

MANDATE AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Ad-hoc national expert group meetings

Context

The EU CAP Network is establishing a pool of national voluntary experts with a focus on innovation, knowledge exchange and EIP-AGRI across EU Member States, with the support of the National Contact Points for Horizon Europe, and the National CAP Networks / National Rural Networks.

The main role of these experts is to help the EU CAP Network identify key challenges and questions to tackle in specific thematic areas related to innovation, knowledge exchange and EIP-AGRI, from their national/regional perspective. They will also provide their input to prepare the call texts of Focus Groups or EU CAP Network events in given thematic areas.

The selected national experts will be invited to an ad-hoc national expert group meeting, which will be held online or as a physical meeting. The meeting usually includes a plenary session and breakout sessions by themes. The objectives and expected outcomes of this meeting are defined below.

Selected experts for the ad-hoc national expert group meeting who are also interested in applying to the Focus Groups or other activities should apply separately, following the Focus Groups' or events' application processes.

Mandate

The ad-hoc national expert group aims to bring specific expert input to the preparatory phase of a Focus Group or a networking event on a specific theme.



Outcomes for each theme

- **the background and major challenges** that farmers, foresters and rural businesses are facing, when it comes to adopting knowledge and innovation in their practices; and the aims of the Focus Group or networking event in contributing to knowledge and innovation exchange;
- a **main question** that the Focus Group should respond to in its activities;
- a set of **main tasks** planned for the Focus Group or networking event, including sharing best practices and success stories, identifying challenges, barriers and opportunities, research needs from practice, innovative ideas, etc.;
- a **draft concept note** for each Focus Group or event in the selected theme that can be the basis for the future call for Focus Group experts or for networking event activities.

An online ad-hoc expert meeting is planned on 15 May 2025, to contribute to the preparatory work of three new Focus Groups.

For this year's national expert group meeting, the following three Focus Group themes are selected for discussion:

- Theme 1: Forestry and forest health: addressing new and emerging pests and diseases and integrating non-native and unconventional tree species
- Theme 2: New innovative and sustainable ways to use wool and revitalise the European wool value chain
- Theme 3: Innovative on-farm energy production systems

