

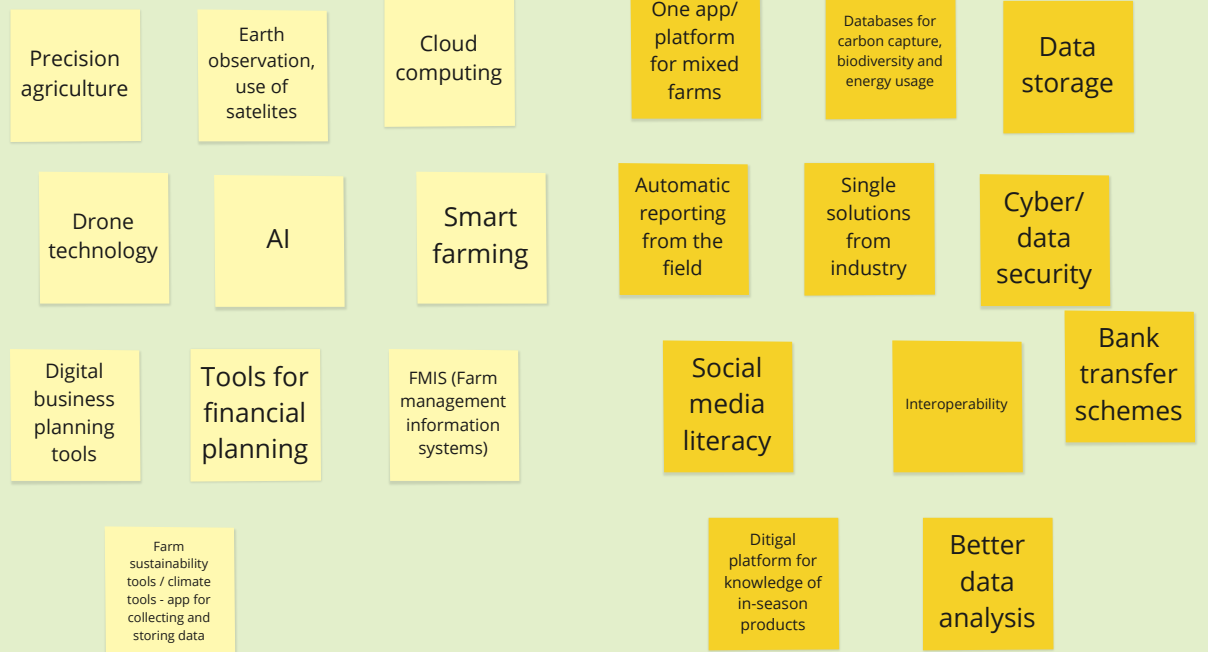
Topic 3

Digital and technological literacy



1. What key emerging technologies and digital skills should currently be incorporated into agricultural education and training?

Main emerging technologies



Social needs in technology



Thematic Group on Nurturing Skills for a Thriving and Sustainable Agricultural Sector

**1st TG meeting
09/10/2023**

In the discussion about digital and technological literacy, participants in the first round explored the incorporation of emerging technologies and digital skills into agricultural education and training.

A notable consideration was the age diversity of farmers, suggesting a need to begin with foundational digital literacy education and emphasise the benefits of technology. The focus was on starting with the basics (e.g. farm management information systems) and then guiding young farmers towards an entrepreneurial mindset, fostering familiarity with technology.

Concrete examples of emerging agricultural technologies were shared, including carbon capture databases for environmental monitoring, tools for assessing biodiversity, and monitoring energy usage on farms. Additionally, online banking tools and digital business planning resources were highlighted.

Participants also pointed out the need for a unified platform or app, especially for farmers engaged in multiple agricultural activities.

The conversation encompassed various technologies such as precision agriculture, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, earth observation using satellite data, smart farming, drone technology, and proficiency in software like Excel.

The information and views set out in this document are those expressed by the members of the EU CAP Network's Thematic Group on Nurturing Skills for a Thriving and Sustainable Agricultural Sector and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Commission.

Digital and technological literacy



2. How can agricultural professionals stay up-to-date with the rapid advancements in key emerging technologies?

Producer organisations

Producer organisations and cooperatives to spread information about technology

Online platforms

Online platform to connect producers to public entities

Identify best practice farmers to be used as a benchmark

Retailers use of digital tools to make consumers aware of seasonal products

Best practice guides on a single accessible platform

Easy to follow case studies online

Peer to peer learning

Peer-to-peer learning

Peer learning systems

Cooperation, networking, exchange on information

Technological solutions

Bridge between AI/ computer and on-farm machines

Efficiency by machine data

Use AI to individualise training

Use of virtual reality

Link it to finance and efficiencies

Social media

Use of social media to spread information between farms

Trainers/suppliers

Knowledge transfer sessions and on-farm discussion groups

Trainers must be well-equipped and flexible

Suppliers providing education and training on technology

Relying on the experience of farmers

Pay attention to farmers' needs

Digital communication skills

How to take advantage of technology for differentiation of services and products



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In the second round of discussions, participants discussed how agricultural professionals can stay up-to-date with the rapid advancements in key emerging technologies.

One proposed approach involved creating and sharing case studies and best practices, with a focus on identifying outstanding farmers as benchmarks and making these best practice guidelines available on a single platform.

Additionally, participants suggested strategies like peer-to-peer learning and cooperative systems, emphasizing cooperation, networking, and the exchange of information about technologies.

Producer organisations and cooperatives were recognised for their role in disseminating technological knowledge. Trainers were identified as key players but were urged to be adaptable and well-prepared. Suppliers were also seen as crucial in providing education and training on technologies, while the interests in selling their products and potential bias need to be taken into consideration too. Bridging the gap between artificial intelligence, computers, and on-farm machines for seamless interaction was also highlighted. Finally, participants noted the significance of using social media as a tool for information dissemination and communication among farmers.