



EU CAP Network Conference 'EIP-AGRI Operational Groups: Innovation in practice'

Estoril, Portugal
6 - 8 May 2024



Funded by
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Anita Beblek

OG 'BioStripPlant'



1 | The innovation support team agrathaer



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2 | Our journey from OG-Lead to ISS for Brandenburg – key learnings

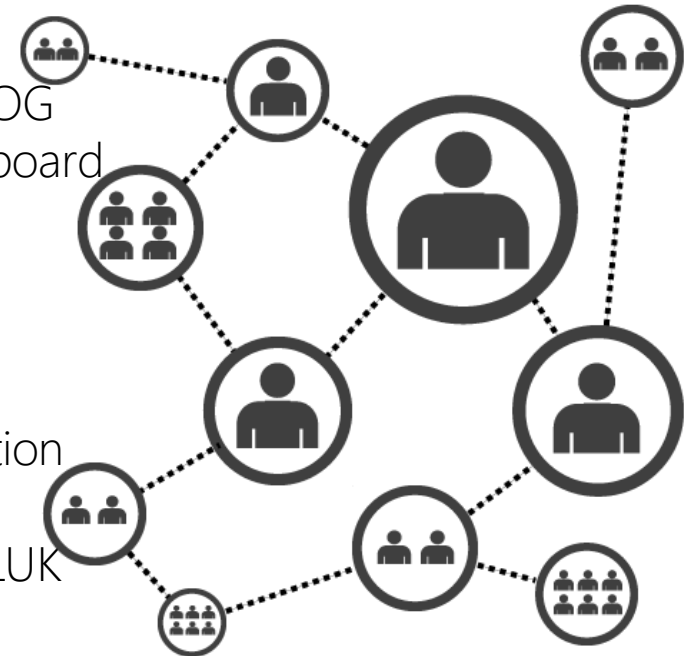


- ✂ We started building our first OG in 2017 on the topic enhancing the quality of grass silage for dairy cows & digitisation (development of 2 Apps)
- ✂ We built our activities on an already existing regional farmers network in the Federal State of Brandenburg, they knew each other, had a trustful inter alia relationship and were keen to explore innovative ideas - this turned out to be the most essential „ingredient“ for our successfull Q2Gras project.
- ✂ 2 out of our 5 OG projects were initiated by research organisations based on outcome from research projects claiming to be very relevant for farmers and we where approached as an Innovation Support Service (ISS) to built an OG and become Leadpartner – during the whole project time the imbalance of ownership was an issue – farmers didn't regard it as THEIR project but rather as supporting science outcome
- ✂ Farmers only get engaged in EIP AGRI & OG activities if there is a clear added value for them, attending EIP AGRI/ EUC CAP networking events is for 90% not relevant as there is no clear added value → risk of creating detached networking bubbles

3 | What are our main tasks/objectives as ISS



- ✂ Advice and support for the Brandenburg operational group from ideation to innovation: this means
 - ✂ Initial consultation on innovative ideas - potential assessment
 - ✂ Partnering for building an OG
 - ✂ Assistance with the planning, implementation and management of an OG
 - ✂ Supporting the project selection process for Ministry, OGs & advisory board
 - ✂ Receipt of application documents, admissibility check & notification
 - ✂ Support to disseminate results from OGs & longterm uptake in practice
 - ✂ Supporting PR for all OGs
- ✂ Interface between administration, practice, advisory services, further education and research
- ✂ Development of monitoring strategy and further development of EIP for MLUK
- ✂ Planning and implementation of events
- ✂ Networking regional, national and EU-wide



4 | BioStripPlant – our OG: 6 partners



Our Farmers in the OG



Association for organic farming



Research organisation



5 | Short overview of our ongoing EIP-AGRI project: BioStripPlant



- ✂ Increasing demand for organic & regional vegetables in Berlin/ Brandenburg
- ✂ Sandy soils in Brandenburg are characterized by high erosion potential and hence loss of soil fertility
- ✂ Vegetable cropping systems require multiple soil cultivations leading to negative effects on soil fertility and water content
- ✂ StripTill as a conservative-orientated soil cultivation method is applied in conventional but not in organic farming systems
- ✂ Project BioStripPlant wants to implement this cultivation method in organic farming systems combined with two different mulching approaches to reduce evaporation and erosion potential
- ✂ The aim is to increase climate resilience of organic vegetable cultivation

5 | Our main take aways for an enabling environment for OGs



✿ Reflections on working together in our OGs

- Difficulties to integrate the management of experimental field plots in operational workflow of farmers
- Data documentation & administration: farmers need support & someone who does this job
- Communication within in the group: someone needs to to take the position of the facilitator and translator of different perspectives, interests, needs (boundary spanner)
- Difficulties in motivation among farmers if they have no or limited financial participation
- Co-create and co-develop from start to finish with all members of the OG

✿ Longterm benefits need to be clear for farmers in implementing the innovative solution, this also requires a cost-benefit calculation

✿ One needs to understand that farmers don't have dedicated R & I capacity & knowledge. This is a huge disadvantage compared to other sectors & needs to be taken into account when establishing

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Projekt

EU CAP Network conference

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All information on the conference is available on the event webpage:

<https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/events/eu-cap-network-conference-eip-agri-operational-groups-innovation-practice>

