

EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY (EIP)

THE EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY (EIP- AGRI) IN THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR ENGLAND (RDPE)

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Department
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Overview of the RDP 2014 – 2020 in England:

The new RDPE is expected to have 4 elements:

Countryside Stewardship

£3.1bn – Improving the environment

Growth Programme

£177m – Rural business development

LEADER

£138m – Mainly smaller projects in rural areas

Countryside Productivity (*includes £5m for EIP-Agri projects*)

£141m – Supporting farming and forestry productivity, new enterprises and technology transfer

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EIP-Agri is expected to work in England in three stages:

1. Bringing potential OG partners together to form Groups

We are likely to use the National Rural Network to provide information and help connect interested partners, through workshops, newsletters and website. A range of stakeholders and existing networks (including the EU EIP network) could also raise awareness and connect people to form OGs.

2. OGs applying for funding and, if successful, conducting projects

Funding for OGs is expected to be delivered through a competitive grant process, with OGs' project plans assessed against selection criteria. The costs of the eligible activity of the Group will likely be reimbursed against milestones.

3. Dissemination of the results of the project

Sharing the results of projects is an important part of the EIP approach, and this is likely to happen through the lifetime of projects. OGs can take advantage of the EU EIP-Agri Service Point to share results across the EU and we expect the NRN will also play a role.

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The National Rural Network (NRN)

The NRN will play an important part in the EIP-Agri scheme in England by providing:

- Information on EIP-Agri to encourage innovation in English food, farming and forestry
- Co-ordination and a forum for interested parties to engage and discuss potential OG projects, through workshops, newsletters, and web presence
- Liaison with the EU EIP-Agri Service Point; and
- Help to share information and results from EIP projects within England, the UK and across the EU

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EIP-Agri is part of a wider picture of applied research projects:

- UK agricultural technologies strategy (Agri-tech): £160m of Government money is co-invested with industry to rebuild the pathway between the UK's science base and application on farms.
- Defra is also developing a Sustainable Intensification Research Platform (SIP) to bring together scientists from a wide range of environmental, production and social science disciplines to work together on optimal land use solutions at farm, landscape and national level.

EIP-Agri projects may build on the results from Agri-tech and the SIP (also on Defra's Genetic Improvement Networks and the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Innovation Platform co-funded with Innovate UK).