Subgroup on Innovation for agricultural productivity and sustainability

11th Meeting

5 June 2018

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11th Meeting – 5 June 2018

European Rural Networks' Assembly

Morning sessions

08:00 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome & introduction by Kerstin Rosenow (DG AGRI)

09:30 – 11:00 Session I "Shaping the work of the EIP-AGRI network for 2019"

Introduction *by Antonella Zona (DG AGRI)*

Overview of the collected proposals for future activities, organised in clusters – *Koen Desimpelaere (EIP-AGRI Service Point)*

Discussion in groups of the proposals by cluster (1st round)

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00 Session I continued

Discussion in groups of the proposals by cluster (2nd and 3rd rounds)

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

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14:00 – 14:40 Session I: reporting and conclusions

14:40 – 15:40 Session II "Upcoming networking activities"

Launch of calls for experts for:

- **FG 32 'Non-chemical weed management'**
- **FG 33 'Pests and diseases in olive trees'**

Update on available SFC data regarding Operational Groups – *Fabio Cossu (DG AGRI)*

Ongoing study assessing Operational Groups – *Sirpa Karjalainen (DG AGRI)*

Seminar 'EIP-AGRI: From OG project to impact. Building the innovation ecosystem for the future' (Spoleto, Italy, 17-18 October 2018) – *Margarida Ambar (Service Point)*

15:40 – 16:10 Coffee break

16:10 – 17:00 Session III "Feedback from recent activities and next meeting of the Subgroup"

Workshop "Enabling farmers for the digital age: the role of AKIS" (Latvia, 26-27/04 2018) – *Fabio Cossu (DG AGRI)*

Workshop "Innovative water management in agriculture" (Spain, 30-31 May 2018) – *Anikó Seregélyi (DG AGRI)*

12th Subgroup on Innovation meeting (Spoleto, IT, 18-19/10 2018) – *Antonella Zona (DG AGRI)*

Information about the new simplified system for the organisation of future Subgroup meetings (AGM – Advanced Gateway to EU Meetings) – *Isabelle Tranchant (DG AGRI)*

17:00 Closing

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FOCUS GROUP 32:
Non chemical weed management in arable cropping systems

Context

- Dependency on the use of pesticides, notably herbicides, which has helped boost productivity.
- Seek to reduce use of pesticides due to potential impacts on the environment, animal and human health.
- Need to assess alternative preventive and curative management techniques as well as risk perceptions in weed strategies.

Question:

➔ What are the options for non-chemical weed management in arable cropping systems?

Main issues addressed

- Inventory and clustering of non-chemical weed management practices;
- Challenges and opportunities regarding their implementation, notably in terms of reliability and cost effectiveness;
- Drivers and barriers related to the adoption of these practices by farmers;
- Interaction with other issues (carbon sequestration, nutrient losses, soil degradation, biodiversity, etc.);
- Collect good practices and success stories, also based on OGs and previous EIP and research activities;
- Inspiration for future OGs and innovative projects;
- Identify outstanding R&I and other needs

FOCUS GROUP 33:
Pests and diseases of the olive tree

Context

- Several insects, diseases, nematodes and weed pests affect olive trees, and the number of those occurrences have dramatically increased over the last years, causing serious damages to the overall olive production.
- Recognizing and understanding the nature of these pathogens and understanding the interactions between crop, climate, environment and pathogens are essential to minimize crop losses and economic damage.
- Explore more sustainable farming practices, including using non-chemical pesticides tackling the whole cycle of diseases and pests in olive production: their prevention, detection, management and control.

Question:

➔ How to increase the sustainability of olive growing taking into account the risks brought by pests and diseases?

Main issues addressed

- Inventory of the main pests and diseases affecting the olive trees, including their distribution and economic impact.
- Summarise how expected climatic changes are likely to impact the distribution and occurrence of such pests and diseases as well as their impact on olive growing.
- Take stock of good farming practices across different regions in Europe regarding the whole cycle of diseases and pests in olive production, including IPM strategies and organic olive production.
- Explore potential solutions to manage pests/diseases based on agro-ecological principles such as biodiversity.
- Highlight both existing drivers and barriers in pest/disease management in olive production, including the socio-economic dimension.
- Identify needs from practice and possible gaps in knowledge which may be solved by further research.
- Suggest innovative solutions and provide ideas for EIP-AGRI Operational Groups and other innovative projects.

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All presentations and main background documents are available on www.eip-agri.eu

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