European Commission

European Network for Rural Development

eip-agri AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

European Rural Networks' Assembly

Subgroup on Innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability

10th meeting

22 February 2018

Subgroup on Innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability

10th meeting – 22 February 2018

09:00 – 10:00 Welcome & introduction *by Alberto D'Avino (DG AGRI)*

Session I "Ready, steady, go: launching new EIP-AGRI networking activities for 2018

- EIP-AGRI network work plan for 2018, *Koen Desimpelaere (EIP-AGRI Service Point)*
- New Focus Groups – Launch of calls for experts

  FG 29 "New feed for livestock"

  FG 30 "Protecting perennial crop production from frost damage"

  FG 31 "Reducing food loss on the farm"

- Workshop "Innovative water management in agriculture", *Anikó Seregélyi (DG AGRI)*
- Communicating the digital transformation in agriculture, *Fabio Cossu (DG AGRI)*

10:00 – 11:00 **Interactive session II "Improving OG connection and upscaling their results"**

- Introduction *by Rob Peters (DG AGRI)*
- Presentation of two H2020 Multi-Actor Projects involving OGs

  - LANDMARK, *Francesca Bampa*

  - EuroDairy, *Ray Keatinge*

- Recent and ongoing experiences connecting OGs

  Flash presentations by members of the Subgroup

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

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11:30 – 13:00 **Interactive session II "Improving OG connection and upscaling their results" (cont.)**

- Introduction *by DG AGRI and EIP-AGRI Service Point*
- Forthcoming study assessing Operational Groups
- Discussion in groups: how to foster cooperation among OGs

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 15:00 **Session III "Evaluation innovation"**

- Presentation of the guidelines on evaluating innovation in RDPs

  European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development, *Hannes Wimmer*
- Assessing Innovation, what's going on?

  Flash presentations by members of the Subgroup

15:00 – 15:10 "Intermezzo": AGROPOL Pilot Project

15:10 – 15:40 Coffee break

15:40 – 16:30 **Session IV "Can we do better?"**

- **Results of the self-assessment of the EU Rural Networks up to 2017**

  DG AGRI and EIP-AGRI Service Point
- Discussion on the follow-up to the recommendations relevant for the EIP-AGRI network

16:30 – 16:45 Wrap-up / next steps

16:45 Closing

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Session IV "Can we do better?"

- Results of the RN self-assessment

Self-assessment 2017

In general positive findings, e.g.:

The EIP-AGRI Network has succeeded in establishing a dialogue between farmers and the research community	
The EU Rural Networks' activities led to improved knowledge of and capacities in implementing Rural Development policy	The EU Rural Networks' activities successfully facilitated the exchange of expertise and good practices
The general ENRD and EIP-AGRI publications and the websites played a prominent role in informing the broader public on the benefits of rural development policy	The EU Rural networks have been successful in improving rural development policy quality

Some EIP-relevant recommendations

"We suggest to widen the participation of the farmers communities to the EIP-AGRI events both "sectoral" (conventional but also organic agriculture associations, livestock breeders associations, etc.) and also based on different geographical areas."

"Take better care of the follow-up of networking activities"

"Decision Support Tools for farmers should be an important final product of networking activities"

"The promotion and support of a bottom up approach and the multi-actor approach is important. Solutions should be provided that are easier and simpler to be implemented by farmers."

" The research community people they are in a pole position. They have the competence to file successful applications, not the farmers. Solutions should be provided that are easier and simpler to be implemented by farmers."

"Improve cooperation, coordination and synergies between the two EU Rural Networks"

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self-assessment of the EU Rural Networks

Results break-out session Assembly 14-12-2017

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1. Enhance participation

- Consider **how successful implementation can be shared** rather than simply 'delivering' recommendations.
- EU level **events** could be **replicated through NRNs** - considering different levels, e.g. regional, national, clusters.
- Consider **selective translation**, adaptation of materials to local contexts and use a variety of dissemination channels/media (not uneffective mass translation).
- Encourage **NRN peer-to-peer support**.
- NRNs should seek to **capture and share inputs from local stakeholders**. As NRN capacities are often limited, use other networks where possible .
- **Responsibilities** should be recognised and implemented in a **mutually supportive** manner. NRNs should lead efforts to enhance participation, supported by MAs.

2. Improve policy quality

- Identify **where** implementation **bottlenecks have been resolved**. Share positive approaches in partnership with stakeholders and enable discussion in networks.
- Understand that there are **different types of 'good practice',** including good methodologies. Consider developing the concept of '**excellent practices**' (ideally begin to be shared by mid-2018).
- Make sure that information is shared up and down the delivery chain and **use experiences from other sectors and funds**. To the extent practicable, NRNs should be able to interact with policy frameworks in seeking to improve delivery.

3. Increase awareness

- **Simplify communication**, while ensuring the key messages are not lost.
- Improve **targeting of the content** and utilise a **diversity of communication channels** – remembering that not all are inclusive.
- Need for further efforts to **identify the best multipliers**. Consider making more use of other networks as additional 'hubs' and actively involve EU organisations.
- **Different views about translations** aimed at increasing awareness: European level vs. national level. Relevant content to specific circumstances.
- To share **relevant MS specific information**, **translation <u>to</u> English** is required for wider dissemination.