



AGRI RESEARCH FACTSHEET RURAL AND FARMING DYNAMICS AND POLICIES

Why do research and innovation on rural and farming policy matter?

Rural areas across the EU have undergone and are still undergoing profound changes, including the transition from economies focusing on the primary sector towards more diverse economies where industries and services play an increasing or even dominant role. In many areas, new activities are flourishing, including tourism, small-scale and niche manufacturing, food production and business services. Digital developments also offer a wide range of new business and networking opportunities. At the same time, many rural territories are facing demographic and social decline that endangers the delivery of vital ecosystem services. While economic diversification away from primary production was an important objective of

rural policies for decades, the food security agenda – including concerns over generation renewal in farming – and the increasing demand for biomass for bio-based applications generate renewed interest towards primary production. This new interest needs to accommodate stakeholder concerns over the capacity of rural areas to cater sustainably for all these needs while sustaining a high level of delivery of environmental and social benefits to society in a context of urbanisation and climate change. Evidence and knowledge are an essential input into the design of modern policies that will help rural communities and businesses overcome these challenges, using the most appropriate instruments and governance approaches.

Rural and farming policy under Horizon 2020 Societal challenge 2 (SC2)



28

Projects or expected grants



145 M€

EU contribution 2014-2020



385

Participations in selected projects

Key themes

Food and nutrition security policies
Social innovation – Business models
Rural-urban relations – Generation renewal – Foresights – Modelling – Rural policies

JUNE 2019 UPDATE

Agriculture
and Rural
Development

Farming and rural policy under EIP-AGRI activities

Focus group: New entrants into farming	bit.ly/2pX9hwP
Workshop: Cities and Food – Connecting Consumers and Producers	bit.ly/2pSKetP
Seminar: Data revolution: emerging new business models in the agri-food sector	bit.ly/2pTPf5o

Horizon 2020 SC2 collaborative projects – Farming and rural policies

Farming and food and nutrition security policies

MA = Multi-actor

SUSFANS www.susfans.eu Total cost: 5,3 M€ EC contribution: 5 M€ Coordinator: WUR Apr. 2015 -Mar 2019	SUSFANS aims at identifying how nutritional health and food production policies can be better aligned to deliver more sustainable production and consumption. It will provide tools for assessing the implications of the current diet for the sustainability of production and consumption in the EU, and the options for the EU agri-food sector to improve future diets in the near and long-term future.
PROIntensAFRICA www.intensafrica.org Total cost: 1,7 M€ EC contribution: 1 M€ Coordinator: WUR Apr. 2015- Mar. 2017	PROIntensAfrica developed an outline for a long-term research and innovation partnership between Europe and Africa, with the final aim to improve food and nutrition security and the livelihoods of African farmers. It explored the value for both continents of new partnership activities, described the scientific and innovation domains needing further research and suggested financial and governance structures that can adequately support the partnership.
SUFISA www.sufisa.eu Total cost: 4,8 M€ EC contribution: 4,8 M€ Coordinator: KU Leuven May 2015 – Apr. 2019	SUFISA aims to identify practices and policies that support the sustainability of farming and fisheries in a context of complex policy requirements, market imperfections and uncertainties and globalisation. It will combine knowledge on market conditions and driving forces and propose scenarios supporting greater sustainability
SALSA www.salsa.uevora.pt Total cost: 4,9 M€ EC contribution: 4,9 M€ Coordinator: Univ. Evora Apr. 2016 – Mar. 2020	SALSA aims to provide a better understanding of the current and potential contribution of small farms and food businesses to sustainable food and nutrition security. It uses a food systems perspective to look beyond production capacity and investigate food security in terms of availability of nutritious and safe food, food access and control (inc. affordability), food utilisation, and food stability.
SURE-FARM surefarmproject.eu Total cost: 4,9 M€ EC contribution: 4,9 M€ Coordinator: WUR Jun. 2017-May 2021	SURE-Farm aims to analyze, assess and improve the resilience and sustainability of farms and farming systems in the EU. It will create scenarios and a novel resilience-enabling analytical framework. It will develop a set of advanced risk assessment and management tools as well as an improved demographic assessment model and a resilience assessment tool for policies.

Geographical information systems and modelling

SUPREMA

www.suprema-project.eu

Total cost: 1 M€

EC contribution: 1 M€

Coordinator: WUR

Jan. 2018 – Jun. 2020

Impact assessments in the areas of agriculture are partly based on projections delivered by models. With sectoral policies becoming more and more interrelated, models need to be upgraded and better interconnected. SUPREMA will address this challenge by exploring and testing future directions to be taken in modelling and by setting-up a meta-platform supporting modelling groups.

LANDSUPPORT

www.landsupport.eu

Total cost: 7 M€

EC contribution: 7 M€

Coordinator: Università degli

studi di Napoli Federico II

May 2018 – Oct. 2021

LANDSUPPORT aims to develop a web-based, open-access GeoSpatial Decision Support System to support sustainable agriculture and forestry, evaluate trade-offs between land uses and contribute to the development and implementation of land use policies in Europe. To this end, it will integrate existing databases with newly developed high performance modelling engines simulating agriculture & forestry, land degradation and environmental factors. It will develop and test the new tools at EU, national, regional and local levels.

AGRICORE

bit.ly/2VRLN9u

Total cost: 3.9 M€

EC contribution: 3.9 M€

Coordinator: IDENER

Sept 2019 – Aug. 2023

AGRICORE will build a novel, open source tool to improve the capacity to model policies dealing with agriculture using the most recent modelling and digital technologies. Using an agent-based approach, it will model each farm as an autonomous decision-making entity, enabling to simulate the interaction between farms and their context (inc. environment, rural integration, ecosystem services, land use and markets) at various geographic scales.

BESTMAP

bit.ly/2IM1t9K

Total cost: 4 M€

EC contribution: 4 M€

Coordinator: University of

Leeds

Sept 2019 – Aug. 2023

BESTMAP will develop a new modelling framework using insights from behavioural theory, linking existing economic modelling with individual-farm agent-based models. Using these new modular and customizable tools BESTMAP will quantitatively model, map and monitor co-designed policy scenarios' impacts on the environment, climate system, delivery of ecosystem services, as well as socio-economic metrics (e.g. jobs).

MIND STEP

bit.ly/2lnE67u

Total cost: 4 M€

EC contribution: 4 M€

Coordinator: Stichting

Wageningen Research

Sept 2019 – Aug. 2023

MIND STEP will use new possibilities opened by the most recent digital technologies to improve exploitation of available agricultural and biophysical data and include the individual decision making (IDM) unit in policy models. Building on a common data framework, it will develop IDM models, including agent-based models, focussing on different topics in an integrated manner in different regional case studies.





Understanding dynamics and modernising rural policies

SIMRA

www.simra-h2020.eu

Total cost: 5.9 M€

EC contribution: 5.6 M€

Coordinator: James Hutton

Institute

Apr. 2016 – Mar. 2020

SIMRA aims to improve the understanding of social innovation and innovative governance in agriculture, forestry and rural development. It looks at how to boost them, particularly in marginalised rural areas across Europe, with a focus on the Mediterranean region where there is limited evidence of outcomes and supporting conditions.

ROBUST^{MA}

www.rural-urban.eu

Total cost: 6 M€

EC contribution: 6 M€

Coordinator: WUR

Jun. 2017 – May 2021

ROBUST will advance our understanding of the interactions and dependencies between rural, peri-urban and urban areas and identify and promote policies, governance models and practices that foster mutually beneficial relations. Improved governance arrangements and synergies will contribute to Europe's smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, maximising the creation of rural jobs and value-added.

SiEUGreen^{MA}

bit.ly/2HPsffj

Total cost: 8,4 M€

EC contribution: 7 M€

Coordinator: NMBU

Jan. 2018 – Dec. 2021

SiEUGreen aspires to enhance the EU-China cooperation in promoting urban agriculture for food security, resource efficiency and smart, resilient cities. Building on the model of zero-waste and circular economy, it will demonstrate how technological and societal innovation in urban agriculture can have a positive impact on society and economy.

NEWBIE^{MA}

www.newbie-academy.eu

Total cost: 2 M€

EC contribution: 2 M€

Coordinator: WUR

Jan. 2018 – Dec. 2021

NEWBIE will facilitate the development and dissemination of new business models, including new ways to enter into farming, to a full range of new entrants going from successors to complete newcomers to the agricultural sector. It will establish networks supporting new entrants, disseminate innovative business models developed by them and seek to integrate these models into research and education.

COASTAL^{MA}

h2020-coastal.eu

Total cost: 5 M€

EC contribution: 5 M€

Coordinator: VITO

May 2018 – Apr. 2022

COASTAL aims to improve rural-coastal synergy in strategic business and policy decisions and the collaboration between coastal and rural actors. It will develop, demonstrate and apply a set of tools and indicators by combining multi-actor approaches with system dynamics modelling. This will improve the understanding of interactions between land and sea activities and help develop evidence-based solutions jointly improving economic development and environmental protection, including inland water quality.

**LIVERUR** ^{MA}

liverur.eu

Total cost: 4.1 M€

EC contribution: 4.1M€

Coordinator: Fundacion
Universitaria San Antonio
May 2018 – Apr. 2021

LIVERUR identifies Living Labs as innovative business models that are currently developing in 13 rural piloting areas across Europe, Africa and Asia. The project undertakes a socio-economic analysis to describe and benchmark differences between the new Living Lab methodologies and more traditional entrepreneurial approaches. The basis for the strategic development of a rural Living Lab is to establish an association of stakeholders, users, policy makers, businesses and researchers to ensure sustainability.

RUBIZMO ^{MA}

rubizmo.eu

Total cost: 4 M€

EC contribution: 4 M€

Coordinator: RISE Research
Institutes Of Sweden Ab
May 2018 – Apr. 2021

RUBIZMO will identify business models with high potential for empowering rural communities to take advantage of the opportunities arising from innovative business models including for example digitalisation and the use and conservation of ecosystem services. It will directly support the creation of sustainable jobs and growth in rural economies and contribute to Regional & Rural development in Europe, supporting the Europe 2020 Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth.

RURALIZATION ^{MA}

www.ruralization.eu

Total cost: 6 M€

EC contribution: 6 M€

Coordinator: Delft University
of Technology
May 2019 – April 2023

RURALIZATION will develop a novel perspective for rural areas to trigger a process of ruralisation as counterforce to urbanisation, that is, a development towards a new rural frontier offering new rural generations stimulating economic and social opportunities. The project will identify rural areas that do better than others and explore the rural dreams of new generations through foresight. Innovations will focus on facilitating generation renewal in farming and rural communities.

PoliRural ^{MA}

bit.ly/2IIQGE8

www.polirural.eu

Total cost: 6 M€

EC contribution: 6 M€

Coordinator: Ceska
Zemedelska Univerzita v Praze
June 2019 – May 2022

PoliRural aims to improve knowledge of the drivers of rural development and of the effectiveness of current policy instruments. It will combine activities helping to design effective place-based, human-centric and forward-looking rural policies such as action-research, policy evaluation and a foresight study that will explore the development trajectory of agriculture and rural populations until 2040.

DESIRA ^{MA}

bit.ly/2Xd01og

Total cost: 5 M€

EC contribution: 5 M€

Coordinator: Universita di Pisa
June 2019 – May 2023

DESIRA will develop the concept of socio-cyber-physical systems to advance understanding of the impact of digitalisation in rural areas, linking analysis directly to the sustainable development goals. A virtual research environment will connect agriculture, forestry and rural stakeholders and will inform the co-developing of scenarios and policies.

Interesting activities under other Horizon 2020 sections

Projects informing policy-making are also funded under the **“Inclusive societies”** challenge of Horizon 2020, such as **“IMAJINE”**, which seeks to address spatial justice and territorial inequalities: <http://imajine-project.eu> (2,7 M€ - Jan. 2017 to Dec. 2021) and **“RURITAGE”**, which looks into cultural heritage and rural areas: www.ruritage.eu (10,3M€ - Jun. 2018 to May 2022).

Six projects funded under **Marie-Skłodowska Curie Actions** worth almost 5M€ of additional EU contribution are also relevant, including for example:

- The Research and innovation staff exchange on social innovation in rural areas **“RURINNO”**: <http://rural-innovations.net/> (225.000€ - Feb 2016 to Mar 2018)
- The Innovative training network **“RURACTION”** on social entrepreneurship in structurally weak regions: <http://ruraction.eu/> (2,5 M€ - Jan. 2016 to Nov. 2020)

In the pipeline – 3 projects to start under H2020 SC2 2019 calls (16 M€)

Rural society-science- policy hub ^{MA}	(1 project, 5 M€)
Building resilient mountain value chains delivering private and public goods ^{MA}	(1 project, 6 M€)
Modelling international trade in agri-food products	(1 project, 5 M€)

Funding opportunities - Open H2020 SC2 calls for 2019 (38 M€)

RUR-21-2020 - Agricultural markets and international trade in the context of sustainability objectives	(1 project, 4 M€)
FNR-02-2020 - Developing long-term monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the Common Agricultural Policy	(1 project, 2 M€)
FNR-03-2020 - A comprehensive vision for urban agriculture	(1 project, 2 M€)
DT-ICT-09-2020 - Digital service platforms for rural economies	(2 projects, 30 M€)

Rural R&I and rural policy

Rural research and innovation activities supporting policy makers were developed in close alignment with the rural policy objectives pursued by the current Common agricultural policy, with the Cork 2.0 declaration “A better life in rural areas” and with the objectives foreseen for the future CAP as laid out in the European Commission’s proposals for the future CAP tabled on 1 June 2018. They also support the EU Action on Smart villages. Finally, they contribute to a mutually beneficial dialogue with European Rural Networks, benefitting from their activities as much as they feed into them.

More info: <https://enrd.ec.europa.eu>



Cork 2.0 Declaration



EU action for smart villages



