

EU CAP Network brokerage event ‘Partnering for innovation with impact in agriculture and rural areas’

Flash report

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Innovation and Knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI



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The EU CAP Network brokerage event ‘Partnering for innovation with impact in agriculture and rural areas’ brought together 171 participants from 23 EU Member States and North Macedonia. These included farmers, researchers, advisors, innovation brokers, IT experts, rural entrepreneurs, Horizon National Contact Points, National CAP Networks, EIP-AGRI Operational Group projects (OG), Horizon multi-actor projects, and private and public funding organisations.

The event aimed to enhance networking and interaction among participants, and foster collaboration in preparing proposals for selected calls from the pre-published [Horizon Europe R&I Cluster 6 Work Programme 2025](#). These were presented during the event.

In the interactive sessions, participants learnt more about calls that implement a multi-actor approach and offer opportunities for farmers and Ogs. They exchanged preliminary ideas and shared key challenges and partner needs. They also had the opportunity to gain insights into Horizon project coordinators’ key responsibilities, practical strategies, communication tips, and partnership-building approaches to support effective project coordination. Examples of ideas that were discussed during the interactive sessions:

- AI and big data to provide tailored information and support for farmers
- protein production and plant breeding, a need for living labs to test solutions
- strengthening short supply chains through innovation and AI
- integrated soil and water management, including drought adaptation, and irrigation decision support systems

Through four field visits at the innovative campus of the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZU) and the Amálie pilot farm, participants could experience innovative ideas in the Food Processing Training Centre or learn about the effective use of drainage water to mitigate ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss. An innovation market showcased 34 projects, inspiring participants by the variety of practical results that can be linked, developed and scaled further through collaboration.

In addition, CBE JU, EIC, EIT Digital and EIT Food presented [funding opportunities](#) that are relevant to the agri-food and bio-based sectors, strongly emphasising the involvement of farmers.

The brokerage event supported the preparation of high-quality proposals and offered opportunities for scaling up innovations. While identifying the right funding instruments is essential, establishing strong and well-designed forms of collaboration between stakeholders is crucial for implementing innovations that contribute to more competitive, sustainable, and resilient agriculture and rural areas.

