



## EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP 'TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRAL AGRICULTURE' 24-25 MARCH 2021 - ONLINE EVENT



### Speaker and facilitator CVs

In order of the programme



#### **Maria Angeles Benitez Salas**

##### **European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development**

Ms María de los Ángeles Benítez Salas has worked as Deputy Director General in DG AGRI since 16 March 2016. She is in charge of three directorates responsible for International, Quality, Research and Innovation, Outreach, Strategy, Simplification and Policy Analysis.

A Spanish national, Ms Benítez Salas joined the European Commission in 1986 as Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Abel Matutes, responsible for SME policy, and subsequently External Relations. After a stint at the EU Delegation in Buenos Aires, she first became Head of Unit in 1998 and was a Director in DG AGRI between 2006 and 2013. Her previous position was Deputy Head of the European Political Strategy Centre, the European Commission's in-house think tank.



#### **Susana Gaona Sáez**

##### **European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development**

Susana Gaona Sáez is Research Programme Officer at the European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Research & Innovation Unit, where she is responsible for the portfolio of ecological approaches. Before joining the European Commission in 2018, she worked for 10 years at the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), holding various positions as Policy, Liaison, External Relations and Partnerships officer in Rome and in Brussels. Prior to that, she represented the main Spanish national farmers' association in Brussels during three years. She started her professional career in Andalucía (Spain), supporting the regional government in the implementation of the CAP aid regime.

She holds a Master's degree in Agricultural Engineering fulfilled at the Universities of Córdoba (Spain) and Ghent (Belgium), and a post-graduate Master in European Union Studies from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB).



#### **Tõnis Ajaots**

##### **Estonia**

OÜ Rannu Seeme agronomist, Estonia

Tõnis is a young agronomist in company Rannu Seeme. Like in every family company, there is no way not to be involved in it. He graduated Estonian University of Life Sciences bachelor and masters in production and marketing of agricultural products speciality. After graduation he decided to be full-time worker in family company.

He is involved with agronomist tasks like all field surveys, inputs selection and planning, field book maintenance, crop rotation planning, etc. Also, machines aren't far from him. On harvesting time, he operates with combine.



**Harry Kager**

**The Netherlands**

Strategic advisor on sustainable agriculture at Schuttelaar & Partners, the Netherlands

Harry has broad knowledge about agriculture and themes like emissions, climate, manure and nature-inclusive farming. He is working as a consultant for the Dutch government, branch organisations and agrifood-companies about different sustainability issues.

In the period prior to his current position, Harry worked 14 years as policy advisor for Dutch farmers organisations. He was responsible at the farmers organisations for giving input to climate and manure policy in the Netherlands. Over the years he learned a lot from discussions with farmers and other stakeholders about climate and agriculture.

Harry is now working together with Wageningen University & Research and other partners on a long-term strategy to reduce emissions in the Dutch livestock sector. Name of the programme is the 'Integral Approach'. The approach consists of measurements of emissions on farms, research, pilots on farms, subsidies to help innovative farmers, a network of farmers and knowledge sharing. The programme is financed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

**Jacopo Goracci**

**Italy**



Jacopo Goracci - Born in 1977, with a degree and PhD in animal science, has always been interested in the study of organic farming and pasture-based breeding techniques, local breeds and the complex relationships between ecosystem and mixed-farm management. Since 2005, he manages Tenuta di Paganico Soc.Agr. SpA, an extensive organic farm (beef cattle, pigs) with the task of making the management of 1500 hectares sustainable. Thanks to an established partnership with Italian and foreign Universities and Research institutions, Tenuta di Paganico is trying to become a model farm for the development of a sustainable agro-silvo-pastoral system, through participation in: Horizon 2020 "Agromix" grant, EIP-AGRI OG "Agroforestry network in Tuscany (NEWTON)", EIP-AGRI Focus Group "Sustainable beef production system", IPES-Food European Food & Farming Forum and so on. Within those projects, he has designed some prototypes: a strip-till seed drill for low-input pasture reseeding, a mobile fence for pasture-based beef cattle and a special trailer for on-farm pigs' slaughtering (all granted by Tuscany Region). From 2017 he is the President of the Maremmana Beef Cattle Association - an organization of breeders, processors and restaurateurs linked to the valorization of Maremmana meat - and the responsible for the Slow Food Presidium "Maremma breed". In recent years he has also been dedicated to teaching animal science and sustainability of meat production both to consumers and students at various school levels.

**Juuso Joona**

**Finland**



Juuso Joona is a Finnish carbon farmer, educator and member of the board of the Carbon Action platform. He is developing regenerative farming methods and making mistakes on behalf of the other farmers in his regenerative family farm in South East Finland. Juuso is also making research of soil carbon sequestration and soil improvement methods as a doctoral student in University of Helsinki and R&D agronomist in Soilfood Ltd. Juuso sees soil carbon sequestration as a key to mitigate climate change and improve the profitability of the farming. "Carbon neutrality as an aim for the agriculture is not enough in the current state of climate crisis since we have a great and unique potential to be carbon negative".

**Franky Coopman**

**Belgium**



Franky Coopman studied agricultural engineering at the UGent, Belgium, option agriculture. As farmers' son, he was always interested in searching for a good agricultural soil. On daily base, he is advisor towards farmers on the topics of soil quality and erosion control. Franky has built up expertise on practice oriented research for demonstration to and communication with the farmers on soil quality and soil fertility. He is mainly active in the Western part of Flanders, where the organisation Inagro is located. Beside advisory, Franky is also involved in different national and international project and networking groups.



**Kerstin Rosenow**

**European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development**

Kerstin Rosenow is Head of Unit 'Research & Innovation' in DG AGRI, European Commission where she is responsible for programming, managing and monitoring agricultural research and the European Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI). Previously she was Head of Unit in the EC Research Executive Agency (REA) managing the implementation of the project portfolio for Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 2 (food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime, and inland water research and the bioeconomy). She's been working in the EC for over 17 years after covering a managerial position in the German administration (Representation of the State of Hessen to the EU). For DG AGRI she coordinated negotiations with pre-accession and candidate countries and the preparation of the 2014-2020 CAP legislative framework. She studied law, politics and administration in Marburg, Grenoble and Bruges.



**Tereza Budnakova**

**European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development**

Tereza Budnakova works as deputy Head of Unit "Research and Innovation" in the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural development of the European Commission where she is responsible for programming and managing agricultural research and for implementation of the European Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability. Previously she was working as deputy Head of Unit in the Research Executive Agency, managing the implementation of the Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 2 "Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime, and inland water research and the bioeconomy". She has been working in the European Commission since 2005. She holds a PhD. in economics and management from Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic.



**Anikó Seregélyi**

**European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development**

Anikó Anikó Seregélyi started her career at the European Commission in 2007 and since 2015 she is policy officer in DG AGRI's Research and Innovation Unit EIP-AGRI team. She is actively involved in the EU-wide EIP-AGRI networking activities (Focus Groups, Workshops, Seminars). In the last years she was following several Focus Groups, workshops and seminars mainly related to the sustainable management of natural resources and capacity building activities.

Prior to joining the Commission, she worked as EU project manager in Hungary responsible for several research supporting projects in the 5th and 6th RTD Framework Programme and for researchers' mobility issues.

Anikó studied geography, European studies and science management in Budapest, Freiburg, Aachen and Speyer.



## EIP-AGRI Service Point team



**André Vizinho**

### **Main facilitator**

André Vizinho is a participatory action researcher and project coordinator in the Faculty of Sciences of Lisbon University since 2012, where he focuses in participatory landscape planning and climate adaptation of agroforestry systems. As main facilitator he collaborates with EIP Agri since 2019, in the Agri-innovation Summit 2019 entitled "EIP leading the Transition to Agroecology". He works also as a participatory action researcher in ECOLISE - European Network for Community-Led Initiatives on Climate Change and Sustainability. As freelance he works as participatory landscape planner, consultant on agroforestry systems and climate adaptation. He collaborates with the Portuguese National Rural Network as coordinator of the group on Forest Climate Adaptation and he is an active member of the Portuguese Competence Centre for Climate Change in the Agroforestry Sector (CNCACSA) and also of the Portuguese Competence Centre in the fight against desertification (CCDesert). André Vizinho has co-published 30 papers, technical reports and books and is presently finishing his PhD, after graduating in Environmental Engineering and obtaining a master on economic viability of the sustainable management of cork oak forests. From 2005 to 2012, after working on research on remote sensing of carbon sequestration in the agroforests of south Portugal (Faculty of Sciences and Technology of New University of Lisbon), he worked in rural local development, coordinating projects, working as a trainer, facilitator and animator for sustainable local development and communities.



**Ana Marta Paz**

### **Coordinating expert**

Ana studied Agricultural Engineering in Portugal and obtained a PhD in Environmental and Energy Engineering in Sweden. She has carried out a multidisciplinary activity in the agricultural area and worked in business, academia, and public sectors in Portugal, Sweden and the USA. She is a researcher in soil science at the **Portuguese National Institute for Agricultural and Veterinary Research**, with main research interests in soil conservation and interrelation between soil and climate change. Her current research projects are in the topics of soil salinization, remote sensing of soil properties, and modeling soil carbon sequestration. She is keen to participate in the interfaces between research and other sectors of society, being active in multi-actor forums, as board member of the Portuguese Soil Science Society (collaborating with the European and Global Soil Partnerships and the International Soil Science Society) and integrating the Horizon Europe's Soil Health and Food Mission Assembly.



**Beatriz Guimarey**

### **Task manager**

Grown up on a small family farm in Galicia region (NW Spain), Beatriz Guimarey is Forestry Engineer and has a Master in Sustainable Land Planning by the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain). Since 2014 she is Science & Research officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point. Her main duties involve organisation and facilitation of EIP-AGRI events (Workshops and Focus Groups), specially dealing with forestry or climate change, and communication with research institutions. Furthermore, at the University of Santiago de Compostela, she works as a researcher at Land Laboratory and Territorial Information System Platform. There, she participates in projects related to spatial planning, rural development and land use change.



**Remco Schreuder**

**Deputy task manager**

Started in April 2013 as a member of the Service Point team Working non-permanent for the EIP-AGRI Service Point as Farm Practice Officer.

Since 2014 working for the Dutch Agency for Entrepreneurs as an (policy) advisor on Agricultural issues, mainly rural development (agro environment and climate) and CAP. Spend 20 years at several Applied Research units of Wageningen University focusing on farm economics and sustainable farm development. Experienced in applied research on dairy farming, arable farming, bulb production and flowers, ornamental trees and fruit. Touching economics, entrepreneurship, manure treatment, crop protection, feeding, grassland management and many others.



**Kevin Grauwels**

**Deputy task manager**

Kevin is a part-time farm practices officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point, specialised in soil and nutrient management. Besides, he is working at the Vlaamse Landmaatschappij (VLM) as Head of the Rural Development Unit. Before he was involved in project development in the area of sustainable transition of the agri-food system, rural development and ecosystem services as well as the Flemish nutrient management policies, first as a policy officer at VLM and later on as an advisor for the Minister of Environment.



**Pacôme Elouna Eyenga**

**Team leader**

Pacôme Elouna Eyenga is Belgian and was born in Yaoundé, Cameroon. He graduated as agronomist in the field of rural economy and sociology, at Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech / Université de Liège in Belgium.

Since July 2014, he is the Team Leader of the EIP-AGRI Service Point in which he was appointed Deputy Team Leader at its establishment in 2013 by the European Commission, namely DG AGRI.



**Liisa Kübarsepp**

**Facilitator**

She is a member of the EIP-AGRI Service Point team in the Science and Research Sub-unit since 2017. Also, she is currently working for the Estonian Agricultural Research Centre and in the Estonian Crop Research Institute where she maintains the Potato Genebank which contains more than 450 varieties all over the world. She has previously worked in the Estonian University of Life Sciences as a junior researcher and continues her Ph.D. studies in the same university focusing on impacts of climate change on plant water relations and stomatal anatomy.



**Annika Suu**

**Facilitator**

Annika has studied biology (BSc) and ecology (MSc) at the University of Tartu. She has worked with the applied research programme, and RDP measures for knowledge transfer and cooperation in the Ministry of Rural Affairs in Estonia. She works for the Estonian NRN and is the project coordinator for the Innovation Cluster for Plant Proteins. Since 2018 she works for the EIP-AGRI Service Point as a database unit officer and facilitator.



**Andrés M. García Lamparte**

**Facilitator**

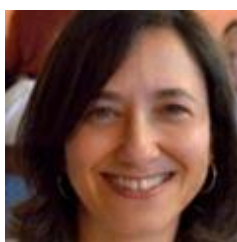
PhD Forest Engineer by the University of Santiago de Compostela. He has been working as research assistant in the Land Laboratory of the same university since 2007. Andrés main fields for research are land-use change models, spatial analysis and decision support tools. Andrés is working since 2014 at the EIP-AGRI Service Point as database officer and website administrator. He has participated as backup in several EIP-AGRI Focus Groups and as Task Manager for the EIP-AGRI Focus Groups on mixed farming systems and soil salinisation as well as for the EIP-AGRI workshop on new value chains from multifunctional forests.



**Willemine Brinkman**

**Deputy team leader**

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 Ministries of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy and of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. 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.



**Margarida Ambar**

**Facilitator**

Margarida Ambar is one of the Rural Development officers in the EIP-AGRI Service Point, and her main tasks are related to networking and knowledge exchange, and to management and facilitation of events.

Margarida Ambar studied Agricultural Engineering at the Technical University of Lisbon and has a master in Territorial Management and Urbanism, focusing on stakeholders' involvement. She worked for about 20 years for the Portuguese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Prior to becoming part of the EIP-AGRI Service Point team, she had already gained experience in international cooperation projects and networks aiming at knowledge exchange.



**Sergiu Didicescu**

**Facilitator**

Sergiu is educated in horticulture with a specialisation in oenology, as well as in agri-environmental economics. He started professional life as an oenologue in the 'Dealul Mare' area, Romania's largest vineyard. Later, he worked for the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the European Commission DG AGRI. From 2013 he is farm practice and rural development officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point.



**Katrien Dejongh Audenaert**

**Facilitator**

Katrien is an Agricultural Engineer (sub)Tropical Agriculture from Ghent University (Belgium), with post graduate training in Rural Development at the University of London (Wye College).

Katrien joined the EIP-AGRI Service Point in June 2019 as a Farm Practices officer. She supports the organisation of the meetings of the permanent Subgroup on Innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Katrien has a long experience in sustainable agricultural practices, smallholder farming, agro-ecology, agricultural cooperatives, social innovation and social enterprises, mostly in Latin America and Africa. She has facilitated numerous change processes in that context.



**Iiri Raa**

**Facilitator**

Iiri is a part-time expert at EIP-AGRI Service Point with main duties of supporting organization and facilitating in the events. By academic background she has degree in environmental sciences. In her current position in Estonian Agricultural Research Centre she has gained long-term experience in RDP/agri-environment policy with a special focus on evaluation of RDP measures with environmental impact.



**Céline Karasinski**

**Facilitator**

At EIP-AGRI Service Point, Céline Karasinski is a part-time farm practices officer. Her main duties involve the organisation and facilitation of EIP-AGRI workshops and Focus Groups. She is agricultural specialist and she has over 20 years' experience in agriculture and rural development with a special focus on short food supply chains.

From 2012 to 2016 and from 2019 to present she works as the leader of a group of regional rural networks. In this unit she is responsible for the organisation of meetings and conferences, the coordination of working groups and helped with cooperation projects and evaluation of the Local Action Group. She participates in the French rural network's meetings and conferences. From 2017 to 2019, she has been managing a LEADER programme in her country and facilitates a Local Action Group.

Currently, she is also member of the innovation service at the Chamber of Agriculture of Nouvelle-Aquitaine (France) in charge of European projects.



**Quico Ónega**

**Facilitator**

Quico is part-time Research and Science Officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point. He has been focusing on the digital transformation of agriculture as well as the sustainability of ruminant production systems. Besides, he works as researcher and lecturer at the Land Laboratory at the University of Santiago de Compostela (Galicia-Spain). He is hands on in a grassland-based sheep farm.



**Agnes Kivistik**

**Facilitator**

Agnes is one of the Research and Science Officers at the EIP-AGRI Service Point since November 2019 and her main tasks are organization and facilitation of EIP-AGRI workshops, seminars and focus groups. Agnes has studied Gene technology (BSc, MSc) in Tallinn University of Technology. Before joining the EIP-Agri Service Point team, Agnes worked at the Estonian Crop Research Institute as a researcher in Biotechnology department, where her projects were mainly focused on plant breeding with molecular markers and genotyping Estonian potato genebank. She has practical experience in agriculture as her family farm is producing grape and other perennial plants for sale. As of last year, she is also producing local table grapes for Estonians.



**Ineke van Vliet**

**Facilitator**

Ineke studied tropical crop science (specialization rural development) at Wageningen University, and later on Business administration at Utrecht University of Applied Science and Fine Art at Upgraders in Art – Arnhem.

She works as an adviser at the Netherlands Enterprise Agency RVO in the field of greening cities, financial constructions for nature, sustainable agriculture and energy transition. Tasks among others are process management and facilitation.

Ineke has broad experience in the field of agriculture and rural development. She is most effective in a coordinating position with a lot of short-term mile stones. Working together in a team motivates her to create high quality products. She enjoys developing new ideas in interactive cooperation and has both analytical and creative skills to offer. She always carefully considers the institutional environment, the different stakeholders and the client's demand in her work.





**Zeus González Fernández**

**Technical helpdesk**

Zeus works as a Systems Administrator at the Land Laboratory of the University of Santiago de Compostela (2013-). He deals with the management of the technological infrastructure, training of technical staff, software development, management of an e-learning platform, social media of the group's projects, and support for researchers.

At Service Point he manages the videoconferencing platforms to facilitate interactive online meetings



**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 in EIP-AGRI and also as European project officer for AC3A (French Chambers of Agriculture).



**Ina Van Hoyer**

**Communication officer**

Ina Van Hoyer is communication officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point, coordinating the communication unit. She is responsible for the communication strategy, press contacts, social media, dissemination of the communication tools and events coordinator. Ina Van Hoyer is a communication expert who has more than 20 years communication experience. Previously she was involved in several regional and European projects for the Flemish Government, Waterwegen en Zeekanaal NV to support them in their communication for several Sigma Plan projects.