

Call for expression of interest: Contribute to EU CAP Network activities on innovation, knowledge exchange and EIP-AGRI as a main facilitator

The EU CAP Network Support Facility for Innovation & Knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI (EIP-AGRI Support Facility) is looking for main facilitators for EU CAP Network workshops and seminars

The EIP-AGRI Support Facility (SF) is looking for **main facilitators** for several EU CAP Network workshops and seminars. The events will cover a range of topics (see below). If you are interested then please [complete this application form](#) and submit your Europass CV (if you do not have one yet, you may create it on the [Europass webpage](#)).

The deadline for applications is 10 October 2024, 15:00 CET.

Please note that if you would like to apply as main facilitator for more than one networking activity, please submit separate applications for each specific event (workshop, seminar, brokerage activity). If you applied to the call for main facilitators which was published in 2022 or 2023, you will need to apply again to this call. Application(s) to this call will only be considered for EU CAP Network events to be held between July 2024 and June 2025. You may be invited by the Support Facility to supply further information if needed. The final selection of main facilitators will not be limited to the list resulting from this call.

Topics

The event topics cover a wide range of issues related to agricultural productivity and sustainability, and EU Rural areas. In particular, provisional topics for events in 2024-2025 include:

- › Workshop on 'Circular bioeconomy – valorisation of forestry by-products and residues', 80-100 participants, planned in January - March 2025
- › Workshop on 'National Networking for innovation', 80 -100 participants, planned in January 2025,
- › Workshop on 'Innovation in logistics to improve the position of farmers in a supply chain', 80-100 participants, planned in April - June 2025
- › Seminar on 'Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in farming and forestry', 150-200 participants, planned in January - March 2025
- › Seminar on 'Demonstration farms', 150-200 participants, planned in April - June 2025
- › Standalone brokerage event related to Horizon Europe calls, 80-100 participants, planned in the first half of 2025

More information on the events in the [Annex 2](#).



Tasks for main facilitators

Main facilitators for EU CAP Network events contracted by the EIP-AGRI Support Facility will be required to cooperate with the organising team to structure the programme for the event, to act as main moderator during plenary sessions and to facilitate breakout sessions. They will also be requested to guide the team of facilitators prior to, and during the event. Additionally, in specific cases, they may also be requested to contribute to, or draft the final report of the event.

More information on the tasks of main facilitators in [Annex 1](#).

Applications and selection criteria

All applicants are required to [complete the application form](#), providing their contact details, areas of expertise, motivation. They also need to illustrate their experience as main facilitator in other EU-wide events which are relevant to the events in the list above with regards to their size and format.

We are looking for **main facilitators** with experience in:

- › Acting as the main facilitator in at least two EU-wide events carried out in English with plenary and interactive sessions, involving experts from different backgrounds, such as farmers, foresters, advisers, people working in agribusiness, officials from public administrations and researchers (applicants are required to provide proof including links to videos or audio materials from the event).
- › Working as part of a team – selected experts will be required to cooperate with the permanent staff of the Support Facility and representatives of the European Commission, and so they need to demonstrate excellent capacity for teamwork (references required).
- › Designing the facilitation process for the event including interactive sessions, which allow participants to easily interact with each other and effectively share their knowledge, and, in case of applying for the brokerage activity, demonstrated experience with match-making exercises (references required).
- › Capturing the attention of participants and having good command of the English language since this will be the working language throughout preparations and during the event itself.

The following activities may be requested exceptionally in some specific cases:

- › Writing texts in English for a professional, non-specialist audience
- › Reflecting the event and its main conclusions in a concise final report (applicants are required to provide references).
- › Additionally, experience in specific agricultural / forestry professional fields, such as the topics of the events mentioned above, would be an asset, although not mandatory.

All application forms which have been fully completed and submitted before the **deadline 10 October 2024, 15:00 CET**, will be reviewed and evaluated, based on the criteria listed above.



Remuneration

Travel and accommodation incurred by the main facilitators in the context of the assignment will be covered by the EIP-AGRI Support Facility.

In addition, selected main facilitators will be remunerated by a service contract. The daily fee for the assignment is 500 EUR. The maximum remuneration depends on the event and number of days agreed to prepare and to attend the event, and also if they drafting the event report is required.



Annex 1: Examples of tasks for main facilitators (workshops and seminars)

Contributing to preparations for the event:

- › Contributing to the development of the event concept and the roadmap, in particular from the angle of facilitating interaction and engagement of participants
- › Developing the programme of the event and all the interactive sessions in collaboration with the organising team and the coordinating expert
- › Developing a good dynamic for facilitating discussions e.g. in breakout groups
- › Drafting preliminary information for participants

Participating in the overall facilitation of the event:

- › Coordinating the facilitation team's work, including a preparation meeting with all the facilitators
- › Coordinating with the facilitation team to ensure that the results are properly harvested
- › Moderating plenary sessions and facilitating breakout sessions (as main facilitator)

Contributing to reporting (only for specific events when this is requested):

- › Drafting short web articles to be published via several communication channels
- › Contributing to drafting the final report
- › Contributing to the evaluation of the workshop or seminar

All these tasks will be done in collaboration with the other Support Facility and European Commission staff involved.



Annex 2: Networking events

Workshop on ‘Circular bioeconomy – valorisation of forestry by-products and residues’

This networking event, addressing the Specific Objective 8 of the CAP, will explore novel technologies and innovations (incl. social, governance models, cooperation, etc.) to elaborate and produce high value products or novel products from residues and waste, and methods of nutrient recycling, with the scope limited to residues from forestry. This will contribute to a more efficient use of resources, where residues and waste are minimised and converted into high value products.

This workshop also contributes to the Specific Objectives 1 and 3 of the CAP, linked to increasing farm income from forests and to improving the position of farmers in the value chain. In addition, it contributes to the CCO (Cross-Cutting Objective) of the CAP which, among his goals, aims to bridge research and practice in giving a platform to exchange knowledge, connect and foster the collaboration between CAP-funded Operational Group projects and Horizon-funded multi-actor research projects and thematic networks.

Workshop ‘National networking for innovation’

National CAP Networks have the same objectives and tasks as the EU CAP Network as defined in the CAP Regulation under Article 126. Even if National Networks have gained experience with EIP-AGRI throughout the previous programming period, surveys and meetings have indicated that they need capacity-building support in peer-to-peer learning and guidance on identification of good practices in order to more effectively carry out their tasks related to innovation and knowledge exchange.

Within this context, in the beginning of 2025 the EIP-AGRI SF will organise the second Workshop ‘National networking for innovation’, reflecting to the CCO of the CAP and as a follow up to the [1st EU CAP Network Workshop ‘National networking for innovation’](#). The workshop will be an opportunity to discuss and exchange with National CAP Networks on their tasks and objectives as stipulated in the Regulation, focusing on more specific topics to be selected at the later stage according to their needs.

Workshop on ‘Innovation in logistics to improve the position of farmers in a supply chain’

This workshop will respond to Specific Objective 3 of the CAP and cover innovations at individual farms, producer groups and cooperatives. Increasing the innovation rate in terms of logistic structures, including handling, transport, storage, drying, etc., but also in primary food processing and packaging would help farming products to become more competitive and to gain new market channels. Cooperating farmers are often more economically and technically capable to invest in logistical innovations and face lower risks.

The demand for regional food in Europe is increasing for various reasons, whether related to consumer behaviour, health, rural and urban economic development, economic and environmental resilience, reduction of carbon footprint, or farm sustainability. This growing demand for local products is an opportunity for small and medium-sized companies and farms to become more competitive and to gain new local



market channels by adoption innovations. New, innovative and viable business models for local food supply that empower local and small business and emphasise diversity and resilience need to be developed. More specifically, there is a need for social innovations and digital technologies that optimise logistics, storage and distribution, and that reduce waste.

This workshop also contributes to the CCO of the CAP, which has, among others, the goal to bridge research and practice in giving a platform to exchange knowledge, connect and foster the collaboration between CAP-funded Operational Group projects (OGs) and Horizon funded multi-actor research projects and thematic networks that optimise logistics, storage and distribution, and that reduce waste.

Seminar on ‘Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in farming and forestry’

This seminar will explore how these advanced technologies can drive competitiveness, farm modernisation, and accelerate the uptake of innovative solutions. Aligned with the Specific Objective 2 of the CAP, this seminar will showcase how robotics and AI are reshaping agriculture and forestry by enhancing efficiency and boosting productivity. AI can analyse data from sensors to optimise critical operations, such as irrigation, fertilisation, pest control and resource management. It can predict yields and automate tasks making daily activities more precise and efficient. For instance, robots can tirelessly handle intensive tasks like weeding and harvesting, allowing farmers to focus on higher-value activities, decision-making tasks that improve overall farm management. The event will emphasise knowledge exchange, highlighting successful projects, lessons learnt, and innovative practices across Europe. This aligns with the CCO of the CAP, which has, among others, the goal to bridge research and practice by creating a platform for collaboration between CAP-funded Operational Group (OG) projects and Horizon funded multi-actor research projects.

Overall, the seminar will provide a hands-on, practical approach, making robotics and AI more accessible to farmers, foresters, and livestock producers. By showcasing real-world applications and fostering collaboration, this event aims to demonstrate the transformative potential of these technologies in getting agriculture smarter, more sustainable, competitive and resilient.

Seminar on ‘Demonstration farms’

This networking event reflects the cross-cutting objective of the CAP and will be focusing on sharing of knowledge between demonstration farms, their networks, EIP-AGRI Operational Groups, relevant Horizon Europe projects and other relevant stakeholders. It will create opportunities for demonstration farms, and selected projects and initiatives to learn from each other. Sharing experiences and best practices on activities, such as dissemination of knowledge and innovation, raising awareness, and even overcoming failures, shall provide valuable insights.

Stand-alone brokerage event (Networking of OGs and Horizon Multi-Actor Projects (MAPs))

The brokerage activity linked to Horizon calls provide an ideal tool for fostering and strengthening thematic, transnational and cross-border networking of OGs and Horizon Multi-Actor Projects (MAPs) as well as innovation actors, including relevant innovative projects funded under other European programmes. In this context the EIP-



AGRI SF will organise a Stand-alone brokerage activity, in support to one of the upcoming Horizon Europe Cluster 6 calls for proposals under work programme 2025. As the programme 2025 is not available yet the topic for this event will be defined at a later stage.

This event will aim at improving awareness of the Horizon Europe work programme 2025 and the opportunities offered under its calls, supporting future applicants in finding potential partners, sharing further information on the call and its topics, and thus contributing to improving the quality of the proposals.

