

Networking for innovation under measure 16 in Rural Development Programmes

Report of the Workshop

Tallinn 27-28 October 2015

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Introduction

On 27-28 October 2015, the EIP-AGRI Service Point and the ENRD Contact Point, with the support of the Estonian Rural Network, jointly organised a workshop dedicated to the support of networks in the implementation of measure 16 in Rural Development Programmes (RDPs).

The event focused on the implementation of the EIP-AGRI at national / regional level, promoted discussions about issues related to networking to support Operational Groups (OGs) at national / regional and EU level, and it also addressed other innovative cooperation actions within RDPs (under measure 16).

The overall objective of the workshop was to discuss and share experiences on the support that networks are providing within the context of innovation and cooperation at national / regional and EU level, with specific reference to:

- Implementation of the EIP-AGRI at national / regional level
- Networking to support Operational Groups, at national / regional and EU level
- Other innovative cooperation actions within RDPs (measure 16)

Specific objectives were:

- To get a general overview of how the implementation of the EIP-AGRI is organised at national / regional level, and which units support the EIP-AGRI;
- To promote the exchange of ideas and initial experiences on how Network Support Units (NSUs) in National Rural Networks (NRNs) and other EIP-AGRI support units integrate activities related to Operational Groups in their action plans;
- To discuss possibilities to improve cooperation by exchanging information between EIP-AGRI support units at national / regional level and the EIP-AGRI Service Point;
- To present to EIP-AGRI support units some new EIP-AGRI tools and activities, while involving them in product development;
- To address specific issues related to other innovative cooperation actions within RDPs (measure 16).

Day 1

Note: Presentations can be directly downloaded by clicking the link provided

Setting the scene	
<p>14.00 – 14:20 'Implementing the EIP-AGRI – state of play' by Anikó Seregélyi (DG AGRI)</p>	<p><u>Presentation 'Implementing the EIP-AGRI – state of play'</u></p> <p>The purpose of this introductory session was to present the main framework of the workshop, particularly in respect to the state of play of the approval of RDP and EIP-AGRI programming, the tasks of NRNs related to EIP-AGRI implementation, the networking structures at EU level (governance structure in place and EIP-AGRI network) and at national and regional level (in relation to NRNs and other support units). At the end of the session, the main blocks of the workshop programme were presented.</p>

Networking at national / regional level

Getting to know and mapping the EIP-AGRI support in Member States

14.20 – 15:00
Interactive session 1
Margarida Ambar
(EIP-AGRI Service Point)

The objective of this session was to show and to further gather information in order to get a general overview of how the implementation of the EIP-AGRI is organised at national / regional level and which units support the EIP-AGRI. The data presented at the start of the session had been collected via two different sources:

- a survey conducted to all RDP Managing Authorities (Mas) (dedicated to calls for Operational Groups)
- a questionnaire that was previously sent to all invitees to the workshop (focusing on EIP-AGRI support units)

Participants were asked to analyse all information displayed in the room, to check if the data were correct and to fill in any existing gaps.

It became clear that in most of the countries and regions (23) that answered the questionnaire prior the workshop (30), the EIP-AGRI is integrated in NSU / NRN action plans. Out of those, the action plan has already been approved in 14 countries / regions. 23 countries / regions have an EIP-AGRI dedicated support unit, and in 16 countries RDPs are supporting (or considering possibilities for) transnational OG projects.

The main results of this session are presented in [Annex 1](#).



Examples from Member States / regions on how EIP-AGRI support units integrate Operational Group activities in their action plans

15:00 – 15:45
Examples from
Member States /
Regions

Presentation 'Implementation of EIP-AGRI - the Austrian case'

by Mirjam Linninger, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

Presentation 'The Veneto Region case'

by Monica Vianello, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development from Veneto Region

Presentation 'Implementation of EIP-AGRI in Finland'

by Joel Karlsson, Network Support Unit in the National Rural Network

Presentation 'Portuguese Rural Network - Networking For Innovation'

by Maria São Luis Centeno, General Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development / Network Support Unit of the National Rural Network

Four cases were selected to illustrate how the EIP-AGRI is being implemented and how activities related to Operational Groups are being put in place at national / regional level. These presentations served as inspiration for discussions in interactive session 2.

Sharing experiences in supporting EIP-AGRI implementation

16:15 – 17:15
Interactive session 2

Margarida Ambar
(EIP-AGRI Service Point)

The purpose of this session was to promote the exchange of ideas and initial experiences on how Network Support Units (NSUs) in NRNs and other EIP-AGRI support units integrate activities related to Operational Groups in their action plans.

Four discussion tables were organised, and each one of the speakers from the previous session was asked to chair a table. In a first stage, participants were invited to discuss the previously presented case more deeply at their table and to share their own experience in supporting the EIP-AGRI afterwards. As a result, each table group was expected to reflect on and collect inputs regarding 'What's working well', 'What's not working' and 'Lessons learnt'.

The diversity in the points that were harvested in this session is significant, although it's clear that many of them are related to the fact that the EIP-AGRI is something new, which involves new concepts, brings new challenges, requires new procedures and brings together new partners. For instance, while there's a lot of awareness about the EIP-AGRI, the initiative is not coming from farmers but mostly from researchers. This, among other aspects, may reflect on the real impact of the results of the project and on the strength of the partnership in the OG. Therefore, it may be relevant to look at the strength of the partnership when analysing applications for OG projects and to identify 'good practices'.

The full harvest from this session is presented in [Annex 2](#).

Day 2

Note: Presentations can be directly downloaded by clicking the link provided

Networking at EU level

Supporting the EIP-AGRI Network	
<p>09:05 – 09:30 Presentation 'Supporting the EIP-AGRI Network' by Pille Koorberg (EIP-AGRI Service Point)</p>	<p><u>Presentation 'Supporting the EIP-AGRI Network'</u></p> <p>The main tools and activities that the EIP-AGRI Service Point has developed so far were presented to participants, including some highlights on aspects that can be useful for the work that EIP-AGRI support units are developing.</p>
Supporting each other in networking	
<p>09:30-10:30 Interactive Session 3 by Margarida Ambar (EIP-AGRI Service Point)</p>	<p>During interactive session 3, participants were sharing their experiences with supporting implementation of the RDP cooperation measure. They also provided information at operational level about how they are planning to support the implementation of the EIP-AGRI until the end of 2016. Feedback was also given to the EIP-AGRI Service Point about how it can better support networks at national / regional level.</p> <p>Different countries are at different stages of planning how to support implementation of the cooperation measure (establishing and supporting OGs), and also at different stages of actions that have already been taken. Advanced countries have in many cases created platforms to facilitate the search for partners and to improve the projects and applications. Series of workshops, focus groups, thematic working groups and face-to-face meetings are organised as well. There is also a strong focus on social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, websites etc.) to promote the EIP-AGRI, and to reach / connect stakeholders and innovation support service providers.</p> <p>Among a long list of practical suggestions for the EIP-AGRI Service Point to better support EIP-AGRI support units (such as organising events, EIP-AGRI Focus Groups, or improving the EIP-AGRI website), a suggestion was made to regularly provide information on the state of play of EIP-AGRI implementation in the Member States (for instance in a newsletter format) and to organise regular meetings annually at EU level (similar to the current workshop).</p> <p>The full list with bullet points harvested in this session are presented in Annex 3.</p>

Rural Networking and the broader cooperation measure

11:00 – 11:15 Presentation 'Rural Networking and the broader cooperation measure'

by Antonella Zona
(DG AGRI)

Presentation 'Rural Networking and the broader cooperation measure'

Antonella Zona gave a presentation on Rural Networking and the broader Cooperation Measure, and on the specific objectives of the EU networks including the EIP-AGRI and the ENRD, focusing on the need to enhance participation (focusing on stakeholder involvement), to improve the quality of RDPs (particularly how to improve the quality of RDPs and support the evaluation of RDPs) and increase awareness.

Possible ENRD activities relating to measures 16.2 – 16.10 were highlighted, including RDP analysis; capacity building for MAs, NRNs and Local Action Groups (LAGs); communications (Article on measure 16 in Rural Review); good practices and Thematic work, where there is wide scope for activity as the Thematic Groups in 2015-16 will present the first opportunity to discuss measure 16.

Specific objectives were highlighted in advancing the understanding of the Cooperation measure, including links with other RDP measures such as CLLD; starting to identify or build up a network of active stakeholders for the Cooperation measure other than the EIP-AGRI network; consolidate the coordination and synergies between the ENRD and EIP-AGRI networks on measure 16, and identify concrete topics for current ENRD Thematic work on Smart and Competitive Rural Areas and Promoting the Transition to a Green Economy.

Other innovative cooperation actions

11:15 – 11:55 Interactive Session 4

by David Lamb
(ENRD Contact Point)

Presentation 'Other innovative cooperation actions'

The discussion on 'other measures' showed a varied approach to the adoption of submeasures under 16, following a presentation on measures 16.2, 16.3 and 16.4 and how these are activated.

The response by participants was that there are a wide variety of activations of measures. In Estonia measures 16.0, 16.2, 16.3, 16.5 and 16.9 are grouped under an 'Innovation Cluster' while in Scotland (UK) funding will be grouped under measures 16.2, 16.3 and 16.4. Many countries are linking their work on submeasures with Operational Groups, such as Malta, where only selected OGs get access to measure 16 submeasures.

There are also varying budgets for submeasures, with Hungary allocating €66.1m and Slovenia €10m (16.2, 16.3, 16.4 and 16.9), and also varied activation: Sweden commented that there is a need for a clear border between innovation and pilot projects, while Austria commented on the importance of 16.9. France has a widely varied regional approach in activation, and finds short supply chains difficult to define.

It was seen as important to define where there are links to Operational Groups in other submeasures of 16, and to share the best practice in this. Many NRNs looked to gain a greater understanding of 'other' submeasures as they had focused on Operational Groups and on EIP-AGRI actions.

The collaborative area of the EIP-AGRI Support Units

11:55 – 12:50 Interactive Session 5

by Sergiu Didicescu
(EIP-AGRI Service Point)

Sergiu Didicescu introduced the recently launched survey for network support units at national / regional level on the implementation of the EIP-AGRI, and asked feedback from the participants. Five support units already participated in a pilot action to fill this survey and shared their experience about it, and additional feedback was collected from the participants.

The original plans for setting up a collaborative area that will include a discussion forum were also presented. On this point the participants came with the following ideas:

- It is necessary to include a list of EIP-AGRI responsible persons (contact persons) for all EIP-AGRI support units across the EU
- Information about OG assessment / evaluation should be made available in the collaborative area
- Information about facilitation techniques for ensuring participation of various actors could be valuable additions
- It is urgently needed to add models for cooperation and financing agreements, especially useful for countries where they still struggle to define these documents
- Information pack "How to set up and run an OG"
- Explore how to create synergies with other rural development measures?
- Explore how the rural development priorities are being addressed via OGs?

It would be very useful to add a list of H2020 projects and responsible people. The forum needs to be stimulated – for example, participants should be asked about the content for next meetings, what should be discussed, and so on.

Wrapping up and closing

12:50 – 13:00 Wrapping up and closing

by Aniko Seregelyi
(DG AGRI)

Aniko Seregelyi closed the event by recalling the main discussed topics, identified challenges, and future EIP-AGRI activities. She thanked the participants for their active participation in this workshop.

As next related EIP-AGRI event she announced the workshop on "Operational Groups: first experiences" scheduled for January 2016. Furthermore she took note of the request expressed by several participants to regularly organise a similar workshop.

Annexes

Annex 1

In interactive session 1, participants had a chance to amend and correct the information that they had sent with the questionnaire prior to the workshop according to current status. The main results from the questionnaire and the exercise in the workshop are provided here:

Is the EIP-AGRI integrated in the NSU / NRN action plan?

YES	NO
AT, CZ, EE, FI, FR (Brittany, Midi-Pyrénées), GR, HU, IT (national, Veneto, Lombardia, Tuscany), LV, PL, PT, RO, SK, ES, SE, NL, UK (England, Wales, Scotland)	HR, Fr (Auvergne), LT, SL

Has the NSU / NRN action plan already been approved?

YES	NO
AT, CZ, EE, FI, FR (Brittany), IT (Lombardia, Tuscany, national), PL, RO, ES, SE, NL, UK (Scotland)	HR, FR (Midi-Pyrénées), HU, LV, LT, MT, PT, SL, UK (Wales)

Is there an EIP-AGRI dedicated support unit in your country / region?

YES	NO
AT, HR, CZ, EE, FI, FR (Auvergne, Brittany, Midi-Pyrénées), GE (Hesse), HU, IT (national, Veneto, Lombardia), LV, PL, PT, SL, ES, SE, NL, UK (England, Wales, Scotland)	MT, LT, GR, SK, IT (Tuscany)

Is your RDP supporting transnational OG projects?

YES / considering possibilities	NO
AT, EE, FI, FR (Brittany), GR, IT (national, Veneto, Lombardia), MT, PT, SK, ES, SE, NL, UK (England, Wales)	HR, CZ, FR (Auvergne, Midi-Pyrénées), HU, IT (Tuscany), LT

Annex 2

During interactive session 2, participants were asked to share ideas and experiences while supporting EIP-AGRI implementation, and to discuss this while identifying 'What's working well', 'What's not working' and 'Lessons learnt'.

The full list with bullet points harvested from this session is provided here:

'What's working well'

- there's a lot of interest for the establishment of OGs from stakeholders
- having early discussions with main stakeholders to explain the concept of EIP-AGRI (e.g. kick-off meeting in Austria)
- building up relationship / trust between MAs and NSUs
- having no limited themes defined in advance by MA (let farmers and research institutions choose topics they are interested in)
- farmers work better with innovation brokers that they already know
- having a two-phase process is good but it can be restrictive for farmers
- using experts to evaluate OG projects
- providing an NSU service package
- having multi-actor projects as a basis for OG (but different vocabulary)
- organising innovation camps (as the Finnish NSU)
- involving inventors in the process (experienced in creative / innovative thinking)
- mixing different branches / sectors and experiences (in events and meetings)
- creating diverse groups

'What's not working'

- explaining the EIP-AGRI concept
- difficult to know what an innovation project is and what applied research is
- MAs are not used to innovation projects
- approach of some MAs is not working
- national / financial rules can restrict delivery (e.g. paying different actors)
- state aid rules (complex – decision at EU level), especially non-agricultural sectors
- level of understanding of the measure ex: property rights, state aid
- sharing innovative ideas
- language problems – use of EIP-AGRI website info in a maximum way
- sometimes difficult to get enough farmers interested in one issue / concept (e.g. Hungary needs 5 farmers to form an OG)
- difficult to find competent and different partners
- stakeholders work with others they already know

- main actors are not farmers, they are research institutes and NGOs
- bottom-up approach is not working: it's research → farmer, not farmer → research
- information flow between regions and national level in countries with many RDPs (France)
- coordination between NRN programme and regional RDPs (Italy)
- transnational opportunities: there's not much info yet on how this will work

'Lessons learnt'

- it's still difficult to define 'innovative'
- external examples don't always work
- can be difficult to conciliate the need to protect innovative ideas from demands on dissemination
- we have to know how the EU audit should be done
- there are different opinions about 100% financing, some in favour, others against it
- it's a good idea to have the lump sum system for the first step 'setting up'
- make use of existing networks (e.g. inter-regional ones)
- there's a need for separation of duties especially for MA (e.g. provide advice to OG and also be a member of selection jury)
- it is important to make use of knowledge of experts
- use independent experts for project selection
- it's important to measure the strength of the partnership in the OG
- innovation support service at the regional level
- innovation brokers are not needed in some cases (e.g. England)
- it's important that innovation brokers are connected to the agricultural sector to have credibility, skills are important
- capitalise on opportunity and synergy
- examples of good practices are needed in time

Annex 3

Day 2 – Results of interactive session 3: Supporting each other in networking

During interactive session 3, participants were sharing their experience with supporting the implementation of the RDP cooperation measure, and provided information at operational level about how they are planning to support the implementation of the EIP-AGRI until the end of 2016. Feedback was also given to the EIP-AGRI Service Point on how to better support networks at national / regional level.

The full list with bullet points harvested from this session is provided here:

What are you – EIP-AGRI support units – planning to do to support implementation of the cooperation measure? <i>Minimum required by art. 54 - searching for partners for OGs and networking for Innovation Support Services</i>	
Country	Actions
Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring the 1st call to an end (January 2016) • Prepare 2nd call (spring 2018)
Italy (Veneto Region)	<p>By technical assistance measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement with regional agency (Veneto Agricoltura) for the contract (have delegated several functions to them, the MA keeps the function of the Helpdesk), innovation – it will provide the organisation of WS + FGs and matching events between farmers + advisers and researchers • Sharing information and results of EIP-AGRI events with regional stakeholders (also sharing their experience with other regions in Italy, interregional cooperation was proposed in RDPs but not in place yet) • Continuing helpdesk activities by regional unit research and innovation • Sharing information and ideas among other regions (inter-regional network on research and support services)
Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informing potential beneficiaries, stakeholders, etc. about the financing opportunities within the EIP-AGRI framework • Supporting OGs in order to find partners • Disseminating the results of OGs • Networking actions for consultants and innovation support services (gather / exchange information) • Have created a sub-network for innovation
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched a survey “Communication and numeric strategy”, July 2015 • Launched a survey “What are your needs for: 1. networking and support, 2. OGs and ISS”, October 2015 • Proposal of Action Plan (December 2015 for the EIP Committee)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Plan: EU activities, French RN platform, support to MA (developed an IT-tool for them), information + communication (networking + data), networking for OGs and ISS at national or transregional level
Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting brokers (have already chosen 15 brokers) Giving information to farmers about EIP (NGOs actions) 1st call will be open in October 2016 (looking for 10 OGs) Sharing information on their website (Czech language)
Spain	<p>Talking about EIP, not all M16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised 5 information meetings in different regions of Spain, invited all types of potential partners/members/actors (but mostly researchers attended) 2 technical NSU meetings (for NSU technical managers of national programme and 17 regional programmes) Dissemination via websites (NRN website + specialised ministry of agriculture 'Innovation website' (includes H2020 + EIP + other issues)
Latvia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions with MA regarding importance of innovation as an RDP measure (currently EIP not in the RDP)
Estonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No separate RDP measure for EIP, dealing with beneficiaries under cooperation measure in general – have organised seminars, workshops Have compiled a list of participants of farmers, researchers, social partners (over 700 emails of different organisations) – database of social partners, beneficiaries (potential and from previous programming period), NSU is searching for partners – farmers are sending emails, calling asking for key persons Individual consultation concerning certain measure, applying key contacts
UK - Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing a website for NSU to allow for EIP work to be included – e.g. partner search, ideas submission Agreeing scope of innovation support service with MA – learning lessons from successful / unsuccessful application to MA for OG project funding Newsletter

UK-England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIP-AGRI support unit promotes EIP-AGRI in social media channels (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Yammer) and uses farmer networks to raise awareness • Organising workshops to encourage OG to form • Providing support to OGs completing applications and linking to experts and researchers (persons interested in forming an OG have to present a 300-word short summary of the project, and support unit can facilitate to find partners according to the project and/or merging the projects) • Promoting EIP-AGRI Service Point website (ensured by requirement that all interested persons have to register to the EIP-AGRI website) • Developing an on-line forum to share ideas and discuss problems • There is also helpline – telephone meetings in every 2 weeks for OGs to call for help or guidance
UK-Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK-Wales is in the start of the process and the whole package of EIP will go to the external provider (farmer advisory service). The EIP-AGRI will be delivered through Knowledge Exchange and Innovation block in RDP; this is the block of support that is specifically for farmers. This solution is assumed to attract participation from the farmers because they will be familiar with the development offices (sector experts) from advisory service • EIP support unit will start in January 2016; there is no detailed plan yet. NSU will work with them in cooperation
Lithuania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA organised a call for feasibility study for OG • NRN has launched a special committee for collaboration of farmers
Portugal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIP-AGRI support unit in Portugal has planned different approaches to support EIP-AGRI in their country. EIP-AGRI support unit facilitates search for partners for OGs. An Initiative Centre has been created, which is a tool to search partners and improve the quality of the applications. • Brokerage events are organised between farmers and researchers • Sector-based approach involves seminars and focus groups with producer organisations from different sectors • A special webpage dedicated to OGs, which also acts as an information dissemination platform. • A webpage dedicated to EIP-AGRI Focus Groups, where translated outcomes are provided if possible • EIP-AGRI support unit is issuing and distributing newsletter on innovation • Supportive social media channels are used actively, e.g. YouTube channel, videos produced with participants at the beginning and at the end of focus groups and uploaded to the YouTube channel (it is called "opinion1minute")

Czech Republic	<p>Czech Republic will have a first call for OGs in 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up of OG is supported by organising thematic working groups, meetings to facilitate sharing ideas and projects • Face-to-face meetings are organised with EIP-AGRI brokers • Website is part of the NRN website and will be opened soon
Croatia	<p>Only at the starting phase - working on legal acts and legislation to start implementation of the cooperation measure. There is no official plan yet how the support will be provided</p>
Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary actions to connect farmers and researchers are taking place • Presentations and other materials will be translated and EIP-related events are being planned • Support unit is not yet completely structured but once it is in place a broader strategy will be developed
Malta	<p>RDP is not yet approved (the priority is set on rural enterprises)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is planned to increase the information flow about ongoing calls via dedicated newsletter • A training session for Managing Authority and Paying Agency staff is being also planned
Sweden	<p>The legal texts are still being prepared so the RDP is not yet functional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to EIP-AGRI is provided also via the advisory services (yearly advisory service meeting will be focused on EIP-AGRI)

What are you – EIP-AGRI support units – planning as activities at operational level for implementing the EIP-AGRI: the 'practical next steps'? Timeframe until end 2016

Country	Actions
Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 November 2015: kick-off of NRN • Launch of website
Italy (Veneto Region)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January 2016: EIP-AGRI event on OGs, they will help EIP-AGRI SP for organisation • Kick-off event for the launch of call for OGs in January / February 2016) (it's in fact two separate calls (for setting up and for OGs projects) opened simultaneously) • Dedicate an EIP-AGRI website page on website portal for agriculture www.piaveveneto.it (December 2015) • Meeting with the other Italian regions to share the results of this WS and to discuss the one in January (proposal to the secretariat on Inter. Network – Region Tuscany) in February • Participation / collaboration in drawing NRN action plan (November / December 2015) • Selection of OG projects, by spring 2016

Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of EIP-AGRI brochures in Greek (plan is to produce 8) and disseminate them to our members • Meeting in order to inform the interested parties mainly by product e.g. milk and milk products, fruits and vegetables, etc. in order to provide hints and explore opportunities for OGs • Invitation for participation in the innovation sub-network • Website link for innovation (available soon) • Approval of Action Plan (in 2016)
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped to develop a toolbox for MAs and stakeholders ("partnership agreement"), July 2015 • Proposing experts pool at national level for MA (January) • Translation (others – it depends on the interest of brochures) • Calls for thematic network of ISS and OGs (call – July 2015; beginning of the project – December 2015) • Will organise a seminar – share knowledge on EIP-AGRI between MA and national stakeholders, March 2016 • Launched a survey "What about EIP in RDP approved" (11.2015) • Platform – proposal for IT tool for MA and OGs • Networking with MA to obtain operational information on calls, OGs numbers and title, etc. • Coordination of national and interregional project "Thematic network of IS and OG" • Links + participation in EU events • Host an EU event at the end of 2016 • Platform "An experience" website for EIP-AGRI • Communication + information, newsletters, brochures (with an agency)
Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having/planning regular seminars for brokers (next one will be in December) • Will translate the EIP-AGRI brochures (January) • Information actions for farmers (1st half of the year) • Website updating (part of the Ministry website) • 1st call in October, selection of OGs
Lithuania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRN doesn't have an action plan yet. Some activities plan for disseminating information and results of 5 EIP-AGRI OG projects
UK-Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quite likely will organise a workshop on short supply chains in response to stakeholders' needs • Discussions with other UK NSUs in December will include EIP • Already highlighting work of EIP-AGRI through their website, continue with discussions with MA regarding developing more interactive part of website (e.g. partner search etc.)

Latvia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a thematic working group on innovation (EIP) – to raise awareness of stakeholders and helping MA to design the EIP measure • Potentially will organise seminars (not decided yet) • Not decided whether a separate webpage for EIP or incorporated within NRN page
Estonia	<p>At the moment the list of events for 2016 not yet agreed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation of EIP-AGRI newsletter into Estonian • National electronic newsletter on innovation • General NRN e-newsletter (covering also general EIP-AGRI information) • Separate website on innovation in Estonian integrated into NSU website • Plan to translate one EIP-AGRI brochure per month
Spain	<p>Talking about EIP, not all M16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publications regarding regulation, information sessions before the call ends 2015 • 5 national focus groups (imitation of EIP-AGRI Focus Groups), national procedures, 2 topics selected (irrigation / forestry), one group will start at the end of 2015 • Practical meeting with interested people to apply for the call • Continue also with the website • Thinking of publishing some brochures which can be reached by the farmers
Portugal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a focus group next month (November) on a topic how to improve dissemination among the target stakeholders • Face-to-face meetings with all OGs in the Initiative Centre to help to find partners and to improve the projects (OGs can't go to the call without subscribing in the Initiative Centre beforehand). • Soon starts the thematic group involving agricultural associations • Improving website and creating platform for OGs to display their actions plans • Updating social media channels with new information (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) • Translating reports
UK-England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong focus on social media, continuous update in Twitter, Yammer, YouTube (in YouTube channel videos from workshops are uploaded) • Interactive workshops to share ideas • There is a dedicated project support person in the support unit who is aware of the project details. There are also regular telephone meetings – help line • Networking – sharing information with farmer networks and groups • Dissemination is supported by OGs database, presenting case studies, videos and forum

UK-Wales	<p>EIP-AGRI supporting activities will start from January 2016. There will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge Exchange Hub – interface between academics, advisory professionals and farmers • Starter Pack – which Development Offices will use to supporting the OGs • Outputs via social media, web pages, facilitated partner searches, presenting case studies and sharing of information (e.g. EIP-AGRI in EU, Focus Groups, events, publications, etc.) • Translating materials as Welsh is official language in Wales
Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November/December 2015 a thematic working group will be established with all the stakeholders • Seminars and workshops will be organised (e.g. in December 2015 work-meeting with MA and EIP-AGRI brokers is organised, and based on the meeting outcomes next actions will be planned. There is already agreement between the OG partners sharing the information and using the results publically • Webpage (which is part of the NRN web) with database of projects (webpage will be opened in November 2015) • Translation and publication of publications and case studies / projects at EU level (asap)

What can the EIP-AGRI Service Point do to better support networks at national / regional level?

(Organising) events:

- Better transparency needed in organisation, invitation process for EIP-AGRI workshops and selection of participants for EU events
- Display events and other issues on the EIP-AGRI website by areas / topics
- EIP-AGRI SP to participate in national / regional events relevant for EIP-AGRI
- EIP-AGRI attendance at meeting of UK-NSUs to support Exchange on EIP-AGRI (Birmingham 2nd Dec 2015!)
- EIP-AGRI Support Units want to be informed about their national stakeholders participating in EIP-AGRI events, better coordination on these issues is needed
- EIP-AGRI SP should participate in farmer fairs and innovation squares, for example in Sweden "innovation races" are being organised

(Organising) Focus Groups:

- Better dissemination of FG calls, better and wider dissemination of FG results and the documents, not only via website, provide translation in FG meetings – if we want to have (more) farmers present DG AGRI needs to solve state aid problems, more info on state aid for EIP-AGRI
- Organise national Focus Groups
- Make criteria for selecting Focus Group experts transparent
- Improve the multi-national character of Focus Groups
- EIP-AGRI Support Units don't know who is applying for Focus Groups and who is rejected. It would be good to have their names and contacts to help them make better applications next time
- Better filtering tool (common one for all FG) for FG experts per countries on website

EIP-AGRI website

- Build and maintain a database at EU level, including info on funding opportunities
- Give more information about good practices in other countries through the website
- Improve keywords list on website to better match the ones in OG projects
- Make visible on EIP-AGRI website who are the EIP-AGRI responsible persons in each country / region
- Make visible on EIP-AGRI website the innovation themes addressed by the different EU countries / regions
- Display events and other issues on the EIP-AGRI website by areas / topics
- EIP-AGRI Service Point has been very good and helpful providing images, documents, presentations and providing supporting staff. One thing that would help would be to know who from our country has registered on the EIP-AGRI Service Point website and who the members of the Focus Groups are from our country

General remarks / recommendations:

- Stronger cooperation between EIP-AGRI Service Point and MS needed
- EIP-AGRI SP should continue with what is already in place
- Provide regular info on state of play (what's going on in EU, who plan to implement EIP-AGRI, who has already closed first call of application) – can be in a newsletter format
- Have regular meetings (e.g. 2x per year) of EU NRNs to discuss EIP-AGRI issues
- Provide more translation (events, publications, website), EIP-AGRI SP could provide support on translation of examples and documents, print brochures in other languages (e.g. Spanish)
- EIP-AGRI SP to prepare targeted communication materials for farmers
- More information needed about rules to develop EIP-AGRI Network, about the structure and the allocation
- More information needed from DG AGRI on state aid rules

- EIP-AGRI SP could provide information related obligations and information from audits to guide OGs
- EIP-AGRI might have comprehensive overview over “champions” achievements and mistakes, so the followers can get advice from EIP-AGRI people or get re-directed to a particular “champion”
- EIP-AGRI SP could offer support for transnational activity and transnational OGs
- EIP-AGRI SP could facilitate networking on OGs in Member States: projects information, projects to visit, farmers to visit. SP could help to find partners for Horizon 2020 multi-actors projects and inform about Horizon 2020 projects related to the themes of OGs
- Facilitate information flows and involve innovation clusters and small scale cooperation projects
- EIP-AGRI SP should help us with information about multi-actor and thematic network projects that work with themes relevant for OGs