

eip-agri
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION



Agri-Innovation Summit 2017 EIP-AGRI breakout sessions

LISBON – 12 OCTOBER 2017
FINAL REPORT



Table of contents

Introduction	3
Breakout group 'Digital opportunities for primary production'	4
Presentations.....	4
Outcomes of the interactive discussion	4
Breakout group 'Digital opportunities for agricultural value chains'	5
Presentations.....	5
Outcomes of the interactive discussion	5
Breakout session 'Strengthening links between research and practice in the agri-food sector'	7
Presentations.....	7
Outcomes of the interactive discussion	7
Breakout session 'Skills development: education & training, advice, peer to peer exchange and networking' ...	9
Presentations.....	9
Outcomes of the interactive discussion	9

Introduction

The Agri-Innovation Summit (AIS) 2017 was a joint initiative between a Portuguese Consortium, the Portuguese Government, the EIP-AGRI network and the European Network for Rural Development. On 11 and 12 October 2017 the event brought together over 500 farmers, rural businesses, researchers, NGOs and other innovation actors in Lisbon, Portugal to:

- Promote cross-fertilisation between multi-actor innovation initiatives, both under Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) and Horizon 2020
- Raise awareness about innovation and digitisation opportunities for agriculture and rural economies and how these may be supported under ongoing Rural Development Programmes
- Provide input for EU innovation policies for agriculture and rural areas after 2020, following up on Point 7 of the Cork 2.0 Declaration

This report summarises the outcomes of four separate breakout group discussions organised by the EIP-AGRI Service Point on 12 October 2017. The [AIS website](#) provides more information on the event.



Breakout group 'Digital opportunities for primary production'

The session aimed at raising awareness about the policy tools that are available for promoting digitisation opportunities for primary production. Experiences were shared to inspire further use of the available policy tools (e.g. under RDPs until 2020) and to gather ideas for improving policy support for digitisation in the future (e.g. the CAP post-2020).

Presentations



Digital Extension Tools – An Irish context, Mark Gibson

The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority (Teagasc) is strongly supporting digitisation of the agricultural sector in Ireland. Teagasc promotes the co-design approach, involving farmers and adviser communities, and enhancing public-private collaboration.

Teagasc focuses on developments that save time and/or cost for farmers, and that help advisers to better target their advice. Data capture and data ownership, as well as High Speed Broadband are elements which require special attention both from private and public organisations. In that sense Digital Innovation Hubs can foster public and private relations.



Aqua C+, Andreas Jende

Aqua C+ is an Operational Group from Germany which developed an internet-based data platform for improving water use efficiency in orchards. The project analysed concrete producer needs, and developed a mobile app and a simple, intuitive user guidance for farmers.

The collaboration among farmers, scientists and innovation brokers brought added value. The project partners also signal that administrative expenses can be high, and they propose to have just one control agency.

The presentations were followed by an interactive discussion centred on the question: **How can policy help you with what you want to do next? (in the field of primary production)**

Outcomes of the interactive discussion as gathered on cards

- Improving farmers, advisers and extension services knowledge about decision support systems (DSS)
- Show good examples for downscaling DSS applied locally
- Education and training of advisers
- Education and training of farmers to use new technology
- Support for farmers peer to peer learning
- Financial support for early and future adopters
- Support existing innovative actions with more investment
- More investment support for robotics and equipment
- Policy support for data collection and management
- Policy support for small producers and low intensity farms
- Need for user friendly, non-commercial, low cost tools to share digital information
- Take advantage of data already collected
- Minimise risk adersion by prototype solutions and best practices
- Finance long term projects from research to implementation of digitisation
- Better rural infrastructure for internet
- Enable access to broadband
- Flexibility for the cross-border approach, differences between sectors, less fragmentation
- More efficient funding in terms of outcomes and flexibility

Breakout group 'Digital opportunities for agricultural value chains'

The session aimed at raising awareness about the policy tools that are available for promoting digitisation opportunities for agricultural value chains. Experiences were shared to inspire further use of the available policy tools (e.g. under RDPs until 2020), and to gather ideas for improving policy support for digitisation in the future (e.g. the CAP post-2020).

Presentations



The Internet of Food and Farm, George Beers

The Internet of Food & Farm 2020 (IoF2020) project investigates and fosters a large-scale implementation of Internet of Things (IoT) in the European farming and food sector. With a €30 million budget co-funded by the European Union, the project has the potential to bring a paradigm shift in this domain by drastically improving productivity and sustainability. It will demonstrate the added value of smart webs of connected objects, that are context-sensitive and that can be identified, sensed and controlled remotely in the agri-food sector.



Capitalising the full potential of online collaboration for SMEs' innovation support in the Agri-Food ecosystem, Kostas Giagtzoglou

INNO-4-AGRIFOOD is a H2020 project which aims at stimulating online collaboration for innovation among EU agri-food SMEs, inspiring them to tap into the many opportunities offered by digital technologies.

The presentations were followed by an interactive discussion centred on the question: **How can policy help you with what you want to do next? (in the field of agricultural value chains)**

Outcomes of the interactive discussion as gathered on cards

- Creation of agricultural innovation hubs that support the whole chain
- Create easy-to-use tools. Support farmers to share success stories
- Open data but should be associated with rules for use. There is a need for good governance of open data
- Long-term projects (10-15 years) should comprise 3 phases: a) development, b) field tests and c) wide dissemination of results
- Data should help demonstrate the economic convenience of adopting new business and management models
- Improve involvement of end-users in projects and overall process. Create opportunities for small project funding as well
- Keep on improving infrastructures, rural areas still need a lot of investment in infrastructure
- Investigate how many of the research projects which have developed digital tools have continued to be used after the projects were finished
- Focus on market and the opportunities arising on the market
- Combine existing national frameworks/rules into a single, European system
- Create and promote digital training for farmers. Finance the digital education of farmers
- Targeted calls to use agricultural data
- Deploy diversity indicators for production systems

- Create a European Digital Framework to foster crop diversity
- Engage other stakeholders such as Local Action Groups
- Encourage over-regional standard units for digital data
- Develop indicators and encourage farmers to cooperate
- Dedicated measures and submeasures are needed, with higher aid intensity
- Set deadlines for broadband access. Broadband should be mandatory
- Simplification and harmonisation between H2020 and CAP could result in easier and simpler access of farmers to funding
- More flexibility of the funding measures is needed. Simplify the project management
- Farmers need good support structures
- Create an EU Observatory for digitised farmers
- H2020: more open themes, bottom-up, business correlation, impact focused
- Regional level: create better awareness of opportunities to enable cascade funding. Create active regional nodes and stakeholder engagement, link the hubs at EU level
- Support transnational activities
- Digitalise the approach to access funds
- Simplify rules for participation in multi-actor H2020 projects
- Create one single EU catalogue of Digital/Smart Agri-food solutions
- More opportunities for networking involving end-users (farmers)
- Targeted calls, objectives should be business-oriented, result-oriented, leverage private
- Mainstream digitisation in investment support



Breakout session 'Strengthening links between research and practice in the agri-food sector'

The session aimed at taking a closer look at the policy tools available today for bridging the gap between research and practice in the agri-food sector. It also gathered ideas to improve policy support in the future, both by better implementing the policy tools currently available (e.g. under the EU rural development policy, Horizon 2020) and to inform future policy initiatives, namely after 2020.

Presentations



Winter Harvest – Seasonal, energy-extensive and innovative vegetable production, Alexandra Depisch, Bio-Austria

The EIP-AGRI Operational Group Winter Harvest is testing innovative ways to increase the availability and variety of winter vegetables for consumers, and to find new ways of growing them.

At the technical level the aim is to improve the cultivation systems by using existing varieties, and to increase the profitability of production for producers.

In terms of marketing, new methods are developed to improve the communication between producers and consumers, for instance by developing a "winter vegetable language". Packaging is also optimised.



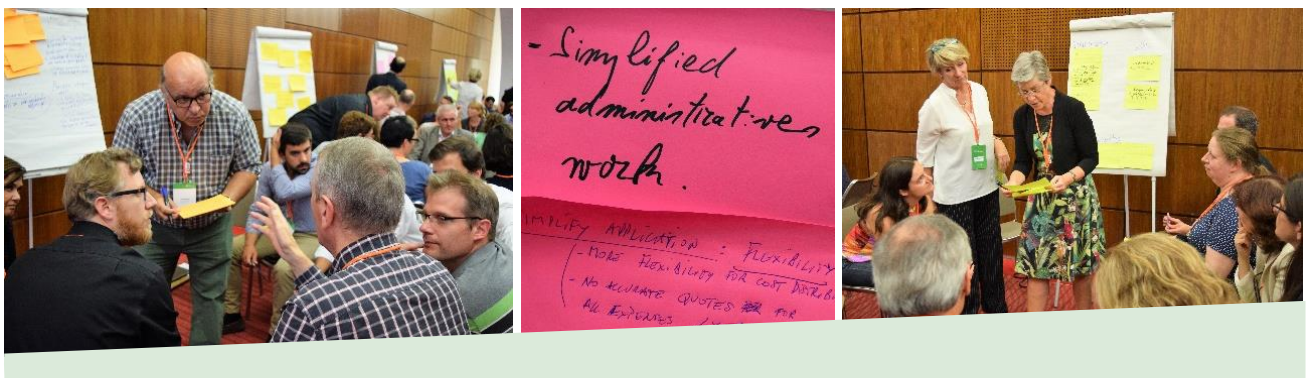
WINETWORK – How to optimise and value existing knowledge and know-how across Europe, Eric Serrano, French Institute for Vine and Wine

WINETWORK is a Horizon 2020 Thematic Network looking into control of diseases that jeopardise the current grape production in Europe, mainly for Grapevine trunk diseases and Flavescence Dorée. It involves 231 partners of which approximately 20% are wine growers.

Outcomes of the interactive discussion as gathered on cards

- More multi-actor approaches with researchers and farmers working together
- Incentivise applied projects
- More extension for farmers and rural areas is needed
- More and improved communication between researchers and end-users
- More EU and MS support to make advisory systems more efficient, e.g. by specific development programmes
- Agricultural science to be based more on practice needs
- Create more tools to capture the needs of farmers and pass them on to scientists
- Keep calls where 'non-profitable' technologies are being tested
- Improve knowledge exchange between different research groups
- EIP-AGRI programme should be kept
- Lower the administrative burden
- Facilitate financial handling of project costs via innovative instruments
- Short-term evaluation of projects
- Simplify financial administration
- Maintain support for Operational Groups (OGs)
- Reduce control but improve its quality
- Improve coordination on digitisation issues between the various EC DGs

- Simplify global costs in H2020
- Need policies for data sharing, including project results
- Support meeting of OGs working on the same topic
- Flexibility of administrative procedures at national level
- Eligibility criteria for private investments to include R&D stakeholders
- Help in creating consortiums both within same topic or transversal approach
- More flexibility for cost distribution
- No detailed quotes for all expenses per year
- Simplification – for everything that is bought via the project, even for items lower than 5 euros in value the expert needs to find three comparable offers, time is more valuable than price differences between items
- Setting up organisation to simplify interaction and access to research calls
- Increase the duration of existing thematic networks after an evaluation process at EU level
- AGRI policies should cover the whole food chain
- Open thematic networks for all value chains, including more food issues
- Include financial instrument to make connections between H2020 and OGs
- Allow transnational OGs
- Create European rules for selection & approval of OGs
- Make OGs more European
- Project financing for the preparation phase is needed
- Policy dissemination should be simplified
- Bring more farmers into innovation projects
- Bring professional communication and dissemination SMEs to help, allocate a specific budget for such activities
- Break the calls process into two parts: a) first appliance a manifestation of interest, b) only projects with real practical value are called to present a full application
- Give voice to transdisciplinary actors from rural areas
- More user-friendly EIP website or add a user guide
- More flexibility is needed in national procedures to create transnational OGs cooperation
- Upscale OG results



Breakout session 'Skills development: education & training, advice, peer to peer exchange and networking'

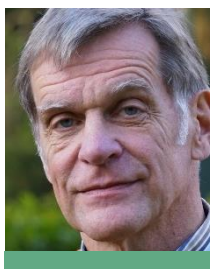
The session aimed at taking a closer look at the policy tools that are currently available, and at gathering ideas for improving policy support to skills development and knowledge exchange in the future. The objective was to discuss how the policy tools that are currently available (e.g. under RDPs until 2020) can be better implemented. At the same time, the workshop explored potential new avenues for future support (e.g. under the CAP post-2020).

Presentations



Future of advisory services and education systems in an evolving AKIS, Anikó Juhász

Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) face the challenge of bridging many gaps among different actors. Advisory services can help bridge this gap if we enhance their role as enablers of a more interconnected AKIS, better connected to education and research, and better supported with hard and soft infrastructure.



Peer to Peer Learning in stimulating innovations – The AgriSpin discovery journey, Eelke Wielinga

The AgriSpin project worked on how to stimulate innovation by improving the quality of interaction between major actors involved. Innovation support services appeared as important intermediaries who create pathways for key actors to connect. Innovation process facilitation requires a new generation of skills and tools. "*Cross-visits*" and the "*innovation spiral*" were presented as two important methods to improve interaction.

Outcomes of the interactive discussion as gathered on cards

- Need for long-term strategy with a stable and tailored framework
- Continue to optimise multi-actor approaches with more flexibility and clear roles
- Support educational and advisory systems programmes and initiatives to implement the innovation culture locally as early as possible
- Agriculture universities to educate farming engineers thus creating a new industry
- Training for soft and technical skills
- Make knowledge networking and advisory services a compulsory element of the next CAP
- Recognition of the role played by innovation brokers
- Use advisory service to spread the results of OGs and H2020 projects
- Practical training for advisers and presentation skills for researchers
- Use mentoring programmes for advisers
- Focus on practice-oriented research
- Enable stronger links and interaction between disciplines and various actors
- Support connecting people and initiatives, face to face and online
- Networks for building linkages and partnerships, such as the EIP-AGRI network
- Simplification of public procurement rules for the advisory measure
- Invest in equipment and decision support systems for advisers
- Have a database of projects to avoid financing solutions that already exist

- Network to collect stories, tools and good practices
- Create and support local AKIS cluster hubs
- Connect research with advisers and local networks
- Improve existing regional frameworks and instruments to support innovation, research, data sharing and adjustment to national and local contexts
- Clear and consistent policy communication towards all actors, farmers especially
- Better communication about possible funding

- ▶ All presentations from the EIP-AGRI breakout sessions are available [on the EIP-AGRI AIS event page](#). On this page you will also find the main outcomes of the four EIP-AGRI breakout sessions, published as factsheets
- ▶ More details, videos and other relevant background documents can be found [on the official AIS website](#)



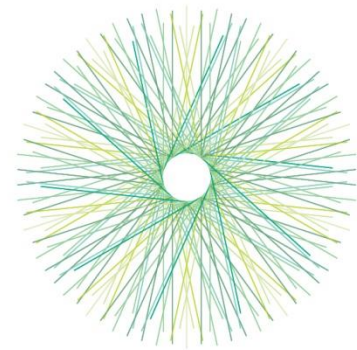


The European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability' (EIP-AGRI) is one of five EIPs launched by the European Commission in a bid to promote rapid modernisation by stepping up innovation efforts.

The **EIP-AGRI** aims to catalyse the innovation process in the **agricultural and forestry sectors** by bringing **research and practice closer together** – in research and innovation projects as well as *through* the EIP-AGRI network.

EIPs aim to streamline, simplify and better coordinate existing instruments and initiatives and complement them with actions where necessary. Two specific funding sources are particularly important for the EIP-AGRI:

- ✓ the EU Research and Innovation framework, Horizon 2020,
- ✓ the EU Rural Development Policy.



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