

Annex 2: Seminar objectives and organisation

The seminar served as a key platform to explore how emerging technologies are reshaping agricultural and forestry practices. Designed with three main goals in mind, the seminar aimed to showcase current technologies and projects, allowing participants to witness real-world applications that enhance productivity and sustainability; facilitate knowledge exchange with experts, providing insights into successful AI and robotics implementations; and foster collaboration and partnerships, creating a strong community dedicated to advancing these technologies in agriculture and forestry. To achieve these overarching objectives, the seminar set out to:

- > introduce participants to the fundamental concepts and benefits of robotics and AI in agriculture and forestry
- > provide tangible examples of successful applications, demonstrating economic and operational improvements to inspire broader adoption
- > highlight practical use cases across key agricultural and forestry processes, including planting, sowing, irrigation, pest and weed control, harvesting, post-harvesting, packaging, forest management, animal welfare, and livestock management
- > identify challenges and opportunities in the adoption of robotics and AI, exploring potential solutions to drive widespread implementation across Europe
- > promote networking among stakeholders, including EIP-AGRI Operational Groups, Horizon Europe multi-actor projects, and other relevant innovation initiatives
- > assess the needs for capacity building, training, and skill development to support the seamless integration of robotics and AI technologies
- > identify knowledge gaps and practical research needs to ensure future innovation efforts are well-targeted and impactful



Figure 1 - Federico Menna - The CEO EIT DIGITAL and Ivan Stefanic, EIC Programme Manager for Food Chain Technologies at EIC – Source: EU CAP Network



Knowledge exchange and seminar program: The seminar provided a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange, bringing together key stakeholders, researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders. Participants engaged in discussions that highlighted both the transformative potential of AI and robotics and the practical challenges faced in their adoption. The program featured four keynote presentations (Fig. 2), **available at EU CAP website¹** (EU CAP Network, 2025), each addressing critical aspects of AI and robotics in agriculture and forestry:

- > “The future of Agriculture: The role of Robotics and AI” – Presented by Frederico Mena, CEO of EIT Digital, on behalf of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). This keynote explored how automation and intelligent systems are shaping the future of farming and forestry, highlighting emerging trends and their potential impact.
- > “Backing visionary entrepreneurs & novel and sustainable food” – Presented by Ivan Stefanic, EIC Programme Manager for Food Chain Technologies, this session focused on funding and innovation opportunities for startups and SMEs in the agri-tech sector, emphasising the role of entrepreneurship in advancing sustainable food production.
- > “R&I Initiatives on the benefits of digitalisation and data for farmers, Foresters, and rural actors” – Presented by Francesco Iadecola from DG AGRI, European Commission, this keynote examined EU-backed research and innovation strategies aimed at supporting the digital transformation of agriculture and forestry, ensuring that data-driven solutions enhance productivity and sustainability.

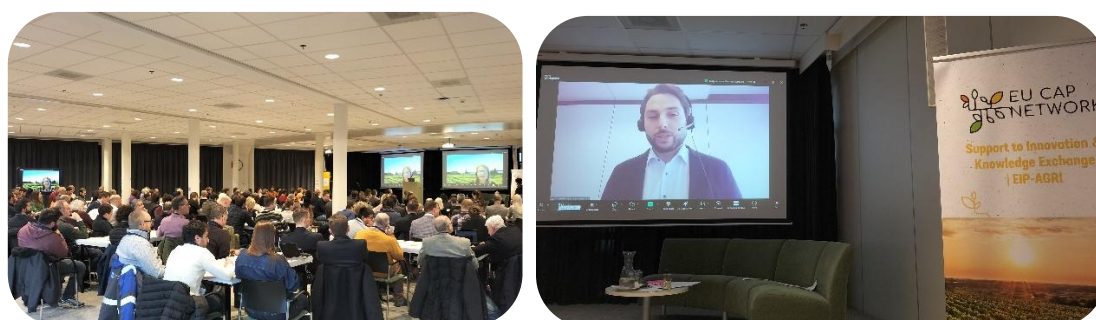


Figure 2 - Taru Haapaniemi, Member of Cabinet – Agriculture - Francesco Iadecola from the European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development – Source: EU CAP Network

¹ EU CAP Network. (2025, April 10). *EU CAP Network. (2025, February 19–20)*. Retrieved from Robotics and artificial intelligence in farming and forestry [Seminar]. Utrecht, Netherlands.: https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/events/eu-cap-network-seminar-robotics-and-artificial-intelligence-farming-and-forestry_en



Additionally, Taru Haapaniemi, Member of the Cabinet of the Commissioner for Agriculture and Food (in Fig.3), addressed the seminar, emphasising the European Commission's vision for the future of farming and the importance of innovation in the agricultural sector. Beyond the presentations, four field visits were organised across diverse agricultural and forestry contexts. These visits showcased real-world implementations of AI and robotics in various sectors, from arable farming and forestry to intensive livestock production, fruit cultivation, horticulture, and dairy farming. Participants observed first-hand how innovative technologies are being integrated into different farming systems, sparking discussions on scalability, efficiency, and sustainability.

Additionally, the poster session featured 26 ongoing high-impact projects and initiatives, presenting cutting-edge solutions such as:

- > robotics and AI for soil monitoring, early disease and pest detection, and automated harvesting
- > machinery retrofitting solutions to reduce the cost of technology adoption for farmers
- > the role of Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEFs) in supporting SMEs and start-ups, offering controlled environments to test and validate new AI-driven technologies before market deployment



Figure 3 - Group photo featuring seminar participants alongside representatives from DG AGRI, the EU CAP Network Support Facility, the main facilitator, coordinating expert, and the events and logistics team – Source: EU CAP Network

Participant profile and engagement: The seminar brought together 167 participants from 24 countries, representing a diverse array of stakeholders (Fig. 4). Among them were farmers, foresters, members of farmers' associations and cooperatives, farm advisors, researchers, public bodies, NGOs, and industry innovators. This diverse participation fostered lively discussions and knowledge-sharing, allowing for a rich exchange of ideas, experiences, and expertise.



Throughout the event, participants actively engaged in exploring the practical needs of farmers and foresters, helping to pinpoint key requirements for the successful adoption of AI and robotics. By highlighting both technical advancements and real-world challenges, the seminar provided valuable insights that will contribute to shaping future research, policies, and industry collaborations in the pursuit of a smarter, more sustainable agricultural and forestry sector.

This annex is linked to the final report of the EU CAP Network seminar 'Robotics and Artificial Intelligence in farming and forestry' - [Read the report on the seminar webpage](#)

