

The European Innovation Partnership (EIP) „Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability“ Moving Innovation in Agriculture Ahead !



EIP update - SWG SCAR AKIS 4 – Dublin– 15 April 2019
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EIP Workprogramme 2019 activities

Focus groups 2013-2019

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/content/focus-groups>

- **Last 5 Focus Groups** starting up activities now:
 - **FG 34: Bee health and sustainable beekeeping.**
 - Question: How to ensure the sustainability of beekeeping in the face of challenges linked to pests and diseases, intensification of agriculture and climate change?
 - 1st meeting on 07 – 08 May 2019 in (Sweden,)
 - **FG 35: Diversification through plant-based medicinal and aromatic products**
 - Question: How to create diversification opportunities for farmers through innovative value chains of plant-based medicinal and cosmetic products?
 - 1st meeting on 15 – 16 May 2019 in Setubal (Portugal)

Focus groups 2013-2019

- **FG 36: Soil salinisation.**

- Question: How to maintain agricultural productivity by preventing, reducing or adapting to soil salinity?
- 1st meeting on 15 – 16 May 2019 in Budapest (Hungary)

- **FG 37: Protecting agricultural soils from contamination.**

- Question: How to prevent agricultural soil contamination and how to address the problem of contaminated soils?
- 1st meeting on 11 - 12 June 2019 in Bari (Italy)

- **FG 38: Reducing antimicrobial use in poultry farming.**

- Question: How to reduce the use of antimicrobial treatments in poultry in order to fight the spread of antimicrobial resistance?
- 1st meeting on 19 – 20 June 2019 in (Dublin, Ireland)

Workshop

Explore crop diversification and crop rotation to improve the resilience of the farm; including enablers and barriers for arable crop diversification. 5 – 6 June 2019 in Almere (The Netherlands)

- To highlight the benefits of these farming practices, as well as existing opportunities.
- To link these farming practices to broader issues such as climate change, marginal lands, objectives in future CAP, etc.
- To assist Operational Groups (OGs), H2020 and other innovative projects working on crop rotation and crop diversification by:
 - identifying common challenges and exploring potential solutions to shared challenges, exchanging good practices,
 - connecting participating OGs to relevant research projects, promoting further cooperation between partners from different OGs and research projects, creating awareness on OG and H2020 projects working on these topics.

Workshop

Innovative solutions for small holdings - farms and access of small farms to new technologies.

29 – 30 October 2019 in Romania

- Collecting good practices and research results
- Disseminate
- Gather ideas for Operational Groups

Ideas welcome



Seminar

Skills development for the digital transformation.

Early February 2020 in Spain

Capitalising on past digitisation activities

Ideas welcome

Agri-Innovation Summit 25-26 June 2019

"EIP-AGRI leading the transition to agro-ecology"

The AIS 2019 is co-organised by the French Ministry of agriculture and food, the association Régions de France, the Region of **Normandy**, the EIP-AGRI network and the European Commission. It will bring together representatives from EIP-AGRI projects throughout Europe as well as local actors and experts.

+ Handover of the AKIS 4 report to Commissioner Hogan (in Lisieux)

Participants will be discussing the following thematic issues:

- How to **reduce the use of inputs** as a way to increase the autonomy of farms ?
- What kind of **production systems** can enable the sustainable management of natural resources ?
- How can agroecology be better **integrated within the value chain**, with the consumers, the citizens and the local areas ?
- How **can knowledge sharing, co-creation and dissemination** of innovation be fostered at all levels ?

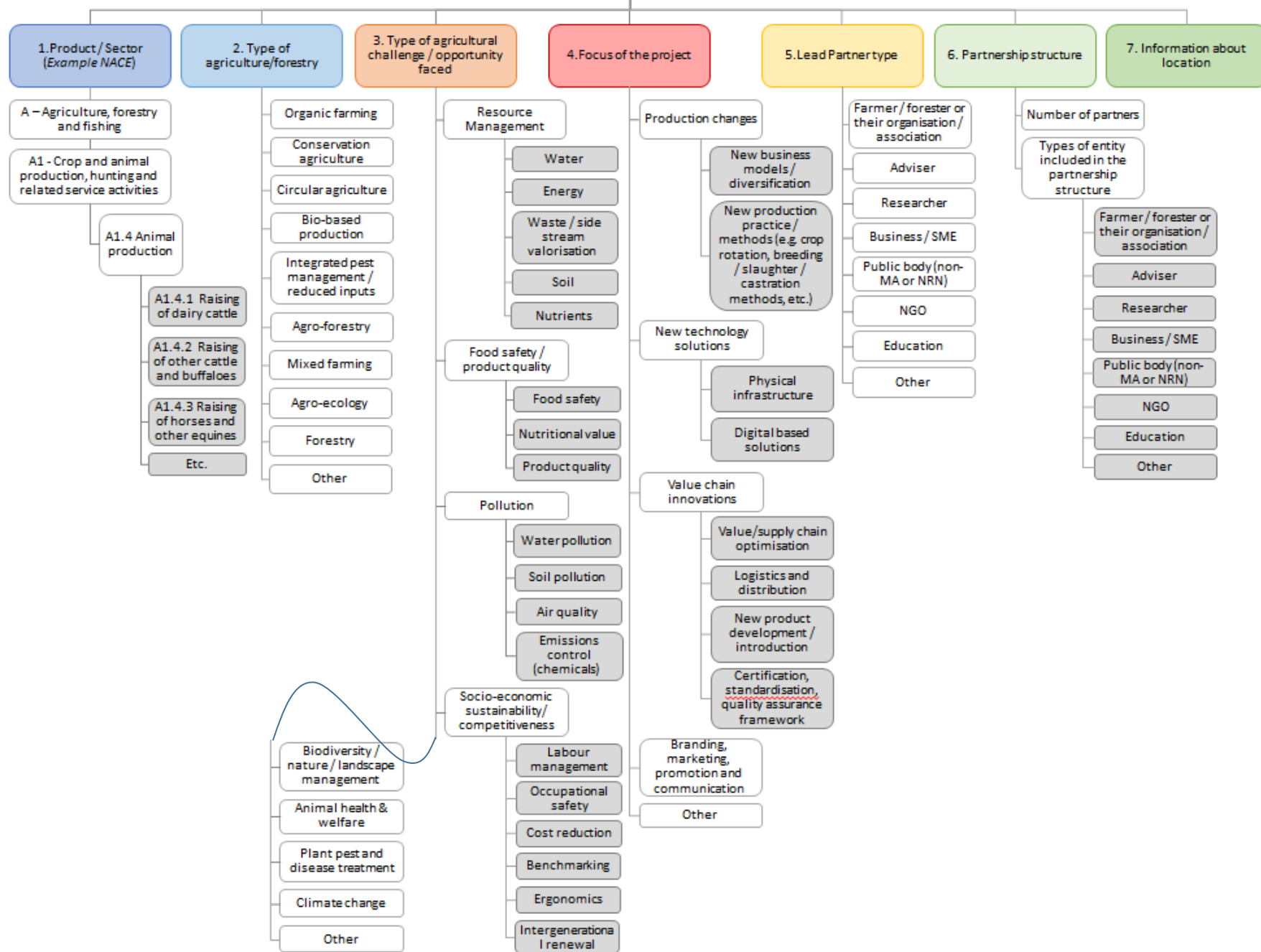
OG study by IDEA – started Feb 2018 - finished Feb 2019

Including survey to better understand the actual implementation of 600 EIP-AGRI Operational Group projects:

Clustering exercise

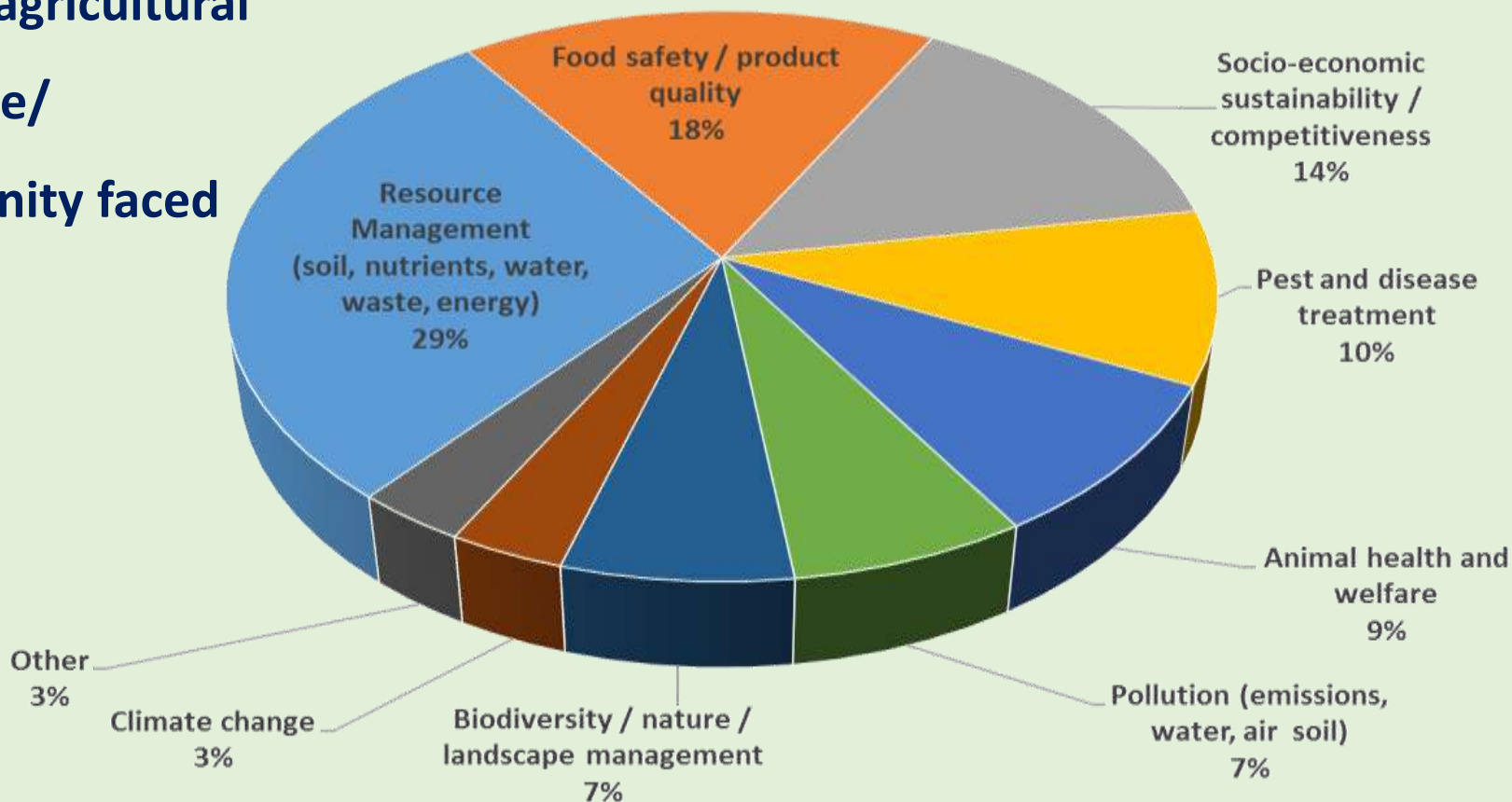


Identified Cluster Categorisation



600 OG - 14 MS EIP OGs assessment – clustering analysis (data Feb 2018)

Type of agricultural
challenge/
opportunity faced



OG database analysis



Lead partner and other partners

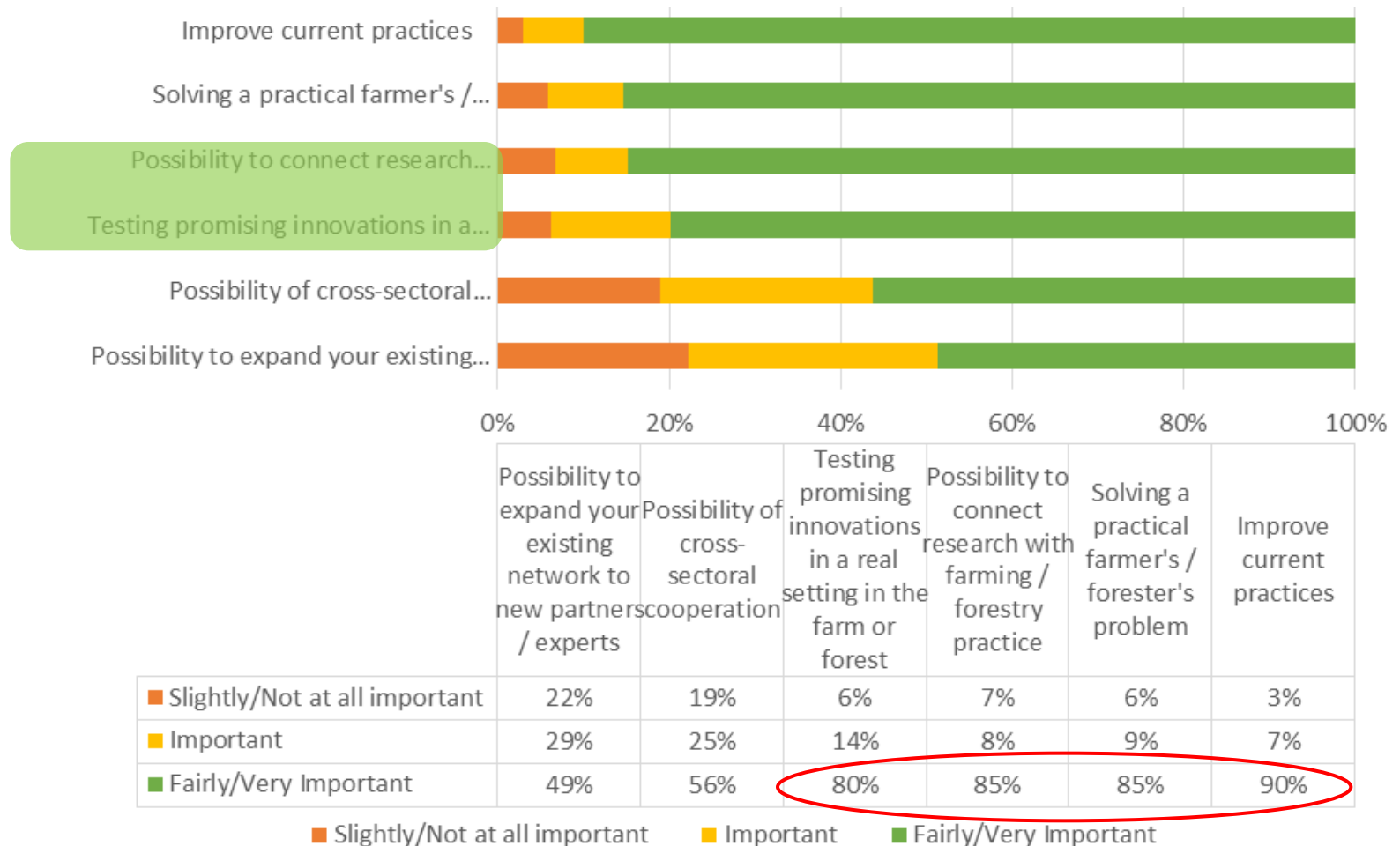
- ▶ OGs cover mix of partners and partnership structures
- ▶ Research organisations as main lead partners; other lead partner types well represented
- ▶ Farmers (organisations) most represented partner

Lead Partner Type	N° of OGs	%
Researcher / Research Institute	173	32%
Farmer/forester or their organisation/ association of farmers or foresters	112	20%
Business / SME	80	15%
Advisor	65	12%
Other	33	6%
Public body	20	4%
NGO	15	3%
Education	13	2%
Total	511	100%

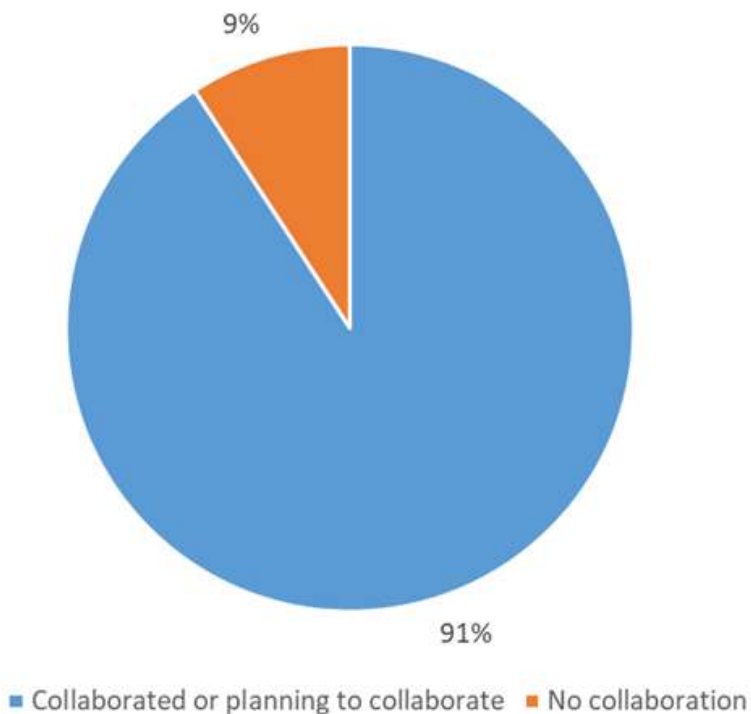
Overall partner types	Amount
Farmer/forester or their organisation/ association of farmers or foresters	220
Researcher / Research Institute	182
Business / SME	115
Advisor	99
Public body	84
Education	60
Other	55
NGO	29
Total number of partners in 239 OGs	844

Survey analysis – OGs aims and motivation

Main reasons to start an OG = improving practices and solving practical problems by connecting to research and innovation

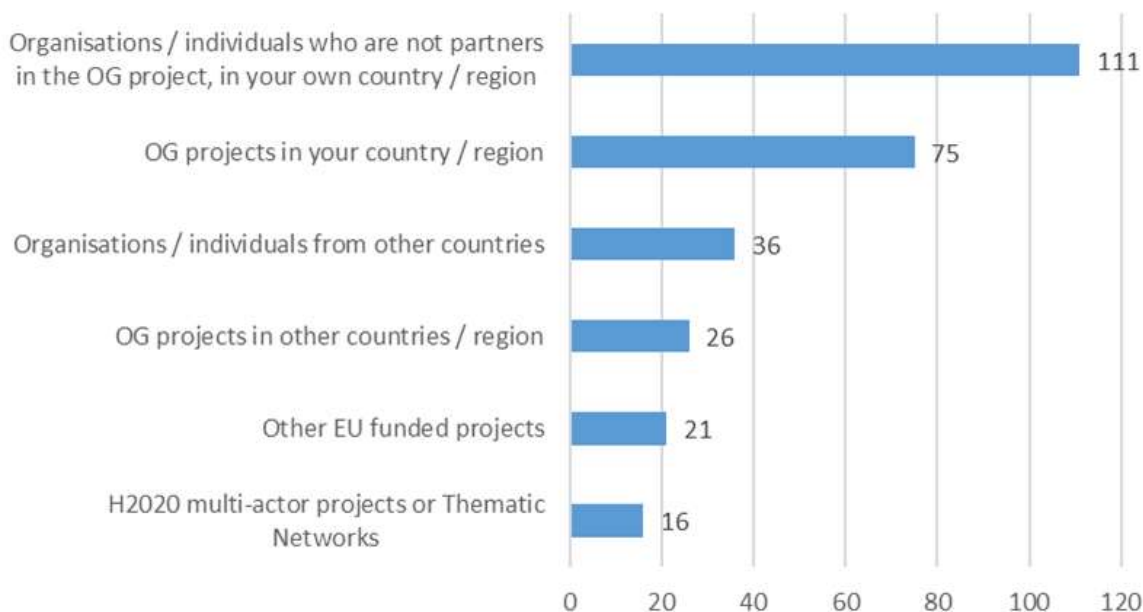


Survey analysis - Collaboration

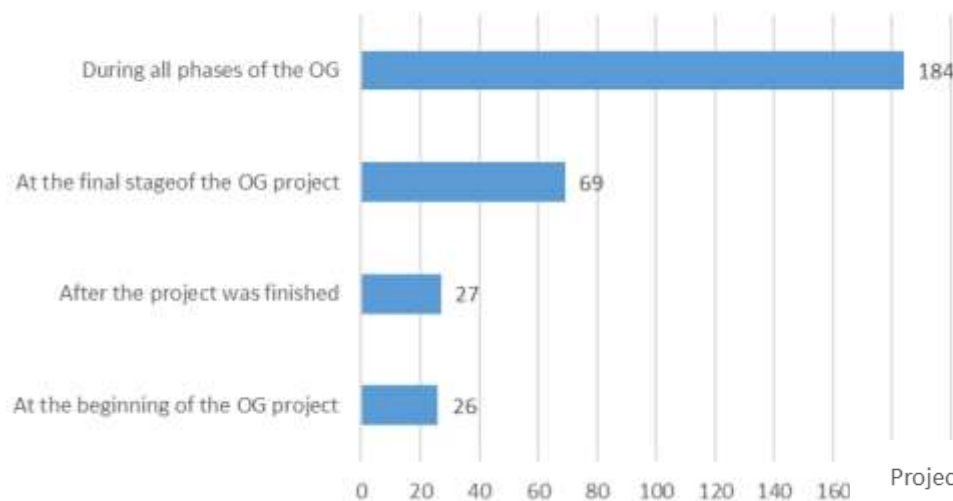


The great majority of OGs are **collaborating or plan to with external entities (91%!)**

- ▶ **Mainly** within own region/country
- ▶ Circa 26% across borders
- ▶ Circa 14% with H2020 or other EU projects
- ▶ Mainly limited to (informal) information exchange through **existing contacts**



Survey analysis - Outcomes and dissemination



Dissemination activities mostly throughout whole project period

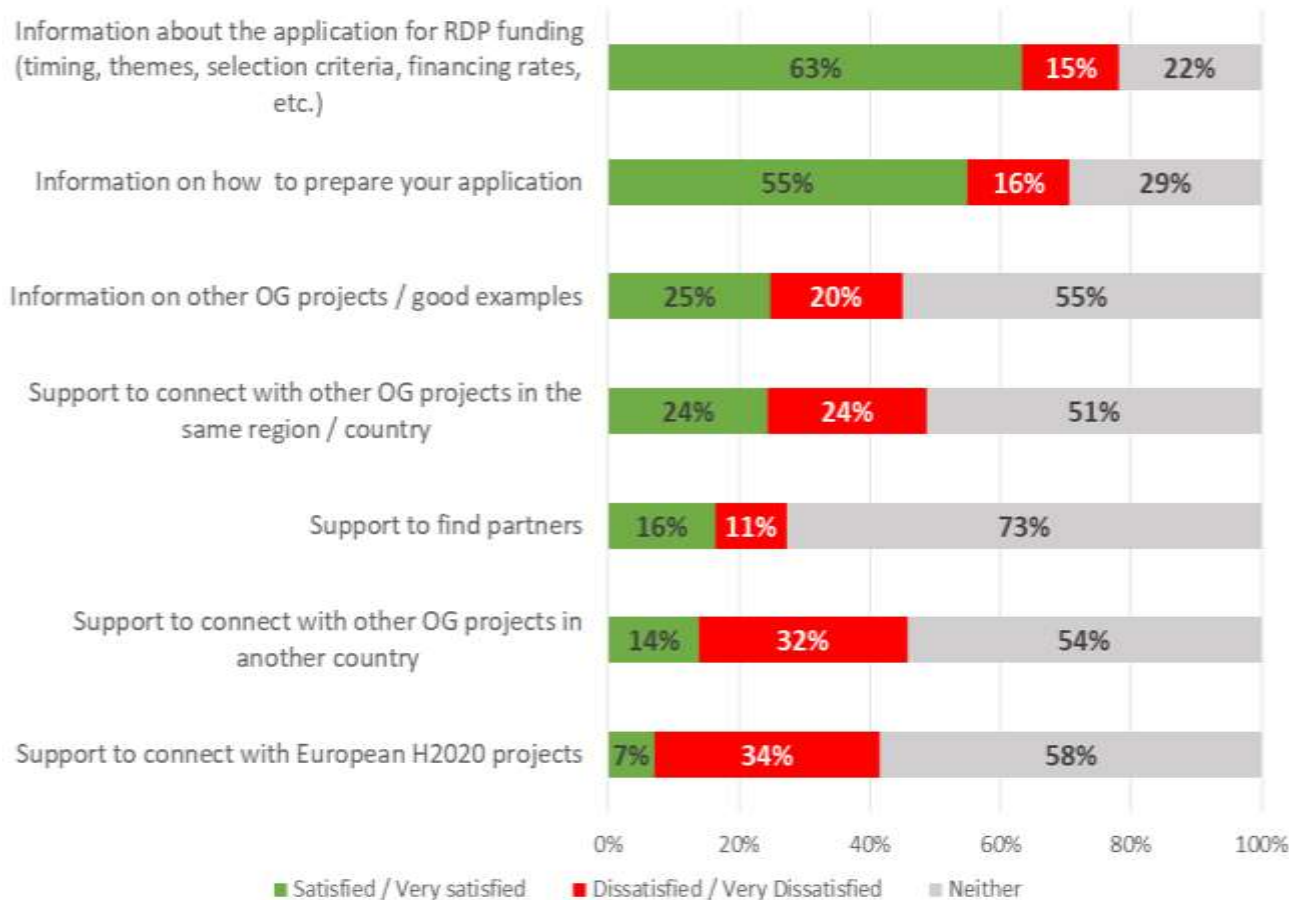
- ▶ Mainly using own channels
- ▶ Guidance/assistance for practitioners more limited
- ▶ Only 10% use EIP-AGRI or MA's website for wider dissemination



Survey analysis – Support provided to OGs



- ▶ Majority of OGs (**very** satisfied with the information in the application
- ▶ Quarter to third of OGs (very) dissatisfied with support to connect to other projects
- ▶ **ISS needed**





Conclusions

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/publications/eip-agri-operational-groups-assessment-2018>

includes a list with the 600 OGs

Conclusions



Confirmed **great interest** in the EIP-AGRI OG framework and instrument

- ▶ Since launch of study, number of OG has **increased** to almost 900, and growing: **1000 NOW**
- ▶ Some MS launch a set of OG calls, both open and thematic aspects
- ▶ **91% of OGs are positive** about their experience and **would recommend** other actors/organisations to become involved in an OG project
- ▶ OG partners highlight such projects **could not have been realised with other national or European funding frameworks** (*focus farmers' needs & co-creation*)



Conclusions

OGs focus on **tackling farmers' needs** in a practical and collaborative way

- ▶ OGs prove a **unique, versatile and flexible framework** to address various concrete bottom-up farmers' challenges/needs
- ▶ OGs do connect the farmer's community with **complementary external expertise** to help solve these challenges in variety of partnership compositions
- ▶ OG partnerships are indeed set up to co-develop new/adapted methods, tools, solutions, **directly applicable by farmers**

Conclusions



Partnership and project structures in three circles help connecting and disseminating to farmers' communities

- ▶ OG partnership usually consist of a few **core partners**, complemented by group of partners for practical parts of the project (2nd circle)
- ▶ Regular interaction and involvement of **wider target group** built into project structure through testing & demo activities
- ▶ **3rd circle of up to 100 farmers/end-users not formally part of the partnership**, testing new solutions in real farming practice and providing direct feedback
- ▶ This structuring ensures **efficient project coordination** while providing practical **feedback mechanism and dissemination channels** to farmers' community
- ▶ Farmers are still reluctant to take administrative lead as they lack the capacity and resources to deal with the related obligations (**pre-financing**)

Conclusions




Outcomes and dissemination

- ▶ OGs devote substantial attention to **dissemination in a variety of ways** throughout the project
- ▶ OGs interestingly **link rural-agricultural community with other sectors and industries**
- ▶ OGs can **test** and prepare the field and motivate beneficiaries **for agri-environmental measures in the next RD programme**

Support

- ▶ OGs **satisfied with administrative support** received: useful advice from Managing Authorities
- ▶ **Innovation support services also important** in setting up the right partnership structure and preparing the application (12%)

Conclusions

OGs as **vehicles to connect** to other (rural) innovation initiatives and actors 

- ▶ OGs **discovering the collaboration potential** beyond the scope of the own OG, and interested to explore further, even though no priority in current period yet
- ▶ 90% of OGs **established relations with organisations outside the partnership** or intend to do so, even though the current funding framework cannot cover all the costs for this
- ▶ **Need to better facilitate this**, e.g. by more structured and accessible information on the themes and approaches of OGs
- ▶ OGs would welcome **more pro-active support** for this by national/regional support structures
- ▶ Importance to communicate about OGs in a timely and complete way
 - ▶ E.g. making information available via the EIP Common format to make connections outside the OG possible (other OGs, H2020 projects, etc)

3. Horizon 2020 & Multi-Actor projects

Call 2019 evaluation finalised for one stage projects:

Results communicated by end May June

- **RUR-15: 5 more Thematic networks**
- **RUR-16: EU wide network on fuelling the potential of advisors for innovation:** including **inventory of all public and private advisors**. *Identify and showcase best practices from practical cases of advisory services across the EU supporting advisors on how to capture grass-roots innovative ideas from farmers/foresters and develop them into innovation projects. Output: Peer-to-peer learning, Practice Abstracts, educational material, training for advisors (e.g. exchange-visits). EU wide coverage. Ultimately to improve knowledge flows in national and regional AKISs*

3. Horizon 2020 & Multi-Actor projects

Call 2019 evaluation finalised for one stage projects:

- **RUR-17:** *Since 2014, a large number of AKIS related projects, OG innovative projects, H2020 RIAs and CSAs were funded, which delivered much end-user material beyond the EIP-AGRI practice abstracts only: knowledge databases, videos, framework of thematic networks (**EURAKNOS**) etc. The challenge is to favour the **longer-term and wider use** of this practical knowledge in as many geographical regions and agricultural sectors as possible. To enable **updating and consolidating** of that knowledge and help **connecting** to regional and national AKISs.*
- **Explore feasibility and added-value of developing joint tools, joint platforms and/or (e-)infrastructure integrating existing outputs into an EU wide open source and data system** connecting with countries and regions' AKIS systems, Recommending on greater interoperability and integration of EU and MSs' knowledge bases

***Innovation is: an idea put into
practice with success !***

***To an
„Agriculture of Knowledge“***

More information and events:

www.eip-agri.eu

[https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/
en/news-events/events](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/news-events/events)

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Thank you for your attention!

