

Speakers and facilitators

(in order of appearance in the programme)

Jan-Kees Goet

Secretary General of the Ministry of LNVN (Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature)



J.C. (Jan-Kees) Goet, MSc, has been Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature since 2018, leading the ministry's civil apparatus and serving as the chief advisor to its political leadership. Prior to this role, he served for four years as Director-General for Migration at the Ministry of Security and Justice. He was also Chairman of the Board at the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA), Deputy and Acting Head of the General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD), Director of Police, and Director of Security, Information Policy and Projects at the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

Coming from a farming family, Jan-Kees Goet studied Educational Sciences at Leiden University, and started his career in public service in 1988.

Taru Haapaniemi

Cabinet of Commissioner Hansen – Agriculture and Food



Taru joined DG AGRI in 2004 and has worked in policy coordination of direct payments and rural development, pre-accession funds and the CAP Strategic Plans. Currently, Taru serves as a Cabinet Member in the Cabinet of Commissioner Christophe Hanse, Commissioner for Agriculture and Food. Taru comes from rural Finland and is very keen on new innovations in the agricultural sector.

Marta Iglesias

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, D.1 Rural areas and networks



Marta Iglesias is Communication and Innovation Officer at the European Commission's DG Agriculture and Rural Development, where she focuses on promoting knowledge exchange and innovation in the agricultural sector. With extensive experience in research and innovation, she contributes to the design of EU policies, particularly under Horizon Europe and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Her work involves organizing networking activities, including brokerage events and seminars, to foster collaboration between researchers, innovators, and stakeholders in agriculture. She is particularly involved in the EU CAP Network and EIP-AGRI, supporting initiatives that aim to integrate digital and sustainable practices within farming and forestry. Her expertise in communication and policy development helps drive the adoption of new technologies, such as robotics and artificial intelligence, to ensure a resilient and future-proof agri-food system.





Federico Menna

EIT Digital

Federico Menna is the CEO of EIT Digital, the leading European organization dedicated to driving digital transformation and fostering innovation across Europe. EIT Digital integrates education, innovation, and entrepreneurship on a pan European ecosystem of more than 350 organisations (corporates, universities, startups, SMEs, investors, RTOs) to build a strong digital Europe, which is inclusive, fair and sustainable.

Launched in 2010, EIT Digital set out on a journey of growth. Growth of our community, growth of delivery on innovation, entrepreneurship and talent, and growth of its impact through thought leadership.

Since its launch, EIT Digital has equipped more than 4,000 students with the skills to innovate and become entrepreneurs; EIT Digital has supported more than 1000 start-ups and scaleups to grow internationally, created more than 400 ventures and launched more than 540 products and services commercially.

Recently, EIT Digital published a new report titled "AgriTech: Digital Innovation for a sustainable European Agri-Food sector", exploring the intersection of digital innovation and sustainability in AgriTech. The report highlights key insights into how emerging technologies can drive a sustainable transition in the AgriFood industry, addressing challenges such as food security, environmental impact, and regulatory frameworks.



Ivan Stefanic

EISMEA

Ivan Stefanic is a business development and technology transfer specialist with more than 30 years of international experience in research and business. Ivan is also a Full Professor in economics and entrepreneurship in agribusiness. He is passionate about DeepTech and disruptive innovations, gamification of learning experiences, mentoring students and young entrepreneurs, and enterprising university.

As an EIC Programme Manager he proactively manages several thematic and challenge portfolios. Report includes following activities: strategic intelligence gathering, preparation of challenge proposals, promotion and dissemination activities, feedback to policy activities, proactive portfolio management activities, and numerous networking activities..



Francesco Iadecola

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural development, Research and Innovation Unit (F2)

As a Research Programme Officer at the European Commission, Francesco contributes to DG AGRI's Research and Innovation strategy on digital and data technologies for agriculture and rural areas and to the programming of Horizon Europe funding.

Francesco has extensive work experience developed through EU-funded projects and studies implemented in EU and non-EU

countries, during which he collaborated with key stakeholders providing evidence-based solutions for policy-makers and society.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and a Master's degree in Sustainable Rural Development from the University of Perugia (IT).

DG Agriculture and Rural Development



Klavdija Ramšak-Noemi

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, D.1 Rural areas and networks

Klavdija Ramšak-Noemi is a Policy Officer at the European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Unit D.1 Rural areas and networks, EU CAP Network / EIP-AGRI team. She joined European Commission, DG AGRI, in 2005. As a programme manager she managed the approval negotiations and implementation of the Rural Development Programme for Slovenia 2007-2013 and contributed to the preparation of the Partnership agreement with Slovenia 2014-2020. At DG AGRI she worked on German Rural Development matters as well as financial management. She has held a socio-economic researcher position in Switzerland. She studied economics in Ljubljana and holds a Master's degree in Human Ecology from Free University of Brussels.



Aniko Seregelyi

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, D.1 Rural areas and networks

Anikó Seregelyi is Policy officer in the Rural areas and networks' unit at the European Commission (DG AGRI). She contributes to the set-up, coordination, and implementation of the European CAP Network Innovation strand, more specifically the implementation of the European Innovation Partnership - EIP-AGRI. Since 2015, she was supervising numerous EIP-AGRI workshops, seminars and Focus Groups mainly related to the sustainable management of natural resources and capacity building activities. She studied Geography, European studies and Science management in Budapest, Freiburg, Aachen and Speyer.

Prior to joining the Commission, she worked as EU project manager in Hungary responsible for research supporting projects in the 5th and 6th RTD Framework Programme and for researchers' mobility issues. She studied Geography, European Studies and Science management in Budapest, Freiburg, Aachen and Speyer.

EU CAP Network Team

1. Support Facility 'Innovation & Knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI' team



Andrea Panzavolta

Main facilitator

Andrea is a facilitator, founder and member of FORM_ATTIVA a project which focuses on the theme of non-violent communication and teamwork through some of the most innovative techniques of involvement, participation and mediation, as well as building consensus. FORM_ATTIVA offers advice to increase the effectiveness of working groups in business, school and academic environments and in public administrations through the identification of processes aimed at improving the quality of human relations and addressing the conflicts that these spontaneously generate, to activate the collective intelligence in the analysis of problems and in the search for solutions. Andrea is a member of the International Association of Facilitators - Certificate ; Completed the IAF Mentoring Programme 2020 and is an Endorsed IAF facilitator.



Filipe Neves dos Santos

Coordinating expert

Filipe holds a PhD in Robotics and Automation (2014) and is the founder and manager of TRIBE-LAB, a cutting-edge research laboratory focused on robotics and IoT solutions for precision agriculture and forestry, operating under INESC TEC—a private, non-profit R&D institution. With over 20 years of experience in R&D, he has founded an aerial robotics startup, coordinated and participated in more than 30 European and national projects, and authored over 120 peer-reviewed scientific publications. His work is driven by innovation and a commitment to advancing technology in agriculture and forestry.



Mayte España

Task manager

Mayte is a member of the Seminar organising team, representing the EU CAP Network and more specifically the EIP-AGRI Support Facility. She studied Food Engineering and has a master in Agricultural Engineering in the field of animal production at the Polytechnic University of Madrid. Her role here is to support the implementation of this Seminar, so please reach out for any questions, comments or concerns.



Beatriz Guimarey Fernandez

Co-task manager

Bea grew up on a small family farm in Galicia region (NW Spain), she is a Forestry Engineer and holds a Master in Sustainable Land Planning by the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain). For the EU CAP Network | EIP-AGRI she contributes to the organisation and facilitation of networking events and screening and analysis of innovative projects, mainly dealing with the socio-economic fabric of rural areas (e.g. bioeconomy, forestry, societal demands, business development). Furthermore, she works as a researcher at the

University of Santiago de Compostela, in projects related to innovation in rural development, land use change or bioeconomy.



Remco Schreuder

Co-task manager

Remco is working for the EIP network as Farm Practice Officer since April 2013. He is based at the Dutch Agency for Entrepreneurs (RVO) at the Paying Agency as an (Policy) Advisor/Design on Agricultural especially on the CAP (Ecoscheme) & Rural Development (agro environment and climate). He spent 20 years at several Applied Research units of Wageningen University focusing on farm economics and sustainable farm development. Experienced in applied research on dairy farming, arable farming, bulb production and flowers, ornamental trees and fruit. Touching economics, manure treatment, crop protection, agro-ecology, feeding, grassland management and many others.



Szabolcs Vágó

Co-task manager

Szabolcs Vágó is a Head of Division at the Support Facility of EU CAP Network on Innovation and Knowledge exchange (EIP-AGRI). His main task is to monitor and evaluate innovation development related to farmer's income and resilience, competitiveness and their position in the food value chain. Before he joined EIP-AGRI in 2023 he worked for the Agricultural Economics Nonprofit Kft. (AKI) in Hungary for more than 20 years in different positions. He was responsible for official Agricultural Statistics, lead and participated in several research projects mainly related to agricultural economics and later on innovation and knowledge sharing in Agriculture. He has been participated in several international capacity building projects regarding statistics, Agricultural Information Systems and Data Management in different countries, such as Kosovo, Turkey, Moldova, Montenegro and Azerbaijan. Lately, as a Director's Advisor his main task was managing international research projects (modernAKIS, ATTRACTISS, EURAKNOS, EUREKA, SHERPA, Soil-X-Change, etc), and he has been also responsible for data protection issues as a Data Protection Officer. He holds PhD degree in Management and Business Administration Sciences. He has numerous scientific and informational publications about the economy of agriculture and food industry.



Nina Skybyk

Event communication officer

As part of the Support Facility's communication team, Nina coordinates the EU CAP Network Innovation and Knowledge exchange newsletter. She also works on publications, contributes to the content of the website and offers support for events. She is the communications officer for this seminar.

Nina is French, with Georgian background. Currently living and working in France, she has a Master's degree in life sciences & marketing, and a 16 year experience in scientific communication, network facilitation, event management and European cooperation projects. She has organised a number of scientific international meetings and events within her previous roles. She currently also

works as a European project officer for AC3A (French Chambers of Agriculture).



Pacôme Elouna Eyenga
Team Leader

Pacôme Elouna Eyenga is Belgian and was born in Yaoundé, Cameroon. He graduated as agronomist in the field of rural economy and sociology, at Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech / Université de Liège in Belgium. Since July 2021, he is the Team Leader of the Support Facility for 'Innovation & Knowledge Exchange | EIP-AGRI. From 2013 until May 2021, he has been Deputy Team Leader and then Team Leader of the EIP-AGRI Service Point established by the European Commission - DG AGRI.



Sergiu Didicescu
Deputy Team Leader

Sergiu is as from June 2024 the Deputy Team Leader at the Support Facility for 'Innovation and Knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI' of the EU CAP Network.



Margarida Ambar
Facilitator

Margarida Ambar is part of the EIP-AGRI Support Facility team, where she is the head of the division dealing with AKIS, stakeholders involvement and facilitation.



Xurxo Loureiro Veira
Facilitator

Xurxo Loureiro is Research and Innovation Officer in the EIP-AGRI Support Facility. He has a doctorate in sustainable land management, with an academic background in forest engineering and agri-food business. Xurxo is currently working as associate researcher in the Land Laboratory (University of Santiago de Compostela) collaborating in projects on several topics such as food security and food systems, sustainable land planning, resilience, biogovernance, ecosystem services and rural development.



Annika Saunik
Facilitator

Annika has studied biology (BSc) an ecology (MSc) in the University of Tartu, Estonia. She worked in the Ministry of Rural Affairs with knowledge transfer and innovation measures and coordinated the Applied Research Programme. In 2018 she joined the EIP-AGRI Service Point and later continued working for the EIP-AGRI Support Facility, mainly focusing on the stakeholders database, website and facilitation. Annika also works in the Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge in the Innovation Support Service where her task is to foster innovation in the agricultural sector in Estonia.



Ineke Van Vliet
Facilitator

Ineke has experience in the field of policy implementation concerning agriculture, rural development and energy transition. She holds positions between facilitator, coordinator and task manager. She is most effective in projects with lots of short term milestones. Working together in a team motivates her to create high quality products. She enjoys developing new ideas in interactive cooperation and has both analytic and creative skills to offer. While working she always considers well the institutional environment, the different stakeholders and the client's demand. Besides, Ineke is a visual artist.



Marta Yonkova
Facilitator

Marta is a Smart Farm Practices & Rural Development Officer at the EIP-Agri Support Facility team. She has a Master degree in International Projects' Management and has studied Economics in Bulgaria and Italy. Experienced in Marketing and Consultancy in the agri-food sector, Marta has a rich portfolio, which includes a vast number of projects, social activities and even issuing an agricultural magazine. Her work experience includes working for one of the biggest NGOs in the agricultural sector in Bulgaria, several information campaigns and many initiatives aimed at farmers and their needs.

2. Communications and Events Support



Anne-Fleur Labbé
Travel & logistical support

Anne-Fleur, Managing Partner at Phrenos, is a multilingual professional with 15+ years of experience in events and communication. She is the Events Team Leader for the Logistical & Communication Support for Networking Activities of the CAP (Lot 4) for DG AGRI. She graduated from the London School of Economics with a MSc in History of International Relations, and from Université Paris II – Panthéon Assas with a MSc in Banking & Finance. In 2020, at INSEAD, she completed a certification in "Design Thinking and Creativity for Business", as well as one in "Leadership in a Crisis". She speaks French, English, Italian, and German.



Irene Sanchez Valdovinos
Travel & logistical support

Irene studied protocol, event organisation, and corporate Communication in Madrid. She is passionate about travel and cultural exchange. She lived in the U.S. for a year before moving to Brussels for her Erasmus and internship. She loves meeting people from diverse backgrounds and finding joy in new experiences.

