



# EU CAP Network brokerage event

Smart circular farming to address  
high energy and fertiliser prices



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## Introduction

Collaboration across sectors and among different stakeholders are key to bringing sustainable solutions from the lab to the field. The increased availability of data and its use through ICT, IoT, predictive tools and precision technologies can allow resources to be targeted in a more effective and efficient way.

Therefore, following the [EU CAP Network seminar 'Smart circular farming to address high energy and fertiliser prices'](#), that took place in Porto, Portugal on 6-7 December 2022, an additional 'Idea and project exchange market' was organised in the afternoon of 7 December as a brokerage event.

This brokerage event was attended by the participants of the seminar who showed a particular interest in this part of the programme. The aim of this session was to provide the seminar's participants with a space for more one-to-one interaction and opportunities for individuals and projects to network and exchange ideas to accelerate the uptake of best innovative practices.

## Participation

61 participants registered for the brokerage event, representing 20 EU member states and the UK (table 1). The professional background of the participants is shown in table 2. The analysis of their professional activities shows that a large percentage of them were related to research, however, almost 25% of them were farmers.

## Objectives of the brokerage event

- > Establish new networks
- > Bring projects and project ideas together
- > Support the participants in preparing for upcoming Horizon Europe calls:

The relevant Horizon Europe calls presented were:

- > [HORIZON-CL6-2023-CLIMATE-01-6](#): **Analysing fossil-energy dependence in agriculture to increase resilience against input price fluctuations** (Research and Innovation Action, 5 M €)
- > [HORIZON-CL6-2023-GOVERNANCE-01-22](#): **Developing EU advisory networks on the optimal fertiliser use** (Coordination and Support Action, 4 M € in total – 1 project)
- > [HORIZON-CL6-2023-CLIMATE-01-7](#): **Enhancing the sustainable production of renewable energy at farm-level** (Research and Innovation Action, 5 M € in total – 1 project)
- > [HORIZON-JU-CBE-2023-IA-02](#): **Production of safe, sustainable, and efficient bio-based fertilisers to improve soil health and quality** (Innovation Action, 15 M € in total – 2 projects)



**Table 1 Number of participants per member state**

Country	Participants
Belgium	4
Bulgaria	1
Croatia	3
Czech Republic	2
Denmark	2
Estonia	2
Finland	5
France	3
Germany	2
Greece	3
Hungary	1
Ireland	3
Italy	6
Latvia	3
Malta	3
Netherlands	3
Poland	2
Portugal	4
Spain	7
Sweden	1
United Kingdom	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>

**Table 2 Professional background of the participants**

Professional background of the participant	Number	Percentage of participants
Researcher	26	43%
Expert from an organisation, network, group or enterprise	16	26%
Farmer / Farm manager or owner	14	23%
Civil servant	6	10%
Innovation support agent / innovation broker	6	10%
Farm adviser	3	5%
Other type of activity (please specify)	2	3%
No indication	2	3%
Land owner	1	2%
Press / Media collaborator	1	2%
Student	1	2%



## Proceedings

The event started with the 'Project finder wall'. In the preparation of the event participants had been invited to present their project or idea by bringing a one-page poster. All of these one-pagers were stuck to the wall of the room to serve as a market-place for projects and ideas. The participants were invited to walk around and look for interesting projects and ideas and have a small talk with the presenter with the aim of identifying potential collaboration possibilities and project partners. This session was followed by a welcome which included an introduction to the 4 upcoming Horizon Europe calls for projects which were relevant for the topic of the event, that is to say, smart circular agriculture to address high energy and fertiliser prices.

The second part of the presentation showed the outcomes of a consultation of the participants of a previous EU CAP Network event 'Get involved in the EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe.' During this event the participants had identified several tips and tricks which could be useful when preparing projects for Horizon Europe calls.

To get people connected around the same topics, rope circles were created in which participants could leave their business cards to show their interest in a particular topic and in cooperation for developing future projects. The session started with a few topics, and then new ones were created at the request of participants. In the end, the following 10 topic circles were created:

1. Fertiliser substitution
2. Energy security
3. Bio-based energy
4. New technology
5. Horizon
6. Circularity
7. EIP-AGRI
8. New production methods
9. New business models
10. Green fertilisers



## Project cafe

During this next session, participants were invited to propose concrete project ideas for projects. These were clustered as follows:

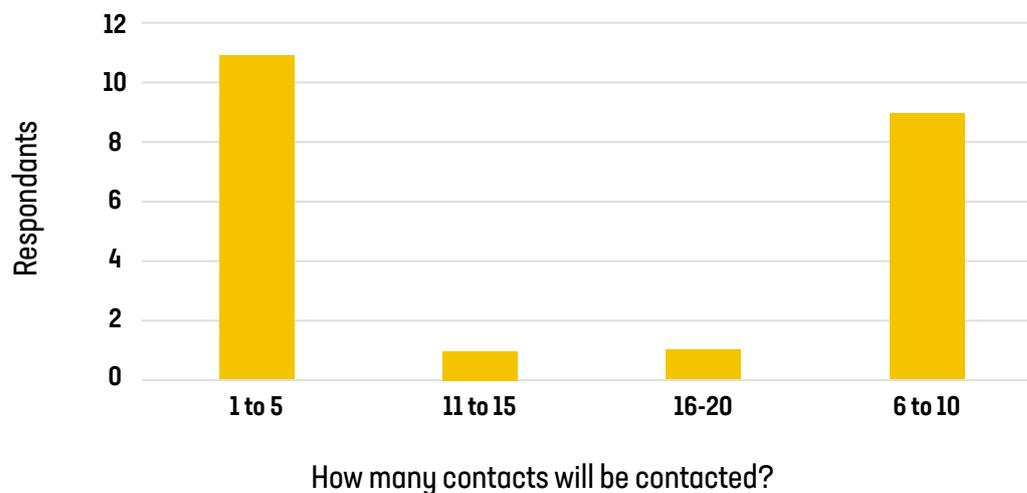
- > Fertilisers and nutrient management (7)
  - > Use of organic fertilisers (manure as fertilisers)
  - > Nutrient management and irrigation
- > Energy solutions (4)
- > Digitisation and robotics (2)
- > Monitoring systems
- > Olive collaboration
- > Food waste from schools and cafés into feed

Groups were formed based on the clusters above to elaborate tangible ideas and next steps to follow. After this session, a rapporteur for each group presented a short summary of the discussion within the group.

## Networking results

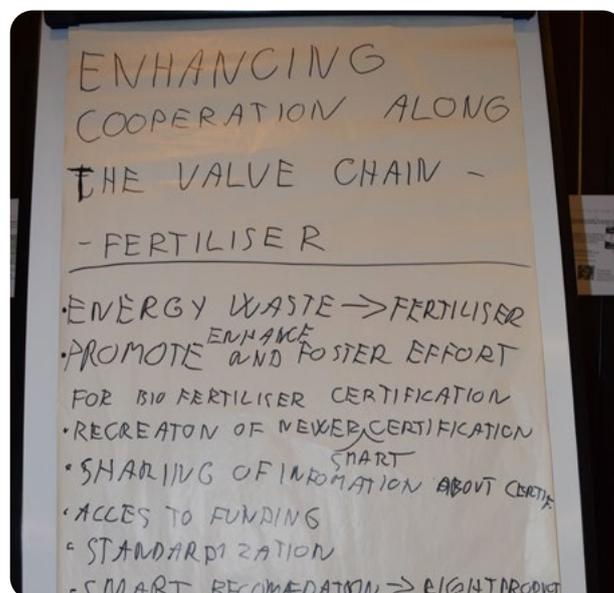
The brokerage event allowed people to connect to others and enlarge their networks of contacts. The evaluation provided by the participants showed some results with regards to the enhanced networking. In one of the questions in the evaluation, participants were asked how many contacts they were planning to follow up on after the event. The replies show that all respondents were planning to have a follow up on the contacts made during the event and explore possibilities for cooperation.



**Fig 1 Event evaluation: how many contacts you are planning to follow up on after the event?**

## Conclusions

- > The brokerage event deepened the networking and resulted in the creation of new networks of contacts and potential opportunities for cooperation.
- > During this event, some groups developed ideas for joint projects.



Support Facility Innovation & knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI

Koning Albert II laan 15 - 1210

Brussels - BELGIUM

+32 (0) 2 543 72 81

[innovation-knowledge@eucapnetwork.eu](mailto:innovation-knowledge@eucapnetwork.eu)