

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

AGENDA

Update 6 May 2024

6-8 May 2024

Estoril, Portugal

Innovation and Knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI

The EU CAP Network conference 'EIP-AGRI Operational Groups: Innovation in practice' Estoril, Portugal 6-8 May 2024
is organised in collaboration with



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The European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability' (EIP-AGRI) was launched in 2012 by the European Commission. Since then, Member States (MS) have kept investing in innovation for agriculture and rural areas through EIP-AGRI Operational Group projects (OGs), financed by the Rural Development Programmes. This has resulted in an abundance of solutions and knowledge to overcome challenges and seize opportunities that practitioners in agriculture, forestry and rural areas are facing.

For the CAP programming period 2014-2022, 3 200 OG projects were planned. By December 2023, over 3 400 projects have been reported in the EC's database, and more projects are expected to be reported by the end of 2025 (i.e. the end of funding and reporting for the period 2014-2022). This is a milestone to celebrate, but also an achievement to learn from and build upon for the time ahead.

In the CAP 2023-2027, OGs continue to be a key tool for innovation and knowledge exchange. The scope of their projects now goes beyond 'agricultural productivity and sustainability', as OG projects may relate to all nine CAP specific objectives, as well as the cross-cutting one. Setting up and fostering transnational and cross-border OGs is a novelty and an opportunity to further develop and scale up results obtained by OGs from the programming period 2014-2022. So is the obligation for MS to offer innovation support for preparing and implementing OG projects.

To celebrate and showcase these achievements, foster networking and knowledge exchange, support the next generation of OG projects and incentivise transnational / cross-border Operational Groups, **the EU CAP Network**, with the support of the Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI, and in collaboration with the **Portuguese CAP Network – Rede Nacional PAC**, is organising the **conference 'EIP-AGRI Operational Groups: Innovation in practice'**. This event will take place from **6 to 8 May 2024** in Estoril (Portugal). This conference will be a two-and-a-half-day event with up to 600 participants. It will be organised in combination with the **'EIP-AGRI Innovation Awards'**. The awards ceremony will be integrated in the conference programme.

The **main objective** of the conference is twofold: to highlight the successful implementation of the EIP-AGRI through Operational Group projects as one of its main building blocks, and to learn from this experience for the implementation of projects under the CAP 2023-2027.

The **specific objectives** of the conference are to:

1. Spotlight and celebrate the achievements of over 3 400 OG projects in the EU;
2. Exchange and learn from the experiences of OG projects and boost possibilities to share promising knowledge and innovations developed by OGs;
3. Discuss the possibilities, including funding opportunities, to further use and upscale OG outcomes in practice, including through Horizon Europe;
4. Discuss challenges and identify good practices that can support the preparation and implementation of OG projects under the CAP 2023-2027;
5. Foster further networking and cooperation for innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas, including the creation of transnational / cross-border OGs;
6. Enhance the synergies between CAP and Horizon Europe for the benefit of the OGs.

[You can find all information on the event webpage.](#)



Draft agenda

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The working language will be English. No interpretation will be available.

All timings are in local time (Greenwich Mean Time – GMT)

Timing	Day 0: Monday 6 May 2024
12.30 – 13.45	Arrival of participants who are attending the field visits to EIP-AGRI Operational Groups, at the venue Registration for the conference and the field visits
14.00 – 19.00	Field visits to EIP-AGRI Operational Groups, organised by the Portuguese CAP Network in collaboration with the EU CAP Network support unit for Innovation and Knowledge exchange EIP-AGRI. Find more details on the event page. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Group 1: Fruit orchards – pollination, fertilisation and management ✓ Group 2: Forestry – restoration of degraded areas, fertilisation ✓ Group 3: Cereals and horticulture – animal and human health, soil health and water management ✓ Group 4: Viticulture – nitrogen management and mechanical pruning
17.00 – 18.00	Conference registration (possibility to register and receive conference badge)

	Day 1: Tuesday 7 May 2024
8.30 – 9.45	Arrival at the venue and registration for Day 1
10.00 – 10.40	Welcome and opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Introduction to the conference by main moderator <i>Sasha Twining, EU CAP Network, Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge exchange EIP-AGRI</i> ✓ Opening of the conference by <i>José Manuel Fernandes, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Portugal</i> ✓ Welcome video address by <i>Janusz Wojciechowski, Commissioner for Agriculture, European Commission</i> ✓ Welcome by <i>Roberto Berutti, Member of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Agriculture, European Commission</i>



10.40 – 11.05	<p>Setting the scene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Interactive presentation 'EIP-AGRI and its Operational Group projects' – <i>Hugo Almeida, Deputy Head of Unit D.1 'Rural areas and networks', DG AGRI, European Commission</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Giorgia Robbiati, OG 'Agroecological innovations to increase the resilience and sustainability of mountain livestock farms'</i> ✓ <i>Łukasz Ignasiak, OG 'Original method realization of control activities of beehive with use automatic technical means to improving health condition of honey bee'</i> ✓ <i>Jean-Marc Gautier, OG 'ROBUSTAGNO' / Institut de l'Élevage (Idele)</i>
11.05 – 12.30	<p>Panel discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Panel I – Reflecting on the role of grassroots innovations for the future of agriculture, forestry and rural areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Jacopo Goracci, Tenuta di Paganico Farm, Italy</i> ✓ <i>Maria Rosa Mosquera Losada, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain</i> ✓ <i>Donal Sheehan, farmer, Ireland</i> ✓ <i>Patrick Pasgang, Boerenbond, Belgium</i> ✓ <i>Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, Director, Directorate A 'Strategy and Policy Analysis', DG AGRI, European Commission</i> ✓ <i>Eduardo Diniz, 'Planning, Policies and General Administration Office', Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Portugal</i> ✓ Panel II – Discussion on effective sharing, use and scaling up of Operational Group projects' outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Gábor Vicze, Horizon Thematic Network based on EIP-AGRI OGs SOIL-X-CHANGE</i> ✓ <i>Leonie Göbel, German CAP Network</i> ✓ <i>Begoña Pérez Villareal, EIT Food</i> ✓ <i>Orsolya Frizon Somogyi, Unit F.2 'Research and Innovation', DG AGRI, European Commission</i>
12.30 – 15.30	<p>Spotlighting and celebrating 3 400+ Operational Group projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Innovation exhibition with over 85 stands: Space for Operational Groups and other relevant participants to share their projects, results and initiatives ✓ In parallel, short on-stage interviews with EIP-AGRI Innovation Awards nominees will take place <p>Lunch and coffee will be provided</p>
15.30 – 17.00	<p>Time for networking</p> <p>Networking space available, participants are free to organise their networking meetings</p>



17.00 – 19.00	Ceremony 'EIP-AGRI Innovation Awards' The awards ceremony will recognise and reward outstanding Operational Group projects which have developed innovative outcomes. There are six award categories and a seventh award will be given to the 'public favourite'.
19.00 – 22.30	<i>Networking dinner</i>
22.30	End of Day 1

Day 2: Wednesday 8 May 2024	
7.45 – 8.45	Arrival at the venue and registration for Day 2
8.45 – 9.10	Welcome to Day 2 ✓ Online welcome address by <i>Mario Milouchev, Director for CAP Strategic Plans II, DG AGRI, European Commission</i>
9.10 – 9.35	Lessons learnt from the past Presentation of the main highlights from the 'Study on outcomes achieved by EIP-AGRI Operational Group projects under the CAP', carried out by the EU CAP Network – European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP – <i>Carlotta Valli, COGEA / Bip Group</i>
9.35 – 12.30	Preparing the next generation of Operational Groups ✓ Introduction in plenary ✓ Parallel workshops on various topics – examples of questions to be addressed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Starting from an innovative idea: developing it into an Operational Group project proposal ('START')</u> How are grassroots innovative ideas being captured? How are the needs and opportunities experienced by farmers and foresters turned into a project idea? How are project partnerships built with the right partners, with complementary expertise? How are OG project proposals prepared? How are advisors / innovation support services helping to develop individual projects? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Carmen Landuyt, OG 'From handyman to manufacturer: professionalization of self-made mechanisation in Flanders'</i> ✓ <i>Patrizia Proietti, ATTRACTISS</i> 2. <u>Facilitating: ensuring a smooth-running Operational Group project ('FACILITATE')</u> What keeps project partners together? How can trust be increased, communication optimised, and the administrative burden lowered?



What needs to be included in the partnership agreement? Is there a need for a process and communication facilitator?

- ✓ Lidia Morón-Morawska, OG 'Cooperation for the creation of an innovative local market'
- ✓ Sylvain Sturel, I2connect

3. Involving farmers and foresters from start to finish: ensuring that end-users are benefitting ('CO-CREATE')

What can attract farmers and foresters to become partners in an Operational Group project? What are their expectations and what benefits can they gain from taking part? Additionally, how can Operational Groups involve farmers and foresters who are not partners in the project to incentivise the uptake of project results?

- ✓ Raquel Arroyo, OG 'ECOPIONET' – Innovation and bioeconomy in the rural environment'
- ✓ Susanne von Münchhausen, LIAISON / PREMIERE

4. Creating an enabling environment to support Operational Groups throughout the project ('ENABLE')

How are Managing Authorities, National CAP Networks and Paying Agencies supporting OGs in different stages of the project? What are key issues to take into account?

- ✓ Anita Beblek, OG 'BioStripPlant'
- ✓ Elena-Teodora Miron, modernAKIS

5. Sharing results for better uptake by practice, during and beyond the lifespan of the project ('SHARE')

How are OGs made visible? How are OGs organising their communication and dissemination activities? How is the knowledge they generate taken up by farmers, foresters, in advice and training? What happens after an Operational Group is finished: do former partners keep collaborating, what happens to the results and to identified needs for further research?

- ✓ Guillermina Fernández-Villar, OG 'TERRACTIVA'
- ✓ Lisa van Dijk, EU Farmbook

6. Inspiring Operational Groups to collaborate with other innovative projects ('COLLABORATE')

What are the opportunities and support needs for Operational Groups to network and exchange knowledge with other Operational Groups or innovative projects at national and transnational level (such as Horizon Europe multi-actor projects)?

- ✓ Tamara Korošec, OG 'The role of industrial hemp in adaptation to climate change and in protection of agricultural resources'
- ✓ Ana Ventura, FOREST4EU



	<p>7. <u>Fostering transnational Operational Groups ('TRANSNATIONAL')</u></p> <p>What are the needs to foster transnational, including cross-border Operational Groups? What are the steps that are needed to establish transnational Operational Groups? What could these Operational Group projects possibly look like?</p> <p>✓ <i>Anri Timonen, OG 'SMART FEED – Smart measurements in cattle feeding and health'</i></p>
12.30 – 14.30	<p>Lunch break</p> <p>Lunch will be provided</p>
14.30 – 15.55	<p>Reflecting on lessons learnt for the next generation of Operational Groups</p> <p>Reporting back from the parallel workshops with audience engagement. Evaluation of the event.</p>
15.55 – 16.00	<p>Closing words – by DG AGRI</p>
16.00	<p>Closing of the conference</p>

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