

Programme

08:45-09:30	Registration
09:30-09:45	Opening address by Georg Häusler (Head of Cabinet for Commissioner Dacian Cioloş)
09:45-10:00	Presentation by Gerhard Zoubek, ADAMAH
10:05-10:20	Presentation by Andrzej Szymanski, Baltic Deal
10:25-10:40	Presentation by Iliara Pertot, PURE
10:40-11:00	Break
11:00-11:15	Presentation by Jacob van den Borne, Precision Agriculture Programme
11:20-11:35	Presentation by John Bailey, Dairyman
11:40-11:55	Presentations by Ilse Geyskens, Innovation Brokers
12:00-12:15	Sum up and Explanation of the World Café concept
12:15-14:00	Lunch and Poster Session
14:00-16:15	World Café session*
16:30-17:30	Summing up, mind mapping, conclusion

About the programme:

*What is World café?

The World Cafe is a method which makes use of an informal cafe for participants to explore an issue by discussing in small table groups. Discussion is held in multiple rounds of 20-30 minutes. Participants discuss the issue at hand around their table and at regular intervals they move to a new table. One participant (the table host) remains and summarises the previous conversation to the newly arrived participants. By moving participants around the room the conversations at each table are cross-fertilised with ideas from other tables. At the end of the process the main ideas are summarised in a plenary session

At the EIP conference, the World Café method will be used to structure a brainstorming on the future priorities of the EIP, allowing for input from all participants, as well as discussing the future work at operational level.

Adamah Biohof <http://www.adamah.at/>

ADAMAH Biohof in Lower Austria is an organic farm which specialises in the cultivation of traditional varieties. The farm has created its own direct sales for own and others products via a farm shop, a web shop, picnic baskets as well as organic boxes which are delivered to customers in Vienna. At Adamah, the cultivation of root vegetables, especially carrots, is of great importance for the direct marketing. Due to the already noticeable effects of climate change and to a certain degree the personal belief of the manager, the farm cultivates different seed resistant varieties. In cooperation with FiBL-Austria (Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau) and the University of Natural Resources and Life Science - the Institute of Plant Breeding (Vienna), they are currently working to develop an open pollinated carrot variety, which should be well adapted to the regional environment. Gerhard Zoubek, the progressive farmer at ADAMAH, is also involved in a number of other research projects spanning from a project with Vienna-based Institut für Bodenkultur and Institut für Produktionswirtschaft und Logistik that looks into climate-optimising the delivery of organic boxes in Vienna to a joint Swedish-Austrian research project that studies the need for resilience in the organic farm sector as a prerequisite for developing regional networks for organic products.

Baltic Deal <http://www.balticdeal.eu/>

The Baltic Deal is a good example of a thematic network which could exist under the EIP framework. It gathers farmers, researchers and advisors around the Baltic Sea in a bid to reduce nutrient losses from farms whilst maintaining competitiveness. The project is a good example of how knowledge sharing and pilot/demonstration projects can work to the benefit of the broader farming community – including farms of all types and sizes. Concretely the Baltic Deal works on a number of improved agricultural practices and techniques: fertilisation, manure management, soil structure and tillage, plant cover and buffer zones, nature areas and grasslands, wetlands and drainage and precision farming. The Baltic Deal also works closely with the NGO community (WWF). The presentation will show the concrete benefits of being engaged in a knowledge network. For the conference Mr Szymanski from the Brwinow Advisory centre in Poland will speak on the topic of "How can 48 Polish demo farms reach 3100 advisors and 1.538.000 farmers"

Dairyman <http://www.interregdairyman.eu/>

The "DAIRYMAN" project is a good example of a "thematic network". DAIRYMAN has brought together farmers, researchers, students and farm advisors from 10 different regions of North West Europe (NWE) with the objective of improving the economic and ecological sustainability of dairy farming. At researcher level, the network has been instrumental in assessing and comparing dairy sector sustainability in the main dairying regions. It has also been instrumental in evaluating and critiquing the principles behind the regional implementation of EU Environmental legislation, and in identifying opportunities for improving the sustainability of dairying via stakeholder cooperation. At the wider stakeholder level, the network has facilitated the testing of innovative sustainable practices on 130 pilot farms. Here, researchers, advisors and pilot farmers have worked together to improve the sustainability of dairy farming by making more efficient use of fertiliser, feed and energy resources, in order to deliver improvements both in farm economics and in key environmental services, e.g. clean water, clean air and biodiversity. Exchange visits for farmers, students and advisors within the network have been organized to facilitate knowledge exchange. Other events and meetings have been organised to facilitate knowledge dissemination to external stakeholders such as local farmers, educational institutions and policy makers. Dairyman aims to strengthen rural communities in the regions of NWE where dairy farming is a main economic activity and a vital form of land use. It is anticipated that key outcomes of the project will be a more competitive dairy sector, stronger regional economies and improved ecological performance of dairy farming. The project involves 14 partner organizations from 10 regions of 7 countries in NWE, and is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Innovation Brokers

The Flemish Innovation Support Centre for agriculture brokers for research on innovative solutions. One example is given by the case of Fons Gios, a pig farmer, who discovered a new way of treating manure which could lead to lower ammonia emissions. Following the NEC Directive, the Flemish environmental legislation requires that new pig stables reduce ammonia emissions with 50 % and are built according to an exhaustive list of emission reducing stable techniques. However, most of these techniques are not easy to build and costly (ventilation, air scrubber, etc). Fons Gios discussed his innovative concept for building an ammonia reduced pig stable with the Innovation Support Centre. The Innovation Support Centre explored and found financial support mechanisms to support research and measurements of the possible innovative technique. The Centre also identified additional business partners who could participate in the project. The first results are clear and good: 50% emission reduction is almost reached. If the ammonia emissions are 50% lower compared to the reference stable, the new stable concept will be added to the list of allowed techniques in legislation. This simple and cheap emission reducing solution would never have been discovered at the incentive of technology supplying businesses since the commercial gain they could have from it is too low and it would go against further selling of their existing solutions. This example shows that farmers are entrepreneurial also in inventing environmental solutions for agriculture and that innovation brokers - if well connected with the agricultural world - can pick up such innovative ideas, bring together the appropriate research centres and finally disseminate the results.

Precision Agriculture Programme <http://www.vandenborneaardappelen.com>

The Dutch precision agriculture programme brings together a group of farmers, industry, farmer unions, Wageningen University and the Ministry of Agriculture. It aims at the adaptation of precision farming techniques to local circumstances. In this way efficiency gains can be made (optimal fertilisation, less plant protection products, less fuel for machinery, less water use) which results in costs reductions and sometimes also productivity gains.

The "Making sense" project aims at developing precision farming management tools on the basis of data from sensors about soil and crops combined with climatic data and soil and crop calculation models. The presentation will be given by Jacob van den Borne, a potato farmer from the Netherlands whose farm is involved in a number of innovation projects

Pure <http://www.pure-ipm.eu/>

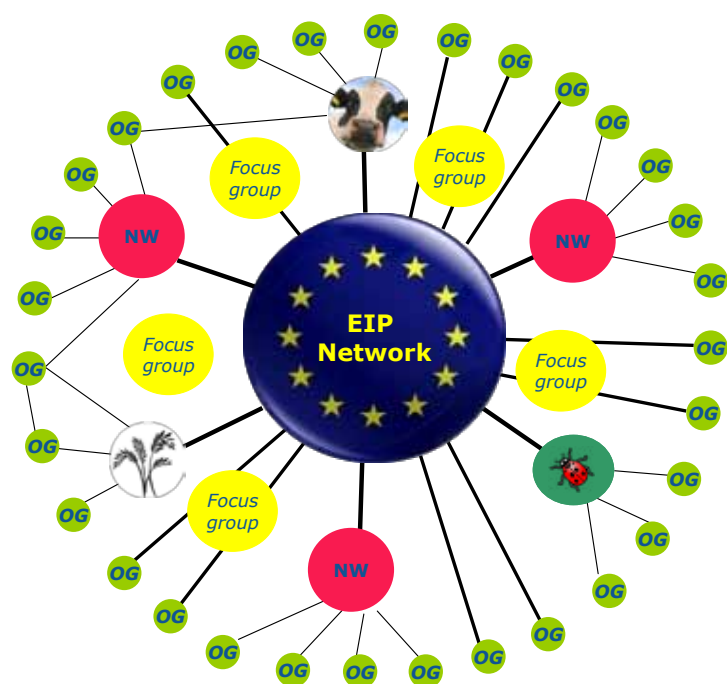
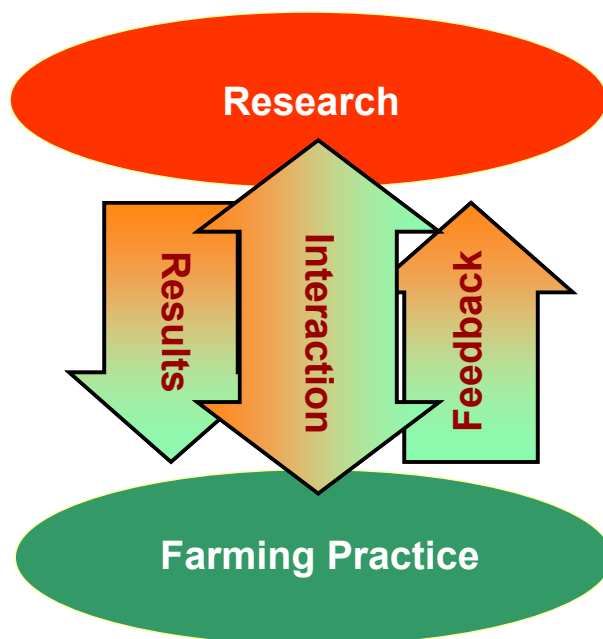
This is an example of an EIP operational group as it could look under support from the Research and Innovation framework. The group, which brings together researchers and farmers from a number of European countries, are working on pesticide use and risk reduction for grapevine. This particular project is part of the larger PURE project which is funded under the EU 7th framework programme for research. PURE will provide integrated pest management (IPM) solutions and a practical toolbox for their implementation in key European farming systems (annual arable and vegetable, perennial, and protected crops) in which reduction of pesticide use and better control of pests will have major effects. For each selected farming system, PURE will combine existing methods with new tools and technologies into novel IPM solutions addressing the biological, agronomical and economical diversity in Europe. IPM solutions will range from easy to adopt combinations of tactical control methods to more ambitious solutions involving strategic changes at farm level. PURE will test the efficacy, practicability and relevance of IPM solutions under the agro-ecosystems and farming conditions of the main broad European regions by on-station and on-farm experiments and will perform a comparative assessment of their environmental, economic and social sustainability. By jointly involving researchers and the key actors of pest management (farmers, advisors, policy makers and actors of the food supply chain) in design and assessment, PURE will facilitate the adoption of these innovative IPM solutions.

The EIP at a glance

The agricultural EIP aims to foster a competitive and sustainable agriculture and forestry that 'achieves more from less' input and works in harmony with the environment. For achieving this aim, the EIP needs to build bridges between research and technology and stakeholders (farmers, businesses, NGOs and advisory services) as well as enhance the knowledge exchange between actors operating on the ground.

The concept of Innovation Partnerships refers to a tool that pools forces and interlinks different actions. As such, EIPs are no policy or funding instruments of their own.

The innovation model under the agricultural EIP goes far beyond speeding up transfer from laboratory to practice through diffusion of new scientific knowledge (referred to as a "linear innovation model"). The EIP adheres to the "interactive innovation model" which focuses on forming partnerships - using bottom-up approaches and linking farmers, advisors, researchers, businesses, and other actors in Operational Groups. Such an approach will stimulate innovation from all sides and will help to target the research agenda, generating new ideas and insights, and including existing, sometimes tacit knowledge into focused solutions.



The EIP Network Facility

The network facility will work as a mediator enhancing communication between science and practice and fostering cooperation. It will encourage the establishment of Operational Groups and support their work through focus groups, seminars and workshops, the establishment of data bases (on relevant research results and good practice examples), support for partnering, and help desk functions.

In order to widen the knowledge base and sharing of experience, Operational Groups would report back to the EIP network about their actions. The EIP network will facilitate the effective flow of information beyond the local and regional level of each Operational Group.

Actions funded under the Research and Innovation Policy ('Horizon 2020')

The proposed Horizon 2020 regulation foresees the implementation of the Societal Challenge "Food security, sustainable agriculture marine and maritime research and the bio-economy" via a "multi-actor approach" which "will ensure the necessary cross-fertilising interactions between researcher, businesses, farmers/producers, advisors and end-users". This approach towards involving the relevant innovation actors fully matches with the concept of Operational Groups.

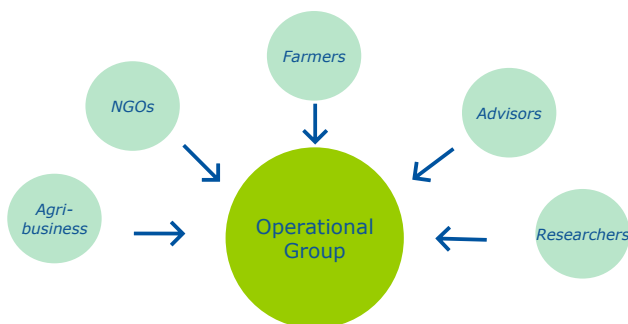
The undertakings of Horizon 2020 in support of "Operational Groups" will be translated into instruments and practical approaches via the annual work programmes and calls for proposals. Current thinking involves projects integrating a continuum from basic to applied research, cross-border and cluster initiatives such as thematic networks, multi-actor approaches, pilot or demonstration projects, as well as supporting innovation brokers and innovation centres as intermediates to connect farmers and stakeholders with research.

Actions funded under Rural Development

The proposed rural development regulation provides for financial support for Operational Groups (OGs) under the cooperation measure (art. 36). Support covers both setting up EIP OGs and funding their operations. The measure also supports many other activities which pursue the objectives of the EIP. One such is support for networks, which bring together a variety of actors and by sharing needs and knowledge may initiate actions of OGs and support actions of existing groups.

The cooperation measure also supports the development of new products, practices processes and technologies as well as support for "pilot projects". Pilot projects would pursue the testing and adaptation of technologies, processes etc. to "new" geographical/ environmental contexts (i.e. contexts in which they have not yet been used).

In addition, OGs may be eligible for support under other measures such as knowledge transfer and information actions, investment in physical assets, farm and business development and advisory services. OGs may also use funding instruments outside rural development policy – especially those of the EU's research policy. Programme authorities will approve OGs' projects on the basis of selection criteria provided for under Article 49 of the proposed Rural Development Regulation.



Different Sources of Funding for Operational Groups



Innovation under the EIP may be technological, non-technological, organisational or social, and based on new or traditional practices. Whilst OGs owe their basic conception to the LEADER approach, there are a number of important differences. OGs are not limited to a specific territory or contributions to a local development strategy but build themselves around concrete problems or opportunities, notably in the field of production and sustainable resource management, with innovative projects linking science and practice. The composition of OGs may be much more limited than that of Local Action Groups as OGs do not need to have a balanced representation of local public and private socio-economic interests.

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