



EIP-AGRI SEMINAR DIGITAL INNOVATION HUBS FOR AGRICULTURE



Speakers' CVs

In order of the programme



Phil Hogan

EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development

Mr Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development since November 1 2014. Commissioner Hogan grew up on a farm in rural Kilkenny, in south-east Ireland. From 1989 until he became Commissioner, he represented the Carlow/Kilkenny constituency in Dáil Éireann, the Irish Parliament, where he served in the Fine Gael Party shadow cabinet and as spokesman on Europe, on the food industry, on consumer affairs and on regional policy. Between 2011 and 2014, he served as Minister for the Environment and Local Government in the Irish Government of Prime Minister Enda Kenny TD. During this time, he successfully implemented a broad-ranging agenda, including the biggest reform of local government since the foundation of the Irish State.

He has also occupied various senior posts at local, national and European level, including President of the Council of EU Environment Ministers (2013), Chairman of the European People's Party of Environment Ministers (2012-14), National Director of Elections for the Fine Gael party (2010-11), Fine Gael Director of Organisation (2002-07), Chairman of Kilkenny County Council (1985 and 1998), Chairman of the Fine Gael Parliamentary Group (1995-2001) and Minister of State at the Irish Department of Finance (1994-95).

Prior to his entry to politics, he established and subsequently directed an insurance and real estate business. He also managed the family farm between 1981-83 and is a graduate of University College Cork, with a BA in Economics and Geography (1981).



Paolo De Castro

MEP, First Vice-Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Paolo De Castro is full professor of agricultural economics at the University of Bologna. On top of his academic career, Paolo De Castro has been strongly involved in agricultural policy making at both national and EU level: he served as Minister of agriculture, food and forestry for three times in the governments of Massimo D'Alema and Romano Prodi. As a Member of the European Parliament, he held the office of Chairman of Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development from 2009 to 2014, leading the European Parliament's negotiating team during the whole reform process of the Common Agricultural Policy for the 2014/2020 period.

Today, he is the first Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.



Fabio Cossu

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Fabio has worked as policy officer at the European Commission since September 2015, when he joined the Research & Innovation Unit within the Directorate General for agriculture and rural development (DG AGRI). He contributes to the implementation of the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture productivity and sustainability (EIP-AGRI) holding responsibility for communications and supporting EIP-AGRI networking activities to bridge "research and practice". Agronomist by academic background, he has been working on rural development-related issues for more than ten years, starting as independent evaluator of EU rural development programmes. Before joining the European Commission he was policy analyst at the Contact Point of the 'European Network for Rural Development'. Initially in charge of monitoring of rural development programmes, he then led the 'policy analysis' team, responsible for the analysis of the programmes' implementation, several thematic working groups and the dissemination of good practices.

Ana Cuadrado Galván

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Ana Cuadrado Galván joined the European Commission (DG Agriculture and Rural Development) in 2012 as Desk Officer for the Rural Development Programmes of Scotland and Wales. She is currently Research Programme Officer in the Research and Innovation Unit within DG AGRI. This Unit is responsible for the implementation of the EIP-AGRI and co-manages the Societal Challenge 2 of Horizon 2020 with DG RTD.

Ana's main responsibility is the programming of funding activities under H2020 in the area related to digital agriculture (Precision Farming, Internet of Things, Big Data etc.). She is project officer of the IoF2020 project and she is responsible of the Precision Farming Focus Group under the EIP-AGRI.

Ana Cuadrado Galván is an agricultural engineer and has a university degree on environmental sciences. She completed her studies with a Master in European affairs.

Before joining the Commission, she was Head of the Delegation of the Innovation Agency of Castilla y León in Brussels. She has 15 years of experience in the management of EU research and innovation programmes and projects.



Ronan Burgess

European Commission, DG Communications Networks, Content & Technology

Ronan Burgess has been Deputy Head of the Photonics Unit in the European Commission since May 2011. The unit is responsible for providing funding for collaborative research and innovation projects all over Europe in the area of photonics. Ronan joined the Commission in 1996 and worked in the Telematics for Disabled and Elderly Unit and later in the Microelectronics Unit, before joining the Photonics Unit in 2007. Previously he worked in Philips, The Netherlands, which he joined in 1986, working initially as a researcher and later as a programme manager and a product development manager.

Cato Bechtold

Ministry of Economic Affairs - The Netherlands

Cato Bechtold works on experimentation and innovation at the Ministry of Economic Affairs in the Netherlands. She recently returned from Boston, USA, where she worked as an innovation officer for the Holland Innovation Network. There she was actively engaged in the innovation hub, and learned a lot about the setup, actors, and workings of this ecosystem.

She has a background in social geography with a MSc from the University of Oxford and a BA from Maastricht University. She is experienced in the interplay between science/technology and society. Her goal is to integrate innovation (both in content and in form) into the government.



Speakers for session on the main building blocks of a DIH in agriculture



Peter Liggesmeyer

Fraunhofer IESE

Germany

Since 2015, Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Peter Liggesmeyer has been the Executive Director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering IESE in Kaiserslautern. From 2004 until 2014, Prof. Liggesmeyer was the Scientific Director of the Institute. Since 2004, he has been holding the chair of Software Engineering: Dependability in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Kaiserslautern, and since 2014, he has been managing the affairs of the Gesellschaft für Informatik (GI, e.V., German Informatics Society) as its President.



Tom Kelly

EUFRAS/TEAGASC

Ireland

Tom Kelly is Director of Knowledge Transfer in Teagasc; he leads the Agricultural Education and Farm Advisory Services in Teagasc. Teagasc advisory programmes are contracted to service 45,000 farmers and the vocational education programme supports the equivalent to 3,050 full time students annually. Teagasc is an independent state agency with responsibility for the development of agriculture and food in Ireland.

Tom has a primary degree in agricultural science (1977) and a research based Masters and PhD from the National University of Ireland, University College Dublin.

Tom completed a corporate MBA at the University of Limerick. He is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Agriculture Extension by University College Dublin.

Tom is president/chairman of EUFRAS (European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services) which has a membership of 33 organisation from 24 European countries and affiliated to g-Fras the global organisation of rural advisors.



Mihai Stanescu & Stefan Stanescu

AGRISO

Romania

Mihai Stanescu is the head of the technological department of AgriSo, with solid knowledge of computer programming, and application design. He co-founded AgriSo in 2013 with his cousin, Stefan Stanescu, who is a vegetal farmer, working 3 600 hectares in the south of Romania, being also the pilot farm of testing and developing new features for AgriSo. He is also the Vice-president of Romanian Young Farmers Association.

AgriSo is a farm management solution, making more efficient the activity inside vegetal farms, very active on the Romanian agricultural market, with more than 100 000 hectares covered. They are also the winners of Future Agro Challenge Romania 2017, being also very active in promoting their solutions in countries like South Africa, Belgium, Ireland, United Arab Emirates. This year, after participation at Global Entrepreneurship Congress, Johannesburg, they started to provide their solution there, in a partnership with a local key partner.



Hubert Cottogni

European Investment Fund

Hubert Cottogni is the Head of the Mandate Management Department, as well as a Deputy Director, for the European Investment Fund (EIF). He is responsible for originating and managing both regional and centralised mandates as well as fund of funds throughout Europe and beyond. For the agricultural sector, EIF is implementing financial instruments to benefit final recipients, such as in Germany with 16 Bürgschaftsbanken, Denmark with Vækstfonden, Hungary with AVHGA, France with Occitanie, and Italy with 8 regions.

He also sits on the Board of several prominent funds such as Green for Growth Fund (GGF) and European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE).

Previously, he was a Director of Telekom Austria in Vienna, where he spent over 6 years as Head of Strategy and Business Development, and later as Director of Mergers and Acquisitions. He also spent more than 12 years working as Senior Banker in institutions such as EIB and Creditanstalt AG.

Mr. Cottogni holds an MBA degree from the University of Innsbruck as well as an executive degree from INSEAD.



Alfonso Ribas

Institute of Food Quality (INGACAL)

Spain

PhD in Economics. For more than 8 years Alfonso has worked as a Technical Secretary of Galician Institute of Food Quality (INGACAL). This Institute belongs to Xunta de Galicia (Regional Government), and has along other functions, managing the agricultural and forestry research. Nowadays all agricultural and forestry research are under Ingacal authority and it has more than 200 workers between researchers and research staff. In recent years they have carried out several projects in the regional, national and European level. Alfonso has coordinated in recent years three INTERREG IV B SUDOE projects (WINetech and WINetech Plus) and one H2020 project. The INTERREG projects had as common objective the improvement of research and innovation standards in wine sector in the countries who made up the project (France, Spain and Portugal). Alfonso is currently coordinating INGACAL participation in WINETWORK project (H2020 ISIB 2), whose main objective is transfer knowledge about Grape Trunk Diseases among European countries.



Luis Pérez Freire

Gradiant – Galician R&D Center in Advanced Telecommunications

Spain

Luis is Executive Director of Gradiant, the Galician R&D Center in Advanced Telecomms, since 2015. He received a PhD in Telecommunications Engineering from the University of Vigo, Spain, in 2008. Before joining Gradiant in 2009 he was a visiting scholar in the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, and a postdoctoral researcher in the Security Labs of Thomson R&D (now Technicolor) in Rennes, France.

Luis has been leading since 2015 the working group on smart farming and food security of the Alliance for Internet of Things Innovation (AIOTI), a not-for-profit European association with more than 150 members aimed at creating a vibrant IoT ecosystem in Europe and accelerating the take up of IoT technologies. He has been actively contributing since 2016 to the Digitising European Industry Strategy, in the sub-group of Smart Farming. Luis is currently leading Gradiant as the main competence center in ICT technologies to drive, through applied R&D and innovation, the digital transformation of the key industrial sectors of Galicia. In particular, he is co-leading the creation of a digital innovation hub for the Galician agri-food sector, in close collaboration with the regional government and other key Galician actors.



Daniel Azevedo

COPA-COGECA

Daniel Azevedo is a senior policy adviser in the Commodities and Trade team of Copa and Cogeca, an agricultural lobby representing 66 national farm organizations and cooperatives in Europe. He is a natural resources engineer graduated in the University of Évora (Portugal) currently following EU Livestock sector, Bilateral Trade Agreements and Agricultural Machinery. He is also the coordinator of Copa and Cogeca Task Force on agricultural technology. He has previously been working for DG Agriculture and Rural Development after specializing on agro-environmental measures in SLU university (Sweden). Mr. Azevedo comes from a family producing wine and olive oil in the Douro Valley in Portugal.

CVs - European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development



Iman Boot

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Facilitator

Iman Boot has been working for the Commission in DG Agriculture and Rural development for more than 10 years and has been working on a wide range of subjects (rural development, enlargement, different CAP Reforms, genetic resources).



Louis Mahy

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Facilitator

Louis Mahy is Research Programme Officer at the European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development. After concluding a masters in Rural Development at Ghent University and Food and Resource Economics at the University of Florida, he has been active in research on agricultural policy issues from an economic perspective. He changed for the European Commission in 2014, to finally join DG AGRI's research and innovation team in 2016. Now he is working on the European research and innovation agenda, part of Horizon 2020 and EIP-AGRI. His main focus lies on livestock, digitization and sustainability topics.

CVs - EIP-AGRI Service Point team



Vincent Tiel Groenestege

Main facilitator

Vincent Tiel Groenestege is advisor on sustainability & stakeholder involvement. Since 1998 he has worked in various executive agencies of the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs, formerly the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation. During this period he was involved in several regional development projects in the Netherlands and abroad to advise and facilitate in participatory processes. He is co-author of 'the first Aid Kit to public participation (2007)' which was published in 5 languages.

Since 2008 he is inspired by the sustainability concept Cradle to Cradle. In 2009 the publication 'Cradle to Cradle as inspiration for sustainable regional development' appeared (in Dutch) of which he was the editor.

He also regularly acts as lead facilitator/moderator at national and international conferences.



Quico Ónega López

Task Manager / Facilitator

Quico is Research and Science Policy Officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point. He works as researcher and lecturer at the Land Laboratory at University of Santiago de Compostela (Galicia-Spain). He has been involved in several projects related to land policy design and improvement of land development instruments both at local, regional and international level. He participates in the Master on Sustainable Land Planning, coordinating and lecturing in courses dealing with Land Development Instruments, Rural Development Policies and Conflict Negotiation and Resolution. He has different publications in the realm of land management, rural development and agriculture, with innovation and institutional change as cross-cutting issue. From 2007 until 2009 he was involved in the creation and development of the Land Bank of Galicia, being its first Managing Director. He has practical experience in agriculture as he is part-time farmer (sheep farm) and co-partner of a small company for Direct to Consumer Lamb Marketing.



Pacôme Elouna Eyenga

Facilitator

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 has been the Team Leader of the EIP-AGRI Service Point for which he was appointed Deputy Team Leader at its establishment in 2013 by the European Commission, namely DG AGRI. Before joining EIP-AGRI Service Point, he worked as European Affairs Officer from 2008 at VLM – Flemish Land Agency (Belgium) where he was dealing with European projects and policies especially rural development and cohesion policy, and networking.

Willemine Brinkman

Facilitator

Willemine Brinkman is the deputy team leader of the EIP-AGRI Service Point. Since 2007, she has worked in various executive agencies of the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs, formerly the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation. She previously coordinated the European Tropical Forest Research Network, bringing research closer to policy and practice. Ms Brinkman studied tropical forestry and agronomy at Wageningen Agricultural University, and worked as an advisor in forestry and agriculture in an integrated rural development project in the Philippines.



Sergiu Didicescu

Facilitator

Born 1980, Romanian

Sergiu is educated in agricultural and food economics and has a specialisation in oenology. At the start of his professional life he worked as an oenologist in one of Romania's wine producing areas. He then worked for the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the European Commission DG AGRI. From 2013 he has been farm practice officer and rural development officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point.

Sergiu believes that innovation, or what he calls 'ideas being successfully applied in practice', is key for unlocking the potential of EU farming. The way forward is to implement the new EU-wide innovation model based on interactive participation of farmers, scientists and other actors along the value chain closely working together which will make it more likely and more often that innovations and research results are adopted by farmers and transposed into practice successfully.



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.



Beatriz Guimarey Fernández

Facilitator

Bea Guimarey is Forestry Engineer and has a Master in Sustainable Land Planning by the Univ. of Santiago de Compostela (Spain). At the same institution she works on the Land Laboratory and Territorial Information System Platform in projects related to Geographical Information Systems and remote sensing techniques.

At EIP-AGRI Service Point she is partial time research officer. Her main duties involve organisation and facilitation of EIP-AGRI workshops and Focus Groups, communication with research institutions and she contributes also to EIP-AGRI publications.





Pille Koorberg

Facilitator

She has a Msc in environmental sciences and has over 16 years' experience in agri-environment (AE) and rural development policy, with a special focus on development of evaluation schemes for rural development programmes regarding relevant indicator systems, data collection and data management. She is currently a director of the Estonian Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) which is the leading research and advisory body of the Ministry of Agriculture in the field of rural development in Estonia.

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.



Sarah Beigel

Communication officer

As part of the EIP-AGRI Service Point's communication team, Sarah coordinates the EIP-AGRI newsletter and the Service Point standard email. She works on publications, contributes to the content of the EIP-AGRI website and offers support for events.

Sarah is British, currently living and working in France. She has a masters in International project management, and experience taking part in international cooperation projects aimed at knowledge exchange and she had organised a number of international meetings and events within her role as European project officer for AC3A (French Chambers of Agriculture).