



# EIP-AGRI: What we expect and want

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Agriculture  
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## ***The EIP-AGRI in short***

- Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (COM (2012)79)
- Overarching concept – funding in CAP-RD and H2020 Research funds
- Based on **interactive innovation model**:  
linking up multiple actors for creation and diffusion of knowledge.
- Key entities: Operational Groups
- EU wide EIP network: communication, partnering, dissemination, knowledge flows and collecting practice needs

## The Interactive Innovation approach

- The EIP adheres to the "interactive innovation approach" which focuses on forming demand-driven partnerships - using bottom-up approaches and linking farmers, advisors, researchers, businesses, and other actors to implement concrete innovation projects in **Operational Groups**.
- Knowledge "exchange" between partners generates new insights and ideas and integrates existing tacit knowledge. The more focused solutions are put into practice more quickly thanks to the co-ownership generated during projects.
- This stimulates innovation from all sides and helps to target the research agenda (or part of it) towards practice needs.

## *European Innovation Partnership*

### *Rural Development*

- **Setting and project funding of “Operational Groups”:**  
(farmers, advisors, agribusiness, researchers, NGOs, etc)
- Supporting **innovation support services**
- **Training, access to advice, etc.**



### *Horizon 2020*

- **Multi-actor approach** in relevant projects
- **Thematic networks**

## Process: where do we stand?

- *Rural Development Programmes: draft RDPs have been communicated to the Commission and feedback from Commission ongoing.*
- *The EIP will be implemented in most Member States. Various approaches (more or less top-down, more or less specific in terms of themes, etc.)*
- *Horizon 2020: results from WP 2014 and calls open for WP 2015*

# *Key Acting Entities Within the EIP*

## *- Operational Groups -*



*"Operational Groups" are no stakeholder networks, no stakeholder boards, no thematic coordination groups, nor discussion groups*  
*An OG = actors working together in a project targeted at innovation and producing concrete results*

## ***Operational Groups***

- Bottom up approach complying with the objectives of the RD programmes
- A group is implementing one concrete innovation project. Can be a new product, practice, service, production process or a new way of organising things, etc.
- All types of innovation (technological, organisational, etc.). The groups works action- and result-oriented, aiming to benefit from interaction for co-creation and cross-fertilisation (interactive innovation)
- Combines the different competencies (practical and scientific: farmers, advisors, researchers, etc.), needed for the concrete project objectives. No obligation to include a researcher



## *Operational Groups*

- Stand-alone research, even applied research, cannot be financed
- In view of capturing innovative ideas or solving new/unforeseen problems, RD programmes may leave openness to have OG projects of different sizes and compositions
- **Obligation of dissemination of results**
- Support for setting up the group and/or for the costs of the project of the group (Art 35)



# ***Support for Innovation & Knowledge Exchange***

Rural Development Policy provides support for:

- Knowledge transfer and information actions (Article 14)
- Advice for farmers, the setting up of farm advisory services, and training of advisors (Article 15)
- **Cooperation, operational groups and related projects** (Article 35)
- Investments (Article 17)
- Establishment of networks to facilitate knowledge exchange, information flow and interaction (Article 53 and 54 and 35)
- Innovation support services (brokering, dissemination of results, etc.) can be supported through different RD measures

## ***Network Function of the EIP***

- **Collect** information (research and innovation projects etc.) and best innovation practices
- Effective **flow of information** (interactive website, databases)
- **Give advice** on opportunities within policies (helpdesk function)
- Sharing knowledge on concrete practical work and **connect actors**
- Systematic **feedback** to the scientific community about practice needs (Art.12 H2020)

# The EIP website is live!



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This is your website - tell us what you want it to be  
Welcome to the new EIP-Agri website. We're still working on it to make sure that you can find what you need, when you need it - so please help us by telling us what we could do better.  
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## Still work in progress...

## ***The contribution of Horizon 2020 to the EIP***

- Fostering co-creation of knowledge in research and innovation projects through the so-called "**Multi-actor approach**"
- Fostering knowledge exchange through **Thematic Networks** producing end-user oriented material (Coordination and Support Actions)
- Participation of the EIP in the establishment of Horizon 2020 research and innovation priorities (Art. 12 H2020 Regulation)

## *Concluding comments*

- Toolbox to foster knowledge exchange and innovation covers the whole range of activities with the CAP Rural Development policy and Horizon 2020
- The EIP will be implemented in the vast majority of RD programmes with a diversity of approaches
- Development of an 'ecosystem' of innovation that will establish appropriate links at regional/national/EU levels through both CAP and Horizon 2020

**Many thanks for you attention!**