



# **Cross-visit**

## **‘Irrigation - optimising water use practices in annual (and perennial) crops’**

**7-8 May 2025 | Greece**



# Welcome

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DG AGRI, European Commission

Cross-visit 'Irrigation - optimising water use practices in  
annual (and perennial) crops' 7-8 May 2025





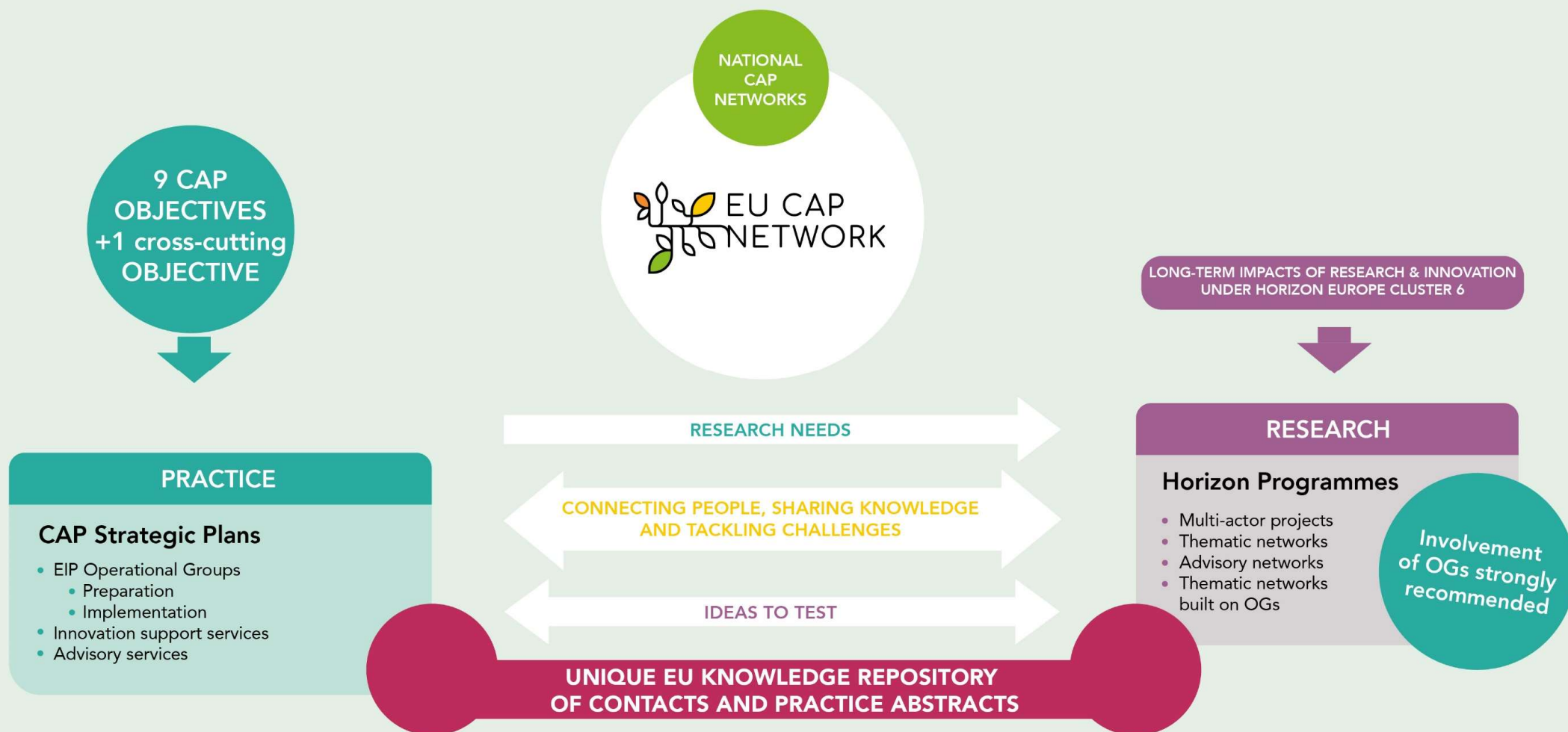
## European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability (EIP-AGRI)

- › **Launched** by the European Commission in February 2012
- › **Aim:** Speed up innovation in agriculture and make it more sustainable and productive
- › **How:**
  - › **Support farmers and foresters to develop practical innovative solutions** together with a targeted group of **complementary** partners (OG projects)
  - › Provide opportunities for **networking and knowledge exchange**, including better connections between research and practice (EU CAP Network)





# Bridging practice and research



## The interactive innovation model



### Bottom-up approach to innovation

focusing on actual needs from farmers, foresters or rural communities that require an innovative solution



### Complementary knowledge

bringing together partners with different expertise (multi-actor approach)



### Co-creating and co-deciding

all along the project, from the beginning to the end

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP):  
**Operational Group projects**

EU research and innovation  
framework programme (Horizon):  
**Multi-actor projects**

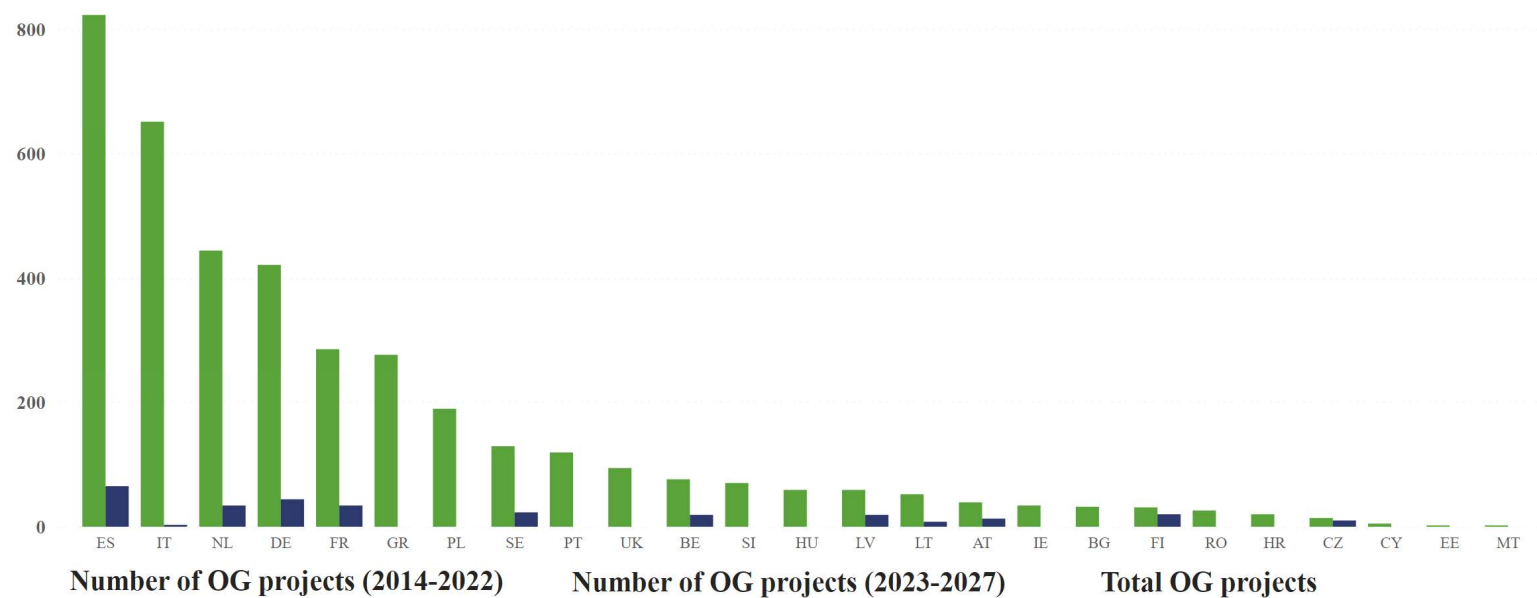


Over 4000  
**OG projects**  
implemented  
across 25  
Member States





### Number of OG projects per Member State (both periods)



Number of OG projects (2014-2022)

Number of OG projects (2023-2027)

Total OG projects

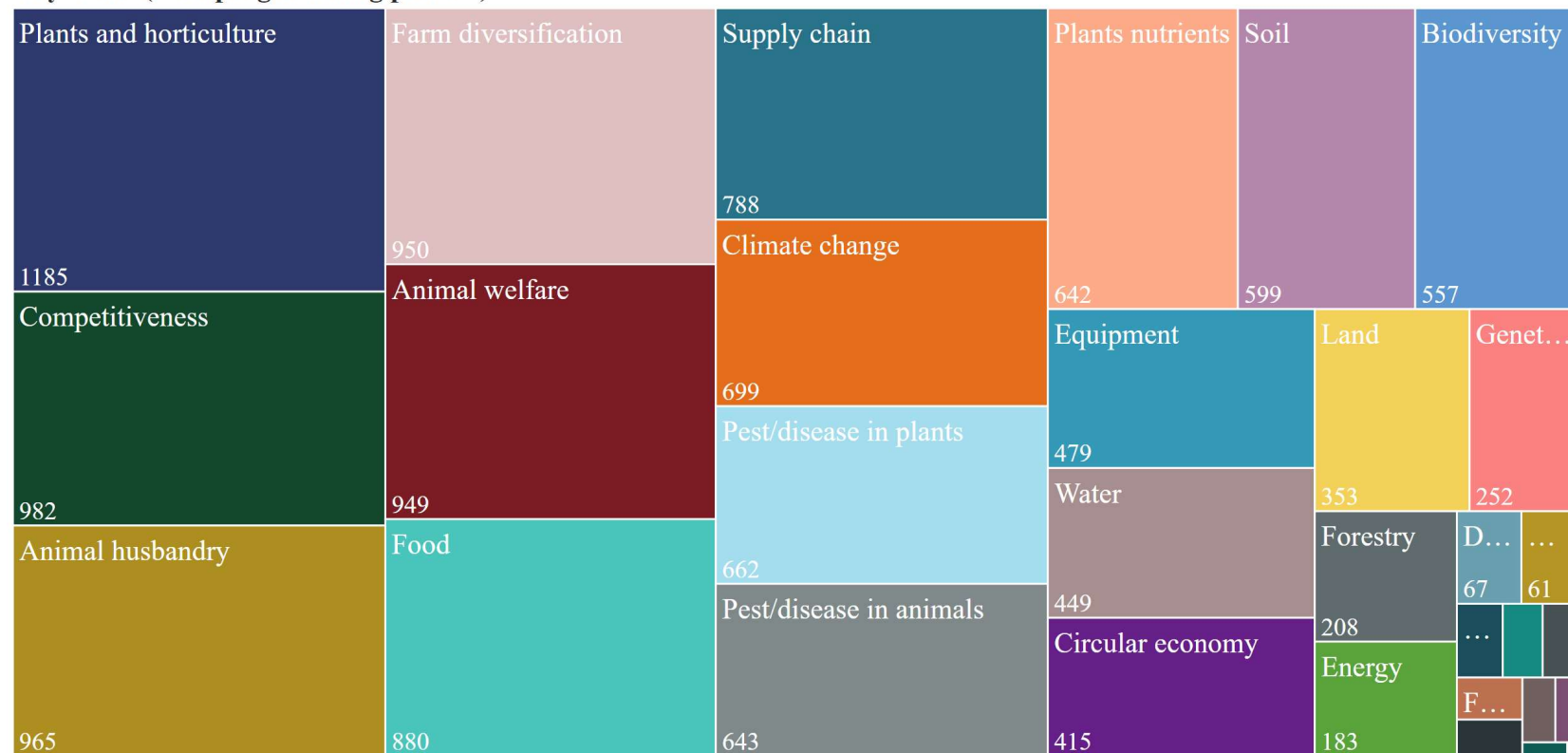
3,955

292

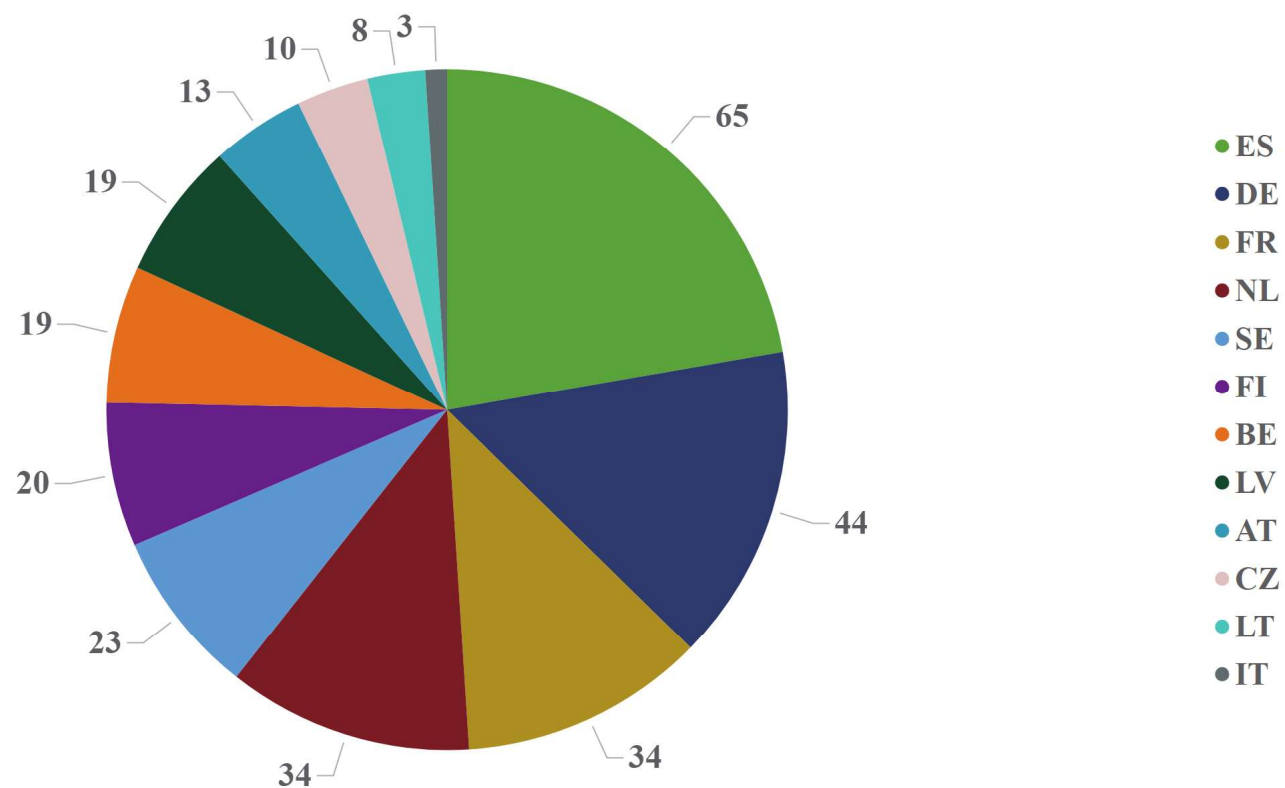
4,247



### Keywords (both programming periods)

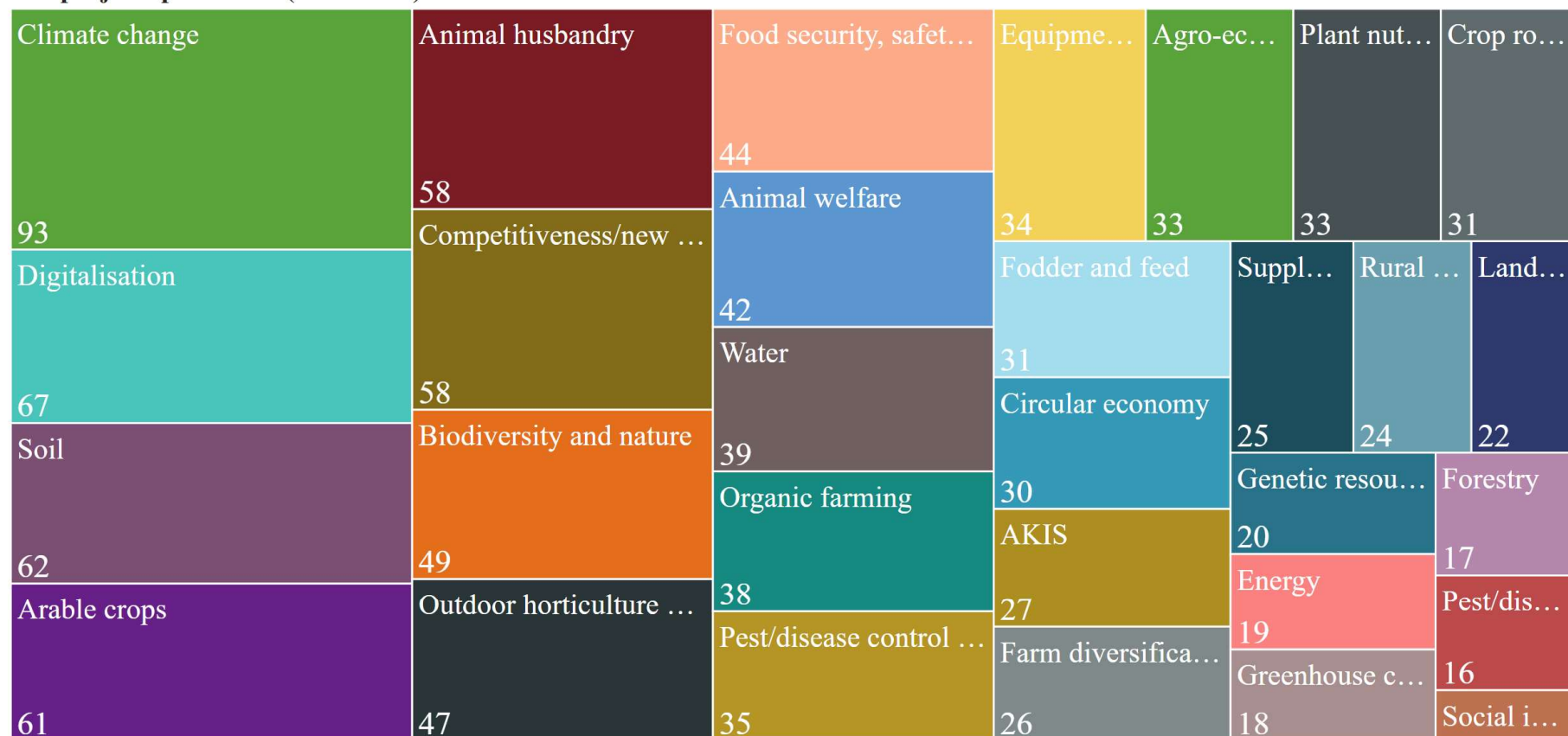


Number of OG projects per Member State (2023-2027)





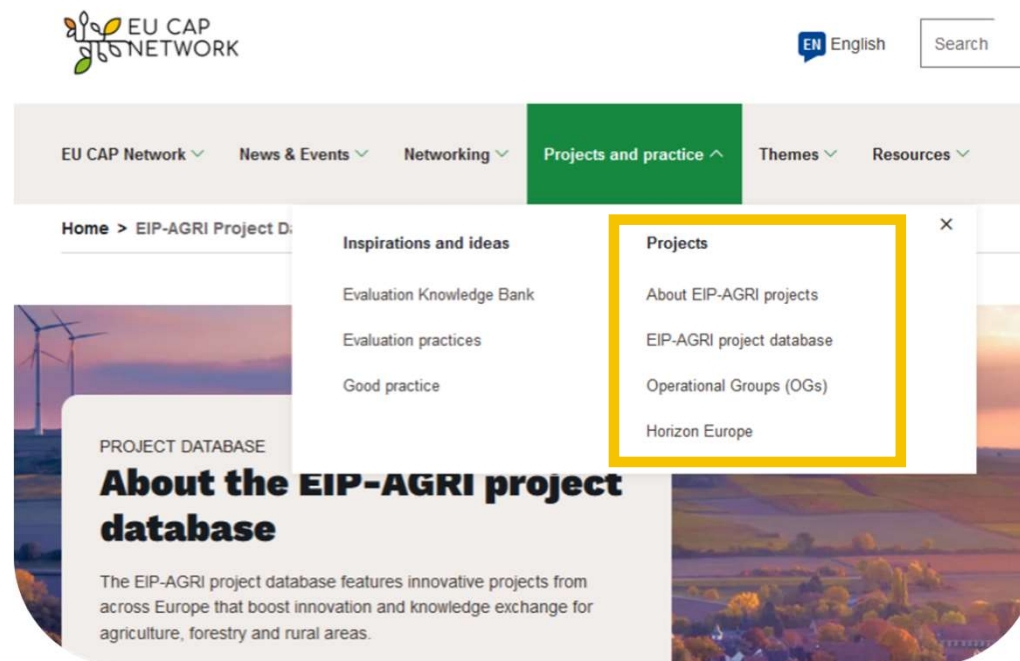
### OG projects per theme (2023-2027)





## EIP-AGRI project database

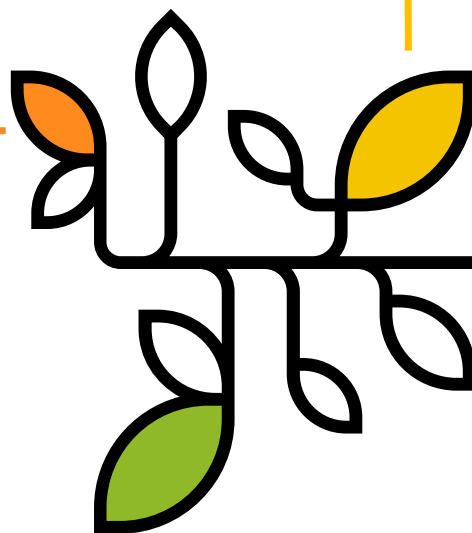
- **New database** (December 2023) on the [EU CAP Network website](#)
  - **460 projects** working on '**water**' (free text search) 389 of those are OGs.
  - Water & irrigation – 151 OGs
- Situation on 5 May 2025*





Innovation & knowledge  
exchange – EIP-AGRI

Evaluation



# EU CAP NETWORK

*A forum to share knowledge and information  
about agriculture, forestry and rural development  
with the aim to support **the implementation of  
the CAP Strategic Plans (2023-2027)***

CAP Implementation



## EU CAP Network website - innovation

### › Innovation & Knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI

- › Latest news
- › Upcoming events
- › Latest publications
- › Latest projects
- › Operational Groups (interactive innovation, OGs across borders etc.)
- › Horizon Europe (multi-actor projects, advisory networks etc.)

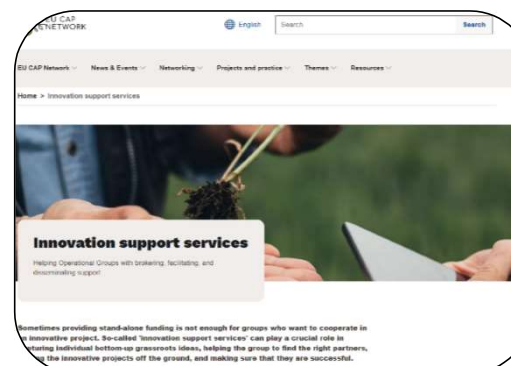
#### Operational Groups

Projects co-creating practical solutions for agriculture, forestry and rural communities

An EIP-AGRI Operational Group project (OG) is a group of people with complementary knowledge (e.g. practical, scientific, technical, organisational expertise, etc.) who co-create practical solutions for agriculture, forestry and rural communities in an innovation project. An Operational Group may include various actors from European Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS), including farmers, foresters, researchers, advisors, businesses, environmental groups, consumer interest groups or other NGOs to advance innovation for agriculture, forestry and rural areas. Operational Groups seize opportunities or find practical solutions for challenges that farmers, foresters or rural communities are facing in their everyday work. The group is composed of well-chosen partners whose expertise can help tackle the objectives of the project or help spread news on the activities and results of the project to a broader audience.

The current Common Agricultural Policy (2023-2027) provides opportunities for preparing and implementing Operational Group projects via national CAP Strategic Plans. In the period 2014-2022, Operational Groups were funded through Rural Development Programmes.

Filter by  
strand or  
49 different  
topics





## EU CAP Network **cross-visits**

- › The purpose of cross-visits is to provide opportunities for **cross-border exchange** between Operational Groups:
  - › Enable **peer-to-peer learning** and exchange on the innovations that the involved projects address;
  - › Discuss **common challenges** and **potential solutions**;
  - › Exchange and further **disseminate project findings** across the EU;
  - › Establish **future collaboration** and/or partnership

 #hashtags

EU CAP Network cross-visit 'Circular and organic soil management'  
June 2023 – Matera, Italy





# **Cross-visit 'Irrigation - optimising water use practices in annual (and perennial) crops'**

**7-8 May 2025**  
**Thessaloniki, Greece**

All information on the cross-visit is available on the [event webpage](#).

