

eip-agri  
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

European Commission | European Network for Rural Development | eip-agri  
European Rural Networks' Assembly

**Subgroup on Innovation  
for agricultural productivity and sustainability**  
17<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
3 December 2020

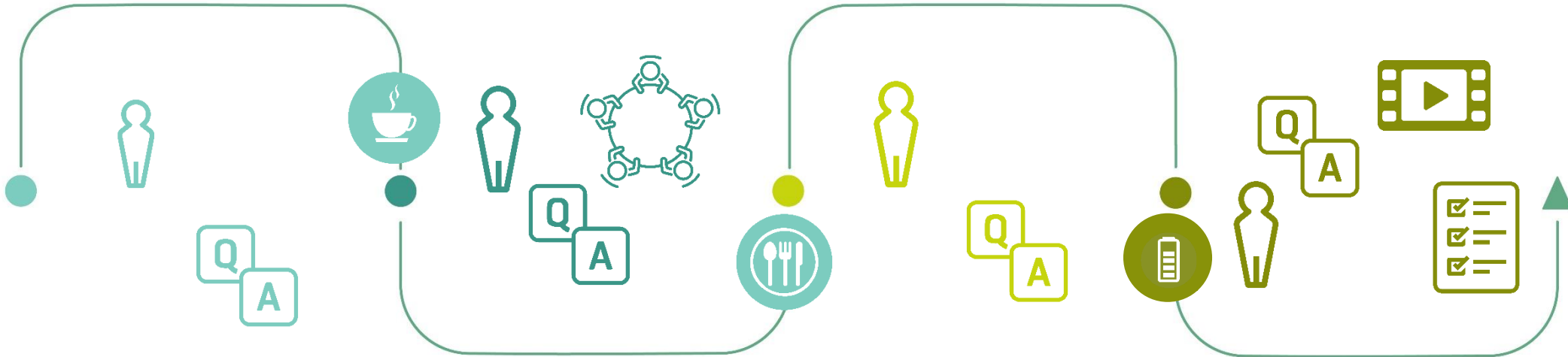
#RNSubInnovation - @EIPAGRI\_SP

## MORNING

## AFTERNOON

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EIP-AGRI Service Point work programme

Ideas for the innovation strand national CAP network

Ideas for networking activities European CAP network

Achievements of EIP-AGRI network



# The European Innovation Partnership “Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability” fostering innovation since 2013

A story told by many voices

Willemine Brinkman  
EIP-AGRI Service Point

SUBGROUP ON INNOVATION  
for agricultural productivity and sustainability  
17<sup>th</sup> meeting  
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# 7 Years of EIP-AGRI: what did we achieve?

“The astonishing number of projects and innovations brought about by the EIP-AGRI all over Europe: it has translated a policy headline – getting knowledge and innovation down to the ground while achieving more with less – into tangible results for all European farmers and foresters.”

**Kerstin Rosenow**



“The EIP-AGRI demonstrates that fostering the enthusiasm, creativity and co-creation of knowledge by people working on the ground is the strongest force for finding viable solutions. This has been the most valid argument for continuing and widening this approach also in the future.”

**Martin Scheele**



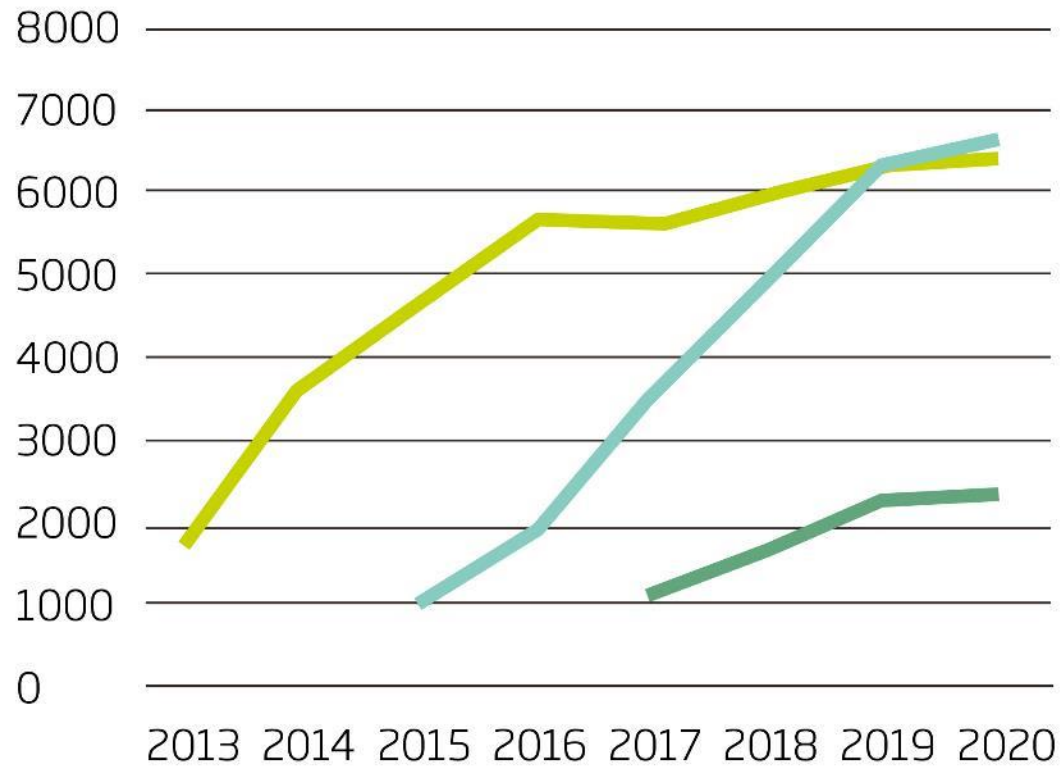
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# Building the network



	News letter	Twitter	LinkedIn
2013-2014	1731	0	0
2014-2015	3449	0	0
2015-2016	4547	964	0
2016-2017	5686	1978	0
2017-2018	5600	3220	1044
2018-2019	5926	4837	1526
2019-2020	6253	6253	2123
2020-July	6224	6722	2299

■ Newsletter   ■ Twitter   ■ LinkedIn



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# Capacity building events: promoting interactive innovation



“EIP-AGRI provides many valuable tools for local innovators that are helpful for networking – which is what we try to foster”

**Edgars Linde**, NRN Latvia  
member of the Subgroup on Innovation

“Hosting the seminar `Moving EIP-AGRI implementation forward`, in Athens, May 2017, was a unique opportunity for the country to advance and to boost the setting-up of Operational Groups under Measure 16 of the RDP.

**Maria-Christina Makrandreou**, Greek NRN



“In a nutshell, the EIP-AGRI events have been a mix of three “new”-s: new knowledge, new contacts, and new inspiration.”

**Helena Pärenson**, Ministry of Rural Affairs  
of the Republic of Estonia



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# Thematic pages

- Agricultural productivity and resource-efficiency
- Biobased and circular economy
- Biodiversity, ecosystem services, and soil
- Climate change
- Digitalisation
- Food quality, food safety and healthy lifestyles
- Innovative integrated supply chains
- Social innovation



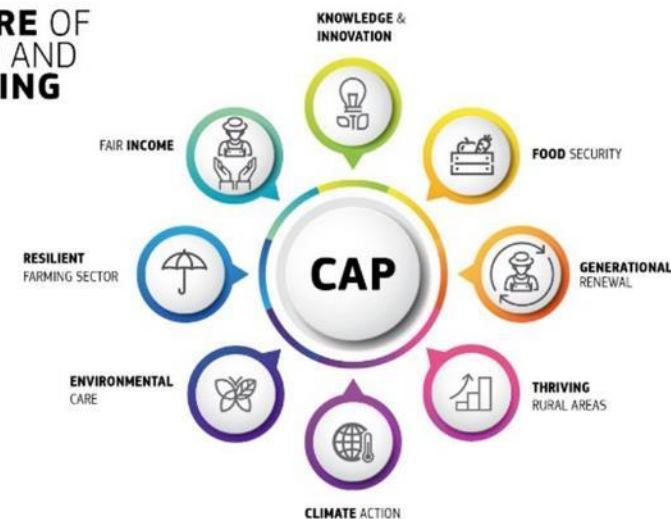
# Future challenges



“We try to keep a circular bioeconomy mindset in everything we do on the farm, every decision we make is aimed at limiting inputs and outputs. This brings immediate financial and environmental benefits.”  
**Kylie Magner** (Ireland), farmer and participant in the workshop ‘Opportunities for farm diversification in the circular bioeconomy’



## FUTURE OF FOOD AND FARMING





# Future challenges



“Addressing the challenges ahead is not an easy task, but **everyone – farmers, consumers, citizens – understands the urgency to act.** The Farm to Fork and the Biodiversity strategies do not simply set objectives, they also provide concrete tools for farmers and foresters to achieve them. Both strategies rely on the Common Agricultural Policy to support farmers in doing so. Research, innovation and new (digital) technologies are at the heart of the future CAP and Horizon Europe. The EIPAGRI will be there to ensure that they make a difference in the field.”

**María Angeles Benítez Salas**, Deputy Director- General, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission



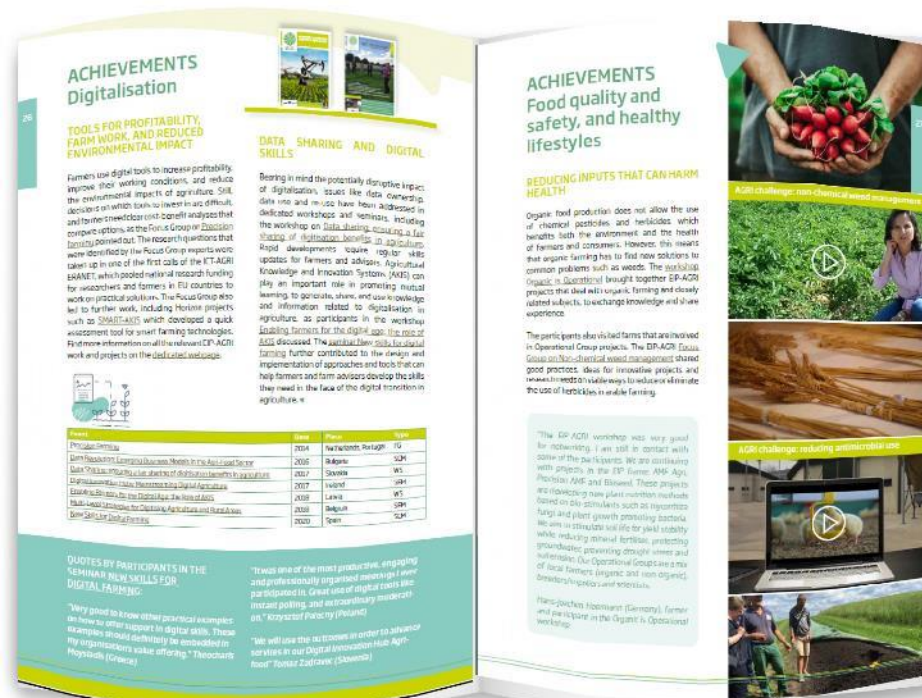
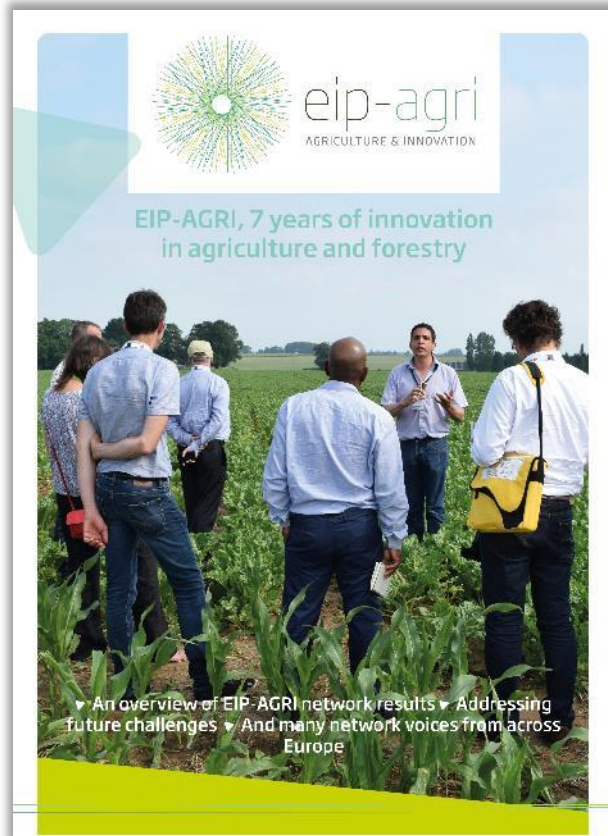
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# Report: EIP-AGRI, 7 years of innovation in agriculture and forestry



## ACHIEVEMENTS Digitalisation

### TOOLS FOR PROFITABILITY, FARM WORK, AND REDUCED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Farmers use digital tools to increase profitability, improve their working conditions, and reduce the environmental impact of agriculture. Still, decisions on which tools to invest in are difficult, and farmers themselves do not benefit enough from digital tools. The research group in this report identified the most promising digital tools for farmers and advisers. Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) can play an important role in promoting mutual learning to generate, share, and use knowledge and information related to digitalisation in agriculture, as participants in the workshop leading to this report also pointed out. The report also discussed the potential for digitalisation to help farmers and farm advisers develop the skills they need in the face of the digital transition in agriculture.

Year	Project	Country	Type
2014	Project Digitalisation	Netherlands, Portugal	FG
2015	Smart Farming: Learning from the Netherlands	Belgium	SM
2017	Smart Farming: Learning from the Netherlands	Denmark	MS
2017	Smart Farming: Learning from the Netherlands	France	SM
2018	Smart Farming: Learning from the Netherlands	Spain	MS
2018	Smart Farming: Learning from the Netherlands	Spain	SM
2018	Smart Farming: Learning from the Netherlands	Spain	SM

### QUOTES BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE SEMINAR NEW SKILLS FOR DIGITAL FARMING

"Very good to know other practical examples in order to offer support in digital skills. These examples should definitely be included in my organization's value offering." Theodoros Phylakidis (Greece)

"I think one of the most productive, engaging and professionally organized meetings I ever participated in. Great use of digital tools like mind mapping, and an interesting introduction on 'Koyasol Farming' (Finland)." "We will use the resources in order to advance services at our Digital Innovation Hub. Agrifor" Tomer Zaidman (Israel)

## ACHIEVEMENTS Food quality and safety, and healthy lifestyles

### REDUCING INPUTS THAT CAN HARM HEALTH

Organic food production does not allow the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides which benefits both the environment and the health of farmers and consumers. However, this means that organic farming has to find new solutions to common problems such as weeds. The workshop in Sicily brought together EIP-AGRI projects that deal with organic farming and closely related subjects, to exchange knowledge and share experience.

The participants also visited farms that are involved in Operational Group projects. The EIP-AGRI Sicily Group on Bio-chemical weed management shared good practices, ideas for innovative projects, and ways to create pathways to reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides in organic farming.

### THE EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP WAS VERY GOOD FOR KNOWING. I AM STILL IN CONTACT WITH SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS. WE ARE CONTINUING WITH GROUPS IN THE EIP-AGRI Sicily Group on Bio-chemical Weed Management. These projects are developing new plant nutrition methods based on the principles such as nitrogen fixation and plant growth promoting bacteria. We aim to increase soil life for yield stability while reducing mineral fertilizers, protecting groundwater, preserving strongly eroded and vulnerable. Our Operational Groups are a mix of local farmers (organic and non-organic), breeders, processors and retailers.

Hans-Joachim Heilmann (Germany), farmer and participant in the Organic Operational Workshop



# Thank you

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