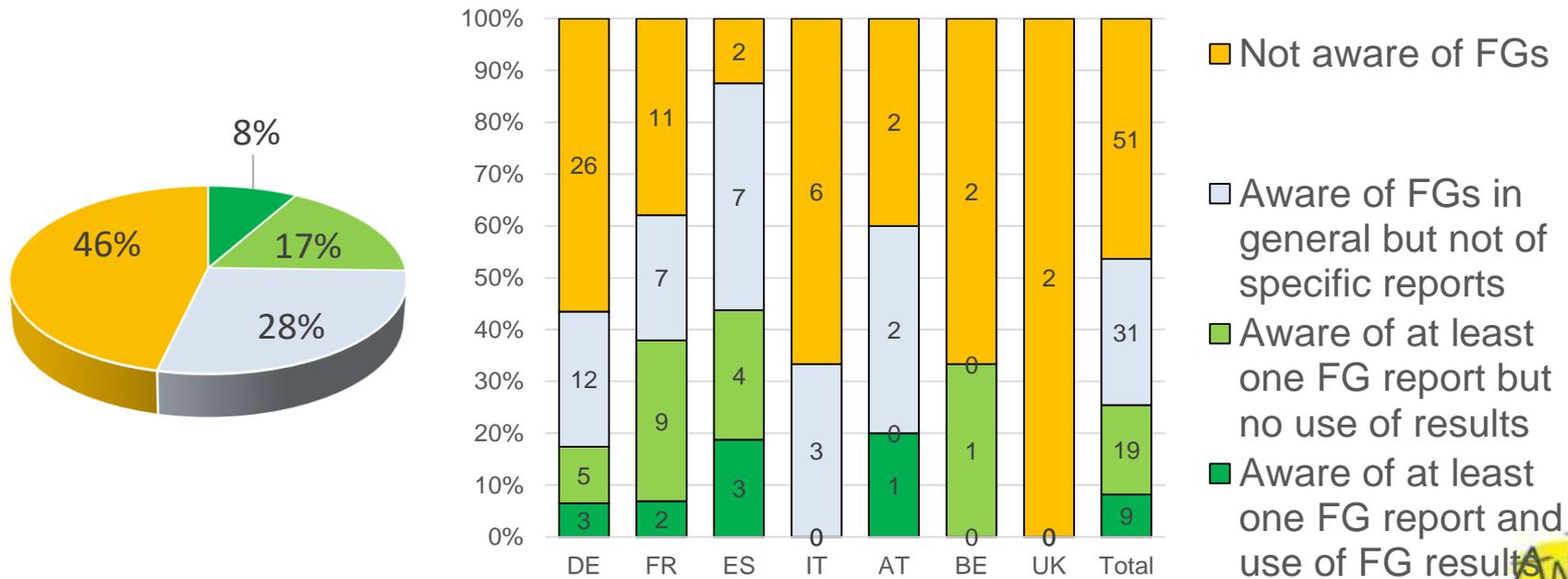


Awareness of specific FG reports



Online survey among OGs (2/2)

- 48% answer: 110 answers
- Balanced results on awareness and use of FGs results:
 - 46% of OGs are not aware of FGs' reports
 - “only” 8% of OGs know FGs and used it for their projects.



Case studies : 10 RDPs in AT, DE, ES, FR

- Overall, stakeholders involved in the EIP show interest in FGs
- Awareness depends on the dissemination (regional / national)
- Limited use of FGs results by MAs, due to:
 - availability of FGs reports while implementing the first calls,
 - difficulties met by MAs in the implementation of EIP
- Some MAs perceived a lack of relevance of the top-down approach for FGs (DE).
- Use of FGs should increase in the future, both by MAs and OGs.
- Involvement of local experts in FGs favoured dissemination and use of FGs results.
- The availability of reports in English remains a key point.

Interviews among research platforms

- FGs were the pre-development stage of several H2020 Thematic networks,
- The links between these platforms and OGs remain limited
- The emphasize on result dissemination and use of common standards for dissemination between H2020 and OGs is considered as positive.

Recommendations

1. Continuation of FGs
2. Good practices for the implementation of FGs
3. Selection of FGs members
4. Definition of FGs topics
5. FGs follow-up / update
6. Dissemination strategy for each FG
7. Dissemination strategy for the different types of actors
8. Adaptation of the dissemination strategy to the context in each MS
9. Strengthening of links with research platforms
10. Translation of FGs reports
11. Structure of FGs reports
12. Implementation of national FGs

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



1. Continuation of FGs

Background and justification

The feedback from participants to FGs (in most cases) and OGs which used FGs reports is very positive on the outputs of FGs

Recommendation

Implementation of FGs is relevant to gather and disseminate expertise on innovation and should be continued.

Actors involved

EIP SP

2. Good practices for the implementation of FGs

Background and justification

- The feedback on FGs is very positive in most cases.
- Some weaknesses have been reported:
 - ✓ the transparency for the selection criteria of FGs members;
 - ✓ potential conflict of interest for FGs members;
 - ✓ the non-consideration of all points of view expressed during the FGs.

Recommendation

Good practices for the implementation of FGs should be defined on:

- The selection of experts;
- The identification of potential conflict of interest;
- The consideration of the contribution from all members.

Actors involved

EIP SP

3. Selection of FGs members

Background and justification

- Participation to FGs influenced the work of their members.
- Most of these members are active in disseminating FGs results.
- Qualitative interviews showed a significant interest from stakeholders to be involved in FGs.

Recommendation

- Objective to involve a large number of stakeholders (ambassadors)
- Involvement of multipliers and advisors in FGs

Actors involved

EIP SP

4. Definition of FGs topics

Background and justification

The definition of FGs topics is a great challenge because of:

- the timing
- the wide scope covered

Coverage of OGs topics:

- Some FGs are connected to OGs themes
- some topics developed by OGs are not covered by FGs: animal welfare, energy crops, poultry sector, development of a new supply chain, processed products...

Recommendation

- A bottom-up approach for the definition of topics should be encouraged, for instance through calls for ideas via the EIP newsletter.
- A monitoring of the number OGs by RDPs and the themes covered by these Ogs

Actors involved

EIP SP

Sub-group for innovation

5. FGs follow-up / update

Background and justification

- Each FG consists in two meetings of a maximum of 20 experts.
- Interest from members for collaboration on a longer period.
- Collaboration of experts on a longer period would allow to involve a higher number of experts who apply to the calls.

Recommendation

The content of each FG could be updated on a regular basis, for instance every two years. This would give the opportunity:

- to update the scientific knowledge on the theme covered by the FG,
- to involve OGs with topics related to the FGs,
- to assess dissemination and use
- to involve new experts in the FGs

Actors involved

EIP SP
FG members

6. Dissemination strategy for each FG

Background and justification

- Each FG report may interest specific stakeholders, depending on the theme covered: specific sector, geographical area...
- FGs members are the first ambassadors of FGs reports and play a key role in their dissemination.

Recommendation

- A specific dissemination strategy for each FG should be defined
- A guideline for the definition of this strategy should be defined
- This strategy should mainly involve the EIP Service Point and FGs members.
- This strategy should identify:
 - ✓ the channels of dissemination
 - ✓ the document used (final report or abstract)
 - ✓ the role of each member.

Actors involved

EIP SP
FG members

7. Dissemination strategy for the different types of actors

Background and justification

The potential interest in FGs is different for the different types of actors.

Four types of targets are identified:

- MAs: for the definition of the calls and the selection of the projects,
- NRNs: for the dissemination of information,
- OGs: for the definition / update of the project,
- Other: researchers, research platforms, advisors, policy makers, farmers....

Recommendation

- A specific strategy for the dissemination should be defined for each target:
 - ✓ Channel used
 - ✓ Content disseminated: final report or abstract.
- Increase the use of FGs abstract for the dissemination.
- The subscription to the EIP newsletters should be encouraged
- A mailing list of all OGs should be established at EU level

Actors involved

EIP SP, DG AGRI, Mas, NRNs

8. Adaptation of the dissemination strategy to the context in each MS

Background and justification

The innovation ecosystem is different in each Member State. In Germany, where the innovation support is well developed, the added value of FGs is not necessarily perceived by Managing Authorities and Rural Networks. This limits the dissemination of information related to FGs among stakeholders.

Recommendation

- The dissemination of FGs related information (call for experts, reports...) should take into account the specific context in each MS.
- A specific strategy should be defined by DG AGRI, EIP Service Point and Managing Authorities for the involvement in FG and dissemination of FGs results

Actors involved

EIP SP
MAs
NRNs

9. Strengthening of links with research platforms

Background and justification

Research platforms such as H2020 Thematic networks are aware of EIP FGs. However, their use and dissemination of FGs reports could be improved.

Recommendation

Increase the interaction between EIP SP and research platforms in order to increase:

- Use of FGs reports
- Dissemination of FGs reports
- Links with OGs

Actors involved

EIP SP
DG AGRI
Research Platform

10. Translation of FGs reports

Background and justification

One of the main barriers for the dissemination of FGs report is their availability in national languages.

Recommendation

The translation of FGs reports (or factsheets) in national language should be encouraged.

Actors involved

EIP SP
DG AGRI
MAs
NRNs

11. Structure of FGs reports

Background and justification

Final reports from FGs follow different structure and layout. This does not facilitate the dissemination of these reports and their results

Recommendation

A common structure of the FGs reports should be defined. This would cover:

- The maximum length of the report
- The different sections
- The way to formulate the recommendations for OGs

Actors involved

EIP SP

12. Implementation of national FGs

Background and justification

FGs are considered as relevant by experts who participated and by OGs which used the results. However, some limits have been pointed out:

- Meetings and reports of FGs
- Availability of potential experts

In this context, Spanish authority implemented FG at national level and this is under reflexion in France.

Recommendation

The implementation of national FGs should be supported. This would allow to:

- focus on national issues, relevant for stakeholders,
- tackle the issue of language skills
- increase the number of FGs
- increase the number of participants

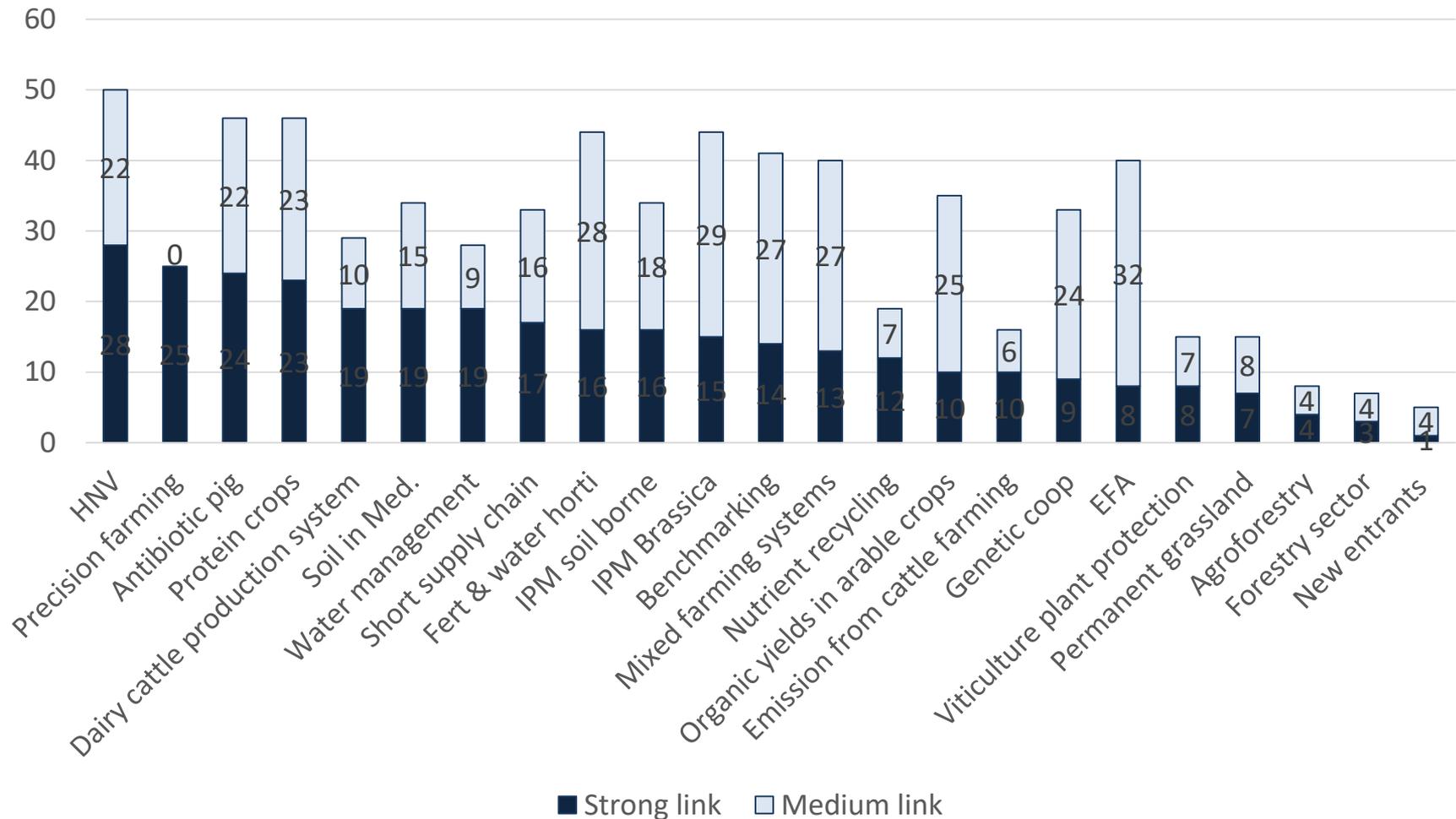
The implementation of national FGs should be monitored at EU level to:

- disseminate the results of national FGs
- build bridges between the different FGs (EU/national)
- involve international experts, if relevant, in national FGs

Actors involved

EIP SP, DG AGRI, MAs, NRNs

Number of strong / medium links between OGs topics and FGs topics



Case study in Germany

- 4 cases studies: Schleswig-Holstein, Niedersachsen und Bremen, Thüringen, Hessen
- **Implementation:**
 - Federal level: BMEL (Ministry), DVS (role of NRN)
 - National level: MAs, ISS
- **Awareness of FGs:**
 - Good awareness of FGs among public MAs
 - Good innovation support in DE, limited relevance of FGs perceived by several people interviewed
- **Use of focus groups :**
 - Inclusion of reference to FGs in selection criteria for on call (FG on antibiotics in pig farming in Niedersachsen und Bremen),
 - one MA used FGs results to plan coming events on innovation (Hessen).

Case study in France

- 4 cases studies: Brittany, Burgundy, Languedoc-Roussillon, Rhône-Alpes
- **Implementation:**
 - implementation by regional MAs
 - Pivotal role of NRN for networking and dissemination on EIP
- **Awareness of FGs:**
 - Each MA is aware of the concept of FGs but a limited number of them read any of the FGs reports
 - Awareness among OGs is variable (mainly related to involvement in FGs)
- **Use of focus groups :**
 - an OG has been set following to a FG (Burgundy)
 - a stakeholder used results from a FG for a H2020 call (Brittany)
 - development of technology transfer with partners in another MS following to a FG (Languedoc-Roussillon).

Case study in Spain - Catalonia

- **Implementation:**
 - implementation by regional MAs
 - 2 calls implemented (2015 and 2016)
- **Awareness of FGs:**
 - Good level of awareness on FGs
 - Dissemination through the regional platform on innovation
 - Several regional experts have participated in the FGs (22 experts)
 - Specific events
 - Conference on the results of the FGs dedicated to breeding
 - 2 national FGs implemented
- **Use of focus groups :**
 - No use by MA.
 - OGs consider that the topics were not fully relevant for their projects and did not use FG results.
 - Some OGs used FGs: organic farming in particular, organic matter in Mediterranean soils and precision farming to a lesser extent.

Case study in Austria

- **Implementation:**
 - EIP is implemented at national level in Austria.
 - Both the MA and the NRN are developing coordination and networking activities.
 - Dissemination with the EIP-AGRI Newsletter
- **Awareness of FGs:**
 - Good level of awareness on FGs
 - 3 OGs among 4 are aware of FGs
- **Use of focus groups :**
 - FGs results not used by MA so far, should be used for selecting topics in the next call
 - 3 OGs were aware of FGs and 1 OG used FGs results (protein crops)