

EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP CROPPING FOR THE FUTURE **4-5 JUNE 2019 - ALMERE, THE NETHERLANDS**



EIP-AGRI Workshop 'Cropping for the future: networking for crop rotation and crop diversification'

Tuesday 4 – Wednesday 5 June 2019
Almere, the Netherlands

On Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 June 2019, the EIP-AGRI Service Point is organising a one-and-a-half-day workshop dedicated to networking and sharing existing experiences with innovative projects on crop rotation and crop diversification.

With several Operational Groups (OGs) and other innovative projects already finished, many ongoing and more to come, this workshop will focus on crop rotation and crop diversification, while considering the benefits and impacts of these farming practices on ecosystem services. The event will also look at the challenges that related projects are dealing with, as well as possible solutions inspired by experiences and good practices. In addition, conclusions from the workshop will support the revitalisation of these traditional agronomic practices, translating them within the current developments of smart farming. New models of crop rotation and diversification highlighted in the workshop may become key objectives for soil management in the future CAP Strategic Plans.

Throughout the workshop, participants will have the chance to get to know each other, network and exchange knowledge, as well as to discuss relevant issues such as challenges and solutions addressed in relevant projects, and to share good practices. Having the opportunity to visit some related projects in the field and listen to relevant actors in the innovation ecosystem will further provide inspiration for discussion and elaboration in the workshop. Participants will also have the opportunity to further build their supporting ecosystem, by considering and planning new collaborative relationships on relevant issues.

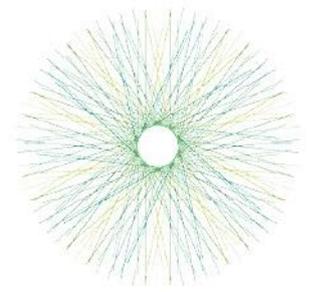
Overall aims of the workshop

The overall aim of the workshop is to promote networking among OGs and other innovative projects dealing with crop rotation and crop diversification. This means to learn more about each other, find common issues, explore possibilities for future collaboration and knowledge exchange. The event also aims at creating awareness and promoting the adoption of crop rotation and crop diversification as farming practices with multiple environmental benefits, both in the short and long term.

Specific objectives of the workshop

The specific objectives are:

1. To assist OGs and other innovative projects dealing with these two farming practices by:
 - identifying common challenges
 - exploring potential solutions to shared challenges
 - exchanging good practices
 - connecting participating projects
 - promoting further cooperation between partners from different OGs and research projects
2. To highlight the benefits of these farming practices, and to link them to broader issues such as climate change, Sustainable Development Goals, objectives in the future CAP, and more.



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Programme outline

Day 1: Tuesday 4 June 2019

08:00 – 09:00 Registration day 1

Introduction to the workshop

09:00 – 09:40 **Welcome and opening**

09:40 – 10:30 **Setting the scene and getting to know each other**

Networking for crop rotation and crop diversification

10:30 – 11:15 **Discovering diversity** – getting familiar with the wide range of projects represented at the workshop

11:15 – 12:30 **Building common ground** – getting an understanding of challenges and opportunities shared by projects represented at the workshop

12:30 – 13:30 Networking Lunch

13:30 – 18:30 **Field visits**

19:30 (tbc) Networking dinner

Day 2: Wednesday 5 June 2019

08:30 – 09:00 Registration day 2

09:00 – 09:30 **Getting started again**

Building on challenges and opportunities

09:30– 10:45 **Looking into solutions** – exploring further key challenges and sharing experiences to identify potential solutions

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break

Strengthening the potential for collaboration

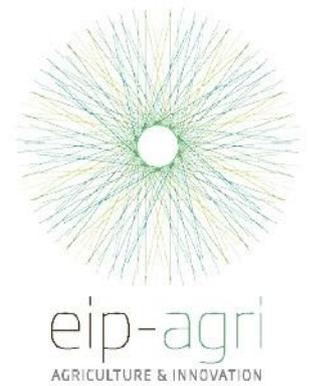
11:00 – 12:15 **Collaborating to innovate** – exploring possibilities for future collaboration and knowledge exchange

12:15 – 12:45 **Sharing ideas, inspiration for the future** – strengthening further collaboration

12:45 – 12:55 **Evaluation of the workshop**

12:55 – 13:00 **Closing of the workshop and farewell**

13:00 – 14:00 Light lunch and goodbye



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Field visits

The aim of the field visits is to have a first-hand look into several ongoing OGs, as well as other types of innovative projects and initiatives that are dealing with crop rotation and crop diversification. Participants will be able to appreciate the concrete benefits of crop rotation and crop diversification in their specific pedoclimatic and agricultural environment.

Some practical aspects

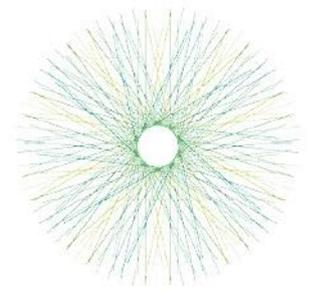
- Participants will be taken from the venue to one of two locations by bus: Lelystad (30 minutes from the venue) or Lopikerkapel (50 minutes from the venue).
- Due to logistical issues, each visit can only take a limited number of people, so participants will be split into three groups. Two of these will be going to Lelystad and have the same visit, and the third group will be going to Lopikerkapel.
- Therefore, participants should indicate their preference in the registration form, even if the organisation holds the right to take the final decision on the allocation of participants.

About the field visits

Location 1: Lelystad – focus on crop rotation and crop diversification

Two OGs and the Test Facility Agroecology and Technology (Wageningen University Research) with related projects will be presented.

- **Operational Group 'SoMyCo'** – focusing on crop rotation in arable farming. The main objectives of this project are: (1) Development of mycorrhiza granulate to increase the resistance and yield of soy and (2) Development of a mobile press for the cold pressing of soybeans.
- **Operational Group 'Lasting Fields in Practice'** – focusing on crop diversification, multicropping in arable farming. Through the development and testing of prototypes, the main objectives of the project are to reduce energy use, lower soil pressure, reduce use of pesticides and fertilisers, as well as improving labour efficiency, while facilitating multicropping/cultivation in strips.
- **Test Facility Agroecology and Technology** – focus on crop diversification (cultivation in strips), crop rotation tests and technology (autonomous vehicles/robots). The facility has 80 ha of demonstration fields for multidisciplinary research into regenerative plant production systems, focused on crop rotation and crop diversification in arable farming and open field horticulture.
- Besides visiting the Facility itself, several projects and initiatives that are ongoing there will be presented, such as **ReMIX**, **DiverIMPACTS**, **DIVERSify**, **TRUE** and **LEGVALUE**.



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Location 2: Lopikerkapel – focus on diversification in grassland

Includes a visit to a dairy farm, where two OGs will be presented.

- **Operational Group 'Powerful Herbs in Grassland for Better Animal Health'** – focusing on crop diversification in grassland, animal health/reduction of antibiotics. A ready-to-use integration of meadow herbs supported by an effective system to monitor the health of dairy cattle.
- **Operational Group 'Smart Grass Production'** – focusing on diversification in grassland, soil fertility and carbon in grassland. The project presents a combined sowing machine for precision fertilisation and herb-rich grassland mixture, and autonomous vehicles for grassland to avoid soil compaction.
- **Dairy farm of Matthé Eikelenboom** – focusing on diversification in grassland. The dairy farmer presents his grassland management which aims at reducing the use of antibiotics in dairy cows, telling about the diversification in grassland and showing different management options, grassland composition and differences in soil. This farmer is involved in the knowledge dissemination project 'Demonstration project carbon cycles'.
- **Project 'Demonstration project carbon cycles'** – focusing on soil fertility, carbon/nutrient efficiency in grassland. The aim of this project is to increase the organic matter content in the soil through a number of different measures. When more organic matter enters the soil, the water buffering capacity is increased, the dependence on crop protection agents is reduced and mineral leaching is prevented.

Networking dinner

On Tuesday 4 June, from 19:30 (tbc), a networking dinner will be organised. Further practical information will become available at a later stage.