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AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

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

**Subgroup on Innovation
for agricultural productivity and sustainability**
17th Meeting
3 December 2020

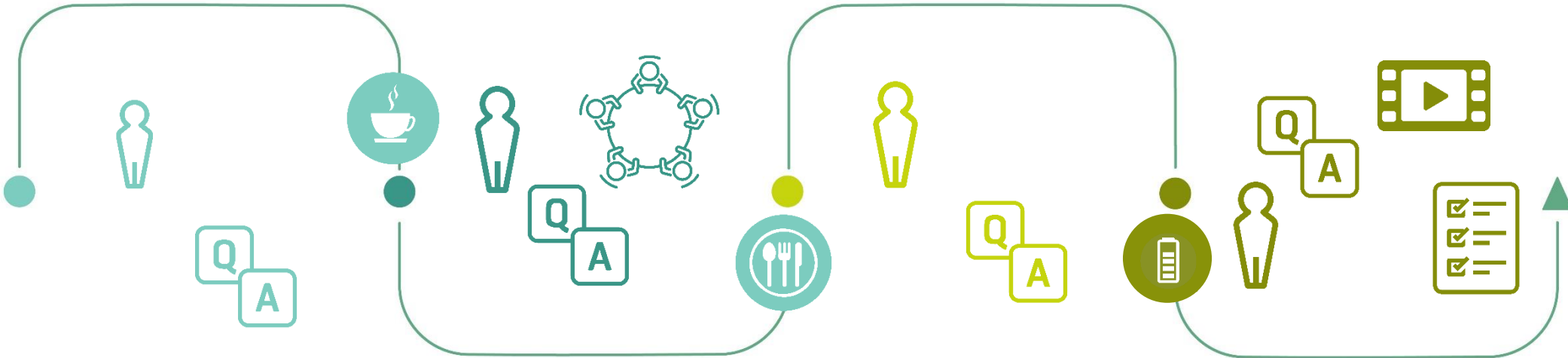
#RNSubInnovation - @EIPAGRI_SP

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



Activities of the EIP-AGRI Network

Véronique Rebholtz
EIP-AGRI Service Point

SUBGROUP ON INNOVATION
for agricultural productivity and sustainability
17th meeting
3 December 2020



Recent activities

Online meetings of Focus Groups

April-May /
October

'Wildlife and agricultural
production'
2 meetings

'Industrial crops'
2 meetings

'Reducing the plastic
footprint of agriculture'
2 meetings

'Sust. Beef Production
systems'
2 meetings

'Tropical crops'
1st meeting



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16-17-18 September 2020
EIP-AGRI Seminar 'CAP Strategic Plans: the key role of AKIS in Member States'

Recent activities – Seminar

**16-17-18 September - Seminar
'CAP Strategic Plans: the key role of AKIS
in Member States'**

Overall aim - support the Member States in the preparation of their AKIS Strategic Plans and to promote efficient agricultural knowledge flows across EU.

Format of the event:

- 2,5 day-event
- Interactive
- About 40 speakers



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Seminar 'CAP Strategic Plans: the key role of AKIS in Member States'

- All Member States were represented:
 - Representatives of RDP Managing Authorities (national and regional levels)
 - NRNs
 - Representatives of national FAS coordinating entities
 - Advisory organisations
- The programme:
 - Concept and basic aspects of AKIS
 - Integration of advisers and the preparation of the CAP networks in strengthening the AKIS
 - Inspiration from existing tools and initiatives that may be relevant
 - Preparation of the AKIS strategic plan and AKIS interventions

All results including recordings from the sessions are available at the [event webpage](#)



Some highlights from the seminar

Context & AKIS

- Agriculture will become more knowledge-intensive and there will be a need for greater collaboration due to the increasingly complex challenges faced by agriculture.
- Collaboration across borders will be particularly important.
- The aim is to create an innovation ecosystem by enhancing knowledge flows.
- AKIS is a key strategy for providing support to the 9 new CAP objectives.

Integrating advisers in the AKIS

- All advisers will be integrated within AKIS in an inclusive way without the current admin burden (certification, procurement etc).
- Advisers will cover a much broader scope (econ, env and soc), improve their interaction with research, and also must provide innovation support for EIP OGs.
- Advisers will need a different skillset (training necessary) and renewed organization models (e.g. vouchers).

CAP Networks

- CAP networks will be the cornerstone of the AKIS, and the glue between actors. Some of their most relevant roles:
- Collecting and sharing knowledge, all the relevant input for AKIS actors;
- Organising events to link and network AKIS actors for future cooperation;
- Promoting and making OGs visible, and connecting them with Horizon Europe projects;
- Helping to facilitate cross-border OGs.

AKIS Strategic plans

- Develop the strategic AKIS plan in a transformative process together with different stakeholders.
- Enhance all kinds of cross-border possibilities.
- Different ministries in MSs need to coordinate in an AKIS coordination body.





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20-21 October 2020

EIP-AGRI Workshop Shaping the EU mission 'Caring for soil is caring for life'

Recent activities – Workshop

20-21 October

'Shaping the EU mission – Caring for soil is caring for life'

Overall aim – Introducing the mission & consulting primarily farmers and foresters, along with advisers and other stakeholders from different regions of Europe on the goals proposed by the mission board

Main Outcomes:

- **78** participants from 23 countries (21 member states)
- **4 sessions** where the Soil mission was presented by board members
- 2 Lighthouse Farms and 2 Living Labs were introduced
- **4 breakout sessions** where participants **exchanged ideas and gave feedback** to the proposed mission

All results including recordings from the sessions are available at the [event website](#)



First impressions of the workshop

Session 1: General feedback to the mission

- All stakeholders were very pleased to see soil brought into the center of attention by the soil mission
- In general the feedback to the proposed mission was very positive
- Some doubts about the achievability of the very ambitious goals by 2030
- Soil health takes long time to improve so the projects should be more long-term as well

Session 2: Research and innovation needs

- The R&I needs proposed by the mission board were accepted well by the participants
- The R&I needs were ranked by the participants to determine the most relevant ones for the practitioners
- Some additional R&I needs were proposed in the BO sessions

Session 3: Living Labs and Lighthouse farms

- This session sparked the most vivid discussion and a lot of questions
- Many participants were interested being a Lighthouse farm or being a part of a Living Lab
- In general LL and Lighthouses were warmly welcomed by the practitioners and seem to be a valuable tool in the implementation of the mission

Session 4: Supportive environment for the mission implementation

- Advisers support; clear guidelines to adopt new practices
- LL & Lighthouses; peer to peer learning
- Measures to support farmers during the transition to more sustainable practices
- Better communication with consumers to help them making informed decisions



Upcoming activities – events I

November

~~17-18 Nov~~
~~Workshop 'Forest innovation'~~

CANCELLED

Workshop in October regarding the Soil Mission has been organised instead.

Dec. / Jan.

3 December
Subgroup Innovation
17th meeting

Online

January 2021
FG 'Tropical crops',
2nd meeting

Online

Upcoming activities – events II

Spring 2021

Workshop 'Towards carbon neutral agriculture'

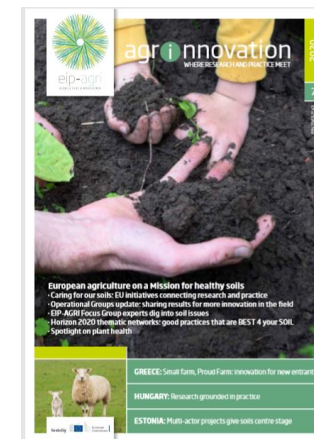
Tallinn, Estonia (tbc) | Overall aim - promote networking among OGs and other innovative projects dealing with practices towards a more carbon neutral agriculture; also aiming at promoting the adoption of carbon neutral farming practices that bring other environmental benefits and identifying future research needs in this area.

Seminar 'Healthy soils for Europe: sustainable management through knowledge and practice'

Setúbal, Portugal (tbc) | Overall aim - raise awareness and address practical soil management challenges and solutions to enhance soil health.

Communication-related activities

- [Agrinnovation magazine](#), soil – Sept. 2020
- Monthly newsletter
- Press articles
- Brochure on climate-smart agriculture
- Thematic campaigns (social media, newsletter): animal welfare, soil, forestry, Operational Groups and new farmers
- [Video gallery](#) on EIP-AGRI website: [Subgroup on Innovation video](#)
- Animated infographics: [Innovation Support Services](#), [Soil Salinisation](#), [Focus Groups](#) and AKIS
- [List of EIP-AGRI Events 2013-2020](#)
- [Updated overview of the Focus Groups](#)



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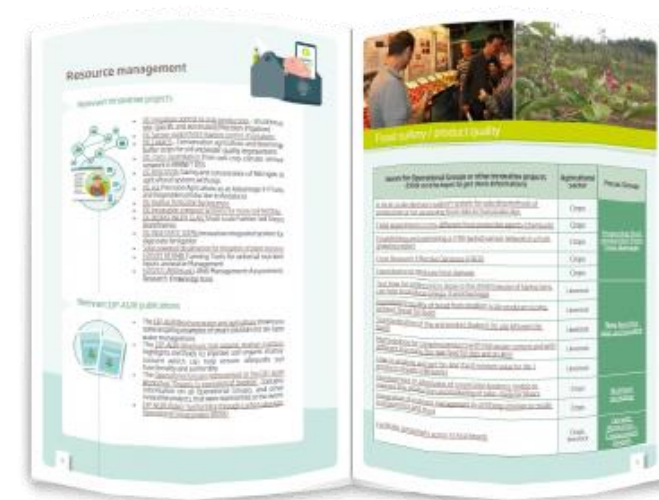


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Ideas for Operational Groups report

- Inspiration purpose
- Proposed by EIP-AGRI Focus Groups experts
- Non-exhaustive list of ideas for:
 - Operational Groups
 - Other innovative projects

[Download the report](#)



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Thank you

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