

EU CAP Network cross-visit 'Irrigation – optimising water use practices in annual (and perennial) crops'

Flash report

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Innovation and Knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI



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The EU CAP Network cross-visit on 'Irrigation – Optimising water use practices in annual (and perennial) crops' brought together 19 participants representing 12 EIP-AGRI Operational Group projects (OGs), from 8 Member States. It was held in Thessaloniki, Greece on 7 – 8 May 2025. The cross-visit aimed to foster in-depth, transnational exchanges of knowledge, and to explore possibilities for future (cross-border) collaboration.

The cross-visit was preceded by an online session on 14 April 2025, where all participating OGs presented their projects. The first day of the event started with a recap of the online session, followed by interactive sessions to discuss and compare challenges faced and solutions tested in the projects. This resulted in a 'Wall of Challenges and Solutions'. This was later complemented by solutions that were (still) missing.

In the afternoon, participants visited two projects: the [OG 'Irrisma'](#) - A smart system for low-input agriculture and irrigation water management', and the [OG 'Sisrice'](#) - Automated services for the management of rice irrigation using in-field sensors'.

On the second day of the event, participants focused on identifying ideas for future collaboration. First, they discussed previously identified solutions that could further strengthen their projects. This was followed by a presentation 'Synergies between CAP and Horizon: Opportunities for EIP-AGRI OGs', and a presentation about the experience of an OG involved in the Horizon Thematic network [AQUAGRI-KNOW](#). The subsequent sessions further explored innovation topics that participants considered relevant:

- soil management and quality
- water re-use
- sensors and monitoring
- decision support systems with real-time data.

Four groups, each covering one of the topics, discussed collaboration on the adoption of innovative practices and technologies, opportunities for sharing resources among the projects, and how to organise communication and networking between participants to further develop, and act on collaboration opportunities.

These discussions allowed participants to align for common action through concrete proposals for collaboration, shared vision statements and action plans. As a result, the first ideas for cross-sectoral technology and knowledge transfer on soil management, the outline for a HORIZON project on Water reuse, a sketch of an EU-wide network on sensor challenges and a draft for more compatible decision support systems were developed. Further information about the participating projects and the cross-visit resources can be found on the [event webpage](#).

