



EIP-AGRI SEMINAR

EIP-AGRI: FROM OPERATIONAL GROUP PROJECT TO IMPACT



Speaker and facilitator CVs

Speakers – in the order of the programme

Esther Koopmanschap

EIP-AGRI Service Point



Esther Koopmanschap works for Wageningen University & Research in The Netherlands (and for Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation in particular). From her 20 years professional experience, 18 years focussed on capacity development, training and facilitating learning trajectories of different stakeholder groups, mainly in the field of water, agriculture, rural development, fisheries & aquaculture and nature conservation. In the past 17 years she worked in the field of EU Enlargement. In August 2018 she finalised a 19-months EU Twinning project on the development of the cross-compliance mechanism in Turkey. She is motivated by participatory processes that lead to the sustainable use of land and water resources. She is looking forward to get to know you all better!

Fernanda Cecchini

Regional Councillor for Agriculture, Environment, City Planning and Culture, Umbria Region



Fernanda Cecchini was born in *Città di Castello* on the 17th of February, 1960. Since she was very young she has always been strongly committed in voluntary service and in social sector activities. She worked as a teacher for physically/mentally disadvantaged pupils. She is currently on leave for her activity as Regional Councillor for Agriculture.

- 1980- 1988: city Councillor of *Città di Castello*
- 1993-1997: PDS secretary Party in *Città di Castello*
- 1997-1999: city chairman for Culture and City Planning
- 1999-2001: chairman for Culture and Budget in the District Council of *Perugia*.
- 2001-2006: mayor of *Città di Castello*, she was re-elected for the 2006-2010 term.

Member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and vice-president of the "Sustainable Development" Commission.

President of ANCI (Italian National Association of Cities). Since June 2015 appointed Regional Councillor for "Agriculture, Environment, City Planning and Culture".



Kerstin Rosenow

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Kerstin is Head of Unit 'Research & Innovation' in DG AGRI, European Commission where she is responsible for programming, managing and monitoring agricultural research and the European Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI). Previously she was Head of Unit in the EC Research Executive Agency (REA) managing the implementation of the project portfolio for Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 2 (food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime, and inland water research and the bioeconomy). Lawyer by education and training, she's been working in the EC for over 15 years after covering a managerial position in the German administration (Representation of the State of Hessen to the EU). For DG AGRI she coordinated negotiations with pre-accession and candidate countries and the preparation of the 2014-2020 CAP legislative framework.



Inge Van Oost

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Inge Van Oost is policy officer at the European Commission, Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI). She has been setting-up and is now supporting the implementation of the European Innovation Partnership "Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability" (EIP-AGRI), in particular as regards rural development and cross-cutting aspects in Horizon 2020. As member of the DG AGRI Taskforce "Research and Innovation" she was instrumental in shaping DG AGRI's research and innovation approach and Horizon 2020 work programmes, and developed the new concepts "multi-actor approach" and "thematic networks". In her former post at the Commission she was policy officer in the Direct Support Unit and the Cross Compliance Unit, responsible for cross-compliance, the Farm Advisory System and interlinking with the Rural Development policy.

Before working at the Commission Inge Van Oost was coordinator of the demonstration projects at the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Horticulture of the Flemish Region. There she drafted rural development measures and designed the farm advisory system. She was also evaluator of many agricultural research projects and member of diverse selection committees. In the former federal Belgian Administration for Agriculture she served the Secretariat-General as coordinator of the Horticultural Chain, dealing with chain management, food quality, traceability and safety, sustainability of production methods, communication with consumers and much more.

Before joining the administration, she worked as a farm advisor, and after a while as coordinator of the advisory team. Based in an applied research institute, the team did not only advise farmers, but also designed and implemented experiments and on-farm demonstration projects.



Marina Hadjiyanni

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Marina Hadjiyanni has been working for the Commission for more than 12 years and in DG Agriculture and Rural development since 2014. Since she joined DG Agriculture and Rural development she has been working on a wide range of subjects such as direct aids, rural development, controls and penalties and CAP reform. She is currently a policy officer in the Unit Conception and Consistency of Rural Development.



Michael Schrörs

Lower Saxony Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

From 1990 to 2005, Dr. Schrörs was a civil servant for the Lower Saxony Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection in different functions (CAP Analysis, Speech Writer). He was a national expert at the European Commission, DG AGRI (Rural Development) from September 1991 to August 1994, and a Resident Twinning Adviser for the Twinning Project (Rural Development Programme, Slovakia) from October 2003 to September 2004. Since October 2005 he has been Head of Unit at the Lower Saxony Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, dealing with EU General Affairs, Agricultural research and Innovation (since 2014 incl. EIP Agri), Statistics and Taxes.



Simona Cristiano

CREA – Center for Politics and Bioeconomy, Italy

Researcher, policy designer/analyst and evaluator in the field of Rural Development and Pre-Accession Policies, with particular focus on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems; Farm Advisory Systems; agricultural supply chains and local development strategies. Currently, she is manager of the project "Supporting the MAs and the Operational Groups of the RDPs 2014-2020" under the "National Rural Network Programme 2014-2020" framework.

She has 17 years of experience as Expert on European Policies with a particular focus on the Common Agricultural Policy and the structural funds (ESF and ERDF), in which she has different fields of expertise such as programme/projects design, implementation, controls, monitoring and evaluation.

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Lisa van Dijk

Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, UK

Lisa van Dijk (PhD) is the Knowledge Exchange Programme manager for the Royal Agricultural University at Cirencester, UK, and involved in the H2020 LIAISON project (www.liaison2020.eu) through her work at the University of Exeter, UK. Her doctoral studies focused specifically on methods and approaches to bridge the gap between science and practice and from January 2015 to August 2017 she was the research manager of the H2020 Hennovation project, promoting practice-led innovation in the laying-hen sector. Prior to her academic career, she worked for over 15 years in the management and coordination of projects and programmes related to community-led rural development, working with farmers, SMEs, industry and government in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Throughout her career she has been involved in facilitating knowledge exchange and knowledge co-production processes and the training of agri-advisor and innovation facilitators. Lisa will also be part of the upcoming H2020 EURAKNOS project.



Alessandra Pesce

Undersecretary of State at the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food, Forestry Policies and Tourism (MiPAAFT)

Alessandra Pesce, born in Rome 16th January 1969, graduated in Economics at "La Sapienza" University in Rome and achieved a Ph.D. in "Agriculture, Institutions and Environment for Economic Development".

Since 2007 Mrs. Pesce served as research manager at the National Institute of Agricultural Economics (INEA), an institute that later merged into the Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA).

She has always been involved in the analysis, implementation and evaluation of agricultural economics and related policies. Mrs. Pesce was responsible for rural development, macro-economic and short-term research studies. She is author of over 100 scientific, technical and informative publications.

She is in charge of agricultural policies for the Five Star Movement and was appointed, on June 13th 2018, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Agricultural, Food, Forestry Policies and Tourism (MiPAAFT) in Rome.



Fabio Cossu

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Fabio Cossu works as policy officer at the European Commission, DG AGRI in the 'Research and Innovation' unit where he is responsible for communications for the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture productivity and sustainability (EIP-AGRI).

Agronomist by academic background, he has been working in the field of rural development for over ten years, most of which as policy analyst for the Contact Point of the 'European Network for Rural Development'. Before that he was independent evaluator of EU rural development programmes with a focus on investments in the agri-food sector.



Pacôme Elouna Eyenga

EIP-AGRI Service Point

Mr Pacôme Elouna Eyenga is Belgian and was born in Yaoundé, Cameroon. He graduated as Agricultural Engineer in the field of rural economy and sociology, at Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech / Université de Liège in Belgium.

Since July 2014, he is the Team Leader of the EIP-AGRI Service Point in which he was appointed Deputy Team Leader at its establishment in 2013 by the European Commission, namely DG AGRI.



Margarida Ambar

EIP-AGRI Service Point

Margarida Ambar is one of the Rural Development officers in the EIP-AGRI Service Point, and her main tasks are related to networking, and to management and facilitation of events, while involved in other activities of the Service Point as well.

Margarida Ambar studied Agricultural Engineering at the Technical University of Lisbon and has a master in Territorial Management and Urbanism, focusing on stakeholders' involvement. She worked for about 20 years for the Portuguese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Prior to becoming part of the EIP-AGRI Service Point team, she had already gained experience in international cooperation projects and networks aiming at knowledge exchange.



Els Lapage

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Flemish Government, Belgium

Els Lapage is coordinator of agricultural innovation measures at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Flemish Government, Belgium. She has a master in Agricultural Engineering.

Els Lapage is responsible for aligning and improving the knowledge and innovation measures financed by the department (education, advice, demonstration projects, EIP, innovative investments) and for creating an agricultural innovation strategy for the Flemish region. She implemented EIP for the Flemish Region and is coordinator of the measure. She's also coordinator of the demonstration projects: sustainable production methods are demonstrated in order to stimulate farmers to apply them. Furthermore, she's responsible for the investment support for practical research in Flanders, and she's member of selection committees for the evaluation of agricultural research projects.

In her former post at the department she was director of the extension service. The extension service builds bridges between research and practice. It facilitates the access of farmers to knowledge to increase the sustainability of their production systems while taking into account economic viability.



Kees Anker

Network Support Unit in the Netherlands

Kees works for the National Contactpoint EIP-AGRI in the Netherlands, which is part of the Network Support Unit. This unit supports the provinces in the implementation of the RDP.

The Network Support Unit is a source of information, facilitator, connector, knowledge broker and inspiration platform. It is connected to both the ENRD and the EIP-AGRI Service Point.



Carola Ketelhodt

Innovation Office EIP Agri at the Chamber of Agriculture in Schleswig-Holstein

Carola Ketelhodt is head of the EIP-AGRI Support Service for Schleswig-Holstein on behalf of the Ministry in Kiel. Carola studied at Christian-Albrechts-University in Kiel agricultural economics. After graduation as Agricultural Engineer she launched her career as trainer on an institution of rural adult education. From 1997 to 2013 she was managing director of "Bioland" an association of organic farmers in northern Germany. In 2013 Carola changed her employment and started working at the Chamber of Agriculture. Since July 2014 she is responsible for the innovation support unit. She is supporting the EIP process in SH, is working as advisor for innovators and Operational Groups and as innovation-network-manager. This also includes information exchange, knowledge transfer, and active public relations within the EIP Agricultural Network in Europe.

EIP- AGRI Service Point team



Ann-Sophie Debergh

Facilitator

Ann-Sophie Debergh is a team member of the EU network facility of the EIP-AGRI Service Point. She holds a Master's degree in Bioscience engineering (Land and Forest management) and an Advanced Master in European integration and development. Since 2008 she is working as a Rural Development policy officer at the Flemish Land Agency (VLM). She coordinates a platform "harvestable landscapes" in Flanders which focuses on the local and regional valorisation of biomass from forest, nature and landscape management. Throughout these years Ann-Sophie was trained and gained experience in the facilitation of interactive sessions and workshops at policy and project level.



Sergiu Didicescu

Facilitator

Born 1980, Romanian

Sergiu is educated in horticulture with a specialisation in oenology, as well as in agri-food economics. He started professional life as an oenologue in the 'Dealul Mare' area, Romania's largest vineyard. Later on, he worked for the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the European Commission DG AGRI. From 2013 he is farm practice and rural development officer at the EIP AGRI Service Point.



Bea Guimarey Fernández

Facilitator

Grown up on a small family farm in Galicia region (NW Spain), Beatriz Guimarey is Forestry Engineer and has a Master in Sustainable Land Planning by the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain). Since 2014 she is Science & Research officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point. Her main duties involve organisation and facilitation of EIP-AGRI events (Workshops, Seminars and Focus Groups) and communication with research institutions. She actively contributes to the EIP-AGRI publications as well.

Furthermore, at the University of Santiago, she works as a researcher at Land Laboratory and Territorial Information System Platform. There, she participates in projects related to GIS or remote sensing techniques applied to spatial planning, rural development and landscape management.



Pille Koorberg

Facilitator

Pille is director of the Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) in Estonia. ARC is a competence centre under the Ministry of Rural Affairs supporting agriculture and rural development policy by provision of different kind of laboratory services (agro-chemistry, plant health and microbiology; seed testing; residues and contaminants; plant products), field testing as well as agro-environmental and rural economic analysis and coordination of the rural and innovation networks in Estonia. ARC is also leading the consortia developing agricultural big data system in Estonia.

Pille has over 17 years experience in agri-environment policy, with a special focus on development of evaluation schemes for rural development programme (RDP) regarding relevant indicator system, data collection and data management. Since 2003 Pille Koorberg has been a team member of several work groups and has participated in several projects regarding RDP issues both at Estonian and EU level.

Since 2013 she is also a team member (rural development officer) and works part time for the EU level network facility of European Innovation Partnership (EIP) concerning Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI Service Point).



Eike Lepmets

Facilitator

Eike is working at the EIP-AGRI Service Point as a rural development officer since 2017. She is also working at the Estonian Ministry of Rural Affairs programming RDP agri-environment measures and other topics related to sustainable agriculture. Eike is a specialist in horticulture by academic background. She is growing organic fruits and vegetables at her small farm in West-Estonia.



Alexandre Morin

Facilitator

Alexandre is a specialist in agricultural innovation projects. An environmental and hydrological scientist by academic background, he works on agronomic topics since 2004, focusing on sustainable practices at farm and territorial levels. He works part time for the EIP-AGRI Service Point, mostly on the organization of Focus Groups and facilitation during EIP AGRI events. For the rest of his working time he is employed by the Chamber of Agriculture in western French region of Pays de la Loire, where he takes care of European partnerships and fundings for innovation projects.



Ineke van Vliet

Facilitator

Ineke has broad experience in the field of agriculture and rural development. She is most effective in a coordinating position with a lot of short-term mile stones. Working together in a team motivates her to create high quality products. She enjoys developing new ideas in interactive cooperation and has both analytical and creative skills to offer. She always carefully considers the institutional environment, the different stakeholders and the client's demand in her work.



Tine Defour

Communication officer

As part of the Service Point's communications team, Tine writes and coordinates brochures and other Service Point publications, and she is responsible for DG AGRI's yearly *Agrinnovation* magazine. She contributes to the content of the EIP-AGRI website and offers support for events. She loves whipping words into publishable shape.

Tine has an academic background, with a PhD in English linguistics. From 2003 to 2014 she was a researcher and lecturer at Ghent University, Belgium, allowing her to gain experience in international networking and in organising events. During that time she also worked as an editorial assistant and proofreader for an academic journal.

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