The European Innovation Partnership „Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability“

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Where are we coming from?

- **Europe 2020 Strategy**: Crucial role of research and innovation in preparing the EU for the future challenges.

- The Europe 2020 flagship initiative "Innovation Union" specifies European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) as a new tool for fostering innovation.

- **Horizon 2020**: around 4 billion Euros for research and innovation in the field of food security, bio-economy and sustainable agriculture.

- **CAP reform** gives innovation a key role for sustainable agriculture and rural development.
Challenges and Opportunities

Biodiversity Habitats

Economic Viability

Food

Climate Change

Bioenergy Biomass

Resource-management

Supply Chain Integration
Areas of Innovative Actions as outlined in the EIP Communication (COM (2012)79)

- **Primary production**: technical solutions to increasing productivity and economic viability
- **Resource management**: eco-system services, soil functionality, water management, and genetic resources ("public goods")
- **Bio-economy**: innovative technology for the bio-based economy; bio-refinery; new products; reduction of post-harvest loss
- **Supply chain**: integrated supply chain solutions; new services; logistics, and management systems
- **Quality and consumers**: food quality, food safety, and healthy lifestyles (consumer information and consumer choice)
Water in the EIP-AGRI

Quantity

Quality

Water Management

Pollution Reduction
Aims of the EIP "Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability" according to the Commission Proposal for a Rural Development Regulation (Article 61)

- Efficient, productive, climate and environment friendly agriculture
- Steady supply of food, feed and biomaterials, both existing and new ones
- Improved processes to preserve the environment, adapted to climate change and mitigation
- Building bridges between research and farmers, businesses and advisory services
Closing The Innovation GAP
The Interactive Innovation Model

- The traditional "linear innovation model" is too narrow in defining innovation as the transfer "from laboratory to practice."

- The EIP adheres to the "interactive innovation model" which focuses on partnerships and bottom-up approaches, linking including farmers, advisors, researchers, agri-business, and other innovation actors.

- Knowledge exchange in interactive processes will generate new insights and ideas and mobilise practice experience for both innovative solutions and new impulses for research.
Means

Rural Development Programmes:

- Setting up "operational groups" involving farmers, advisor, agribusiness, research, and NGOs
- Combining the setting up of operational groups with project funding (investment, knowledge transfer, advisory services)
- Establishing "innovation brokers"

European Union Research Policy (Horizon 2020)

- Research projects, including on-farm experiments to provide the knowledge base for innovative actions
- Interactive formats such as multi-actor projects and thematic networks
**EIP Implementation via the European Union Research Policy (Horizon 2020)**

- **Research projects** enhancing the knowledge base, including on-farm experiments

- Support for **practice-oriented formats** such as **multi-actor projects**, support for innovation brokers and innovation centres, and **thematic networks**

- **Calls for proposals** via work programmes (at least 3 independent legal entities from 3 Member States or associated countries)
Concept of Operational Groups

Operational Groups of the EIP are:

- Built around concrete innovation projects targeted towards finding innovative solutions for a specific challenges or new opportunities
- A combination of different competencies (practical and scientific), needed for implementing a concrete project or mission
- Action- and result-oriented "hands-on" groups (no balanced representation needed) aiming to benefit from interaction for co-creation and cross-fertilisation
- Composed, in different constellations, by innovation actors such as farmers, scientists, advisors, agri-business, and NGOs
Key Acting Entities Within the EIP
- Operational Groups -

- Farmers
- NGOs
- Agri-business
- Advisors
- Researchers
Steps Towards Establishing Operational Groups

Funding
- Article 36 (operational groups, innovation brokers)
- Possible combination with project funding (e.g. investment)

Setting up of Operational Groups
- Call for proposal
- Bottom-up approach towards forming operational groups
- Possibility of assistance by "innovation brokers"

General requirements for applicants
- Project plan (objectives, outcome, approach, decision making)
- Dissemination via EIP network
Different Sources of Funding for Operational Groups
Different Sources of Funding for Operational Groups

- Horizon 2020
- National Funds
- Rural Development
- ERDF
- Private Funds
Network Function of the EIP

- **Collecting** information (research and innovation projects etc.)
- Effective **flow of information** (website, helpdesk function)
- **Exchange** on overall innovation topics (seminars, workshops)
- Sharing knowledge on concrete **practical work** (focus groups)
- Systematic **feedback** about practice needs (e.g. to SCAR)
Focus Groups

Focus Groups consist of (up to 20) experts with concrete project experience

Focus on practical knowledge in a particular field, and where to get that knowledge, organised in 4 strands:

1. Take stock of the state of the art of practice, listing best practices
2. Take stock of the state of the art of research, summarizing possible solutions to the problems listed
3. Identify needs from practice & propose further research
4. Propose priorities for innovative actions, e.g. list of ideas for future interactive OG projects and dissemination plans
1st Call for Expression of Interest concerning participation in EIP Focus Groups

1. Organic farming (optimising arable yields)
2. Towards a competitive protein crop production
3. Reduction of antibiotic use in the pig sector
4. Genetic resources
5. Organic matter content of soils
6. Integrated pest management (IPM)
Where are we going?

2014:

Funding available for Operational Groups

Funding for research projects – MultiActor projects and thematic networks

National/regional networking activities for innovation

Expansion of activities in the EU network:

– New Focus Groups
– Website – collaborative workspaces, partner search and project databases
Thank you for your attention!