

# The European Innovation Partnership „Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability“



**Silvia Dietz**

**Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development**

## ***EIP-Agri in context***

- New approach under the **Europe 2020 Strategy**
- Flagship Initiative "**Innovation Union**": European Partnerships to address major societal challenges of today
- EIP AGRI (Commission Communication (COM (2012) 79): Part of a group of **five EIP's** (Other EIP's: Active & Healthy Ageing, Smart Cities and Communities, *Water, Raw Materials*)
- **Complementarity** between EIP's:

### **EIP Water :**

Water-Infrastructure & Supply

### **EIP Raw Materials:**

Supply of non-agricultural and wood-based material

### **EIP AGRI:**

water use and water management

use and management of agricultural & wood- based

materials

## ***EIP – AGRI in a nutshell***

- **Aim:** To foster a competitive and sustainable agriculture and **forestry** sector that "achieves more from less"
- **Approach:** Closing the innovation gap between research and practice (forming partnerships) by using the **interactive innovation model** ("two-way road")  
+  
Link actors via an EIP Network
- **Funding:** Existing Union policies  
-> "Rural development regulation" (EAFRD) and interaction with "Horizon 2020"

**No double funding!**

# ***New EU Forest Strategy***

(Com(2013)659 final)

## **Improving the knowledge base**



### *3.3.6 New and innovative forestry and added value products*

#### Strategic orientations

"The Commission will assist Member States and stakeholders in transferring technological and scientific knowledge to forest practice and the market, in particular through Horizon 2020 and the **European Innovation Partnership on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability**, supporting the development of new products with higher added-value."

# ***Key Funding Instruments of EIP AGRI Actions***

## 1) European Rural Development Policy, **Rural Development Programmes**

-> *as part of a strategy to achieve Union priorities for rural development:*

- Setting up of "**operational groups**" (different actors working on a concrete innovation project)
- Combination with project funding (investment, knowledge transfer, advisory services)
- Establishing "innovation support services"

## 2) European Union Research Policy, "**Horizon 2020**"- **Work programme 2014-2015**

- Research projects, incl. experimental research ("on farm") to provide the knowledge base for innovative actions
- Interactive formats such as **multi-actor projects** and thematic networks

## ***Rural development programmes – State of play***

- EIP-AGRI is **voluntary** –> The specific decision about the implementation of the EIP and on the concrete measures depends on the **priorities set out by the Member State/Region**
- The submission of rural development programmes to the European Commission has started
- **For total EU-28:** at least 114 rural development programmes expected (27 programmes arrived so far)

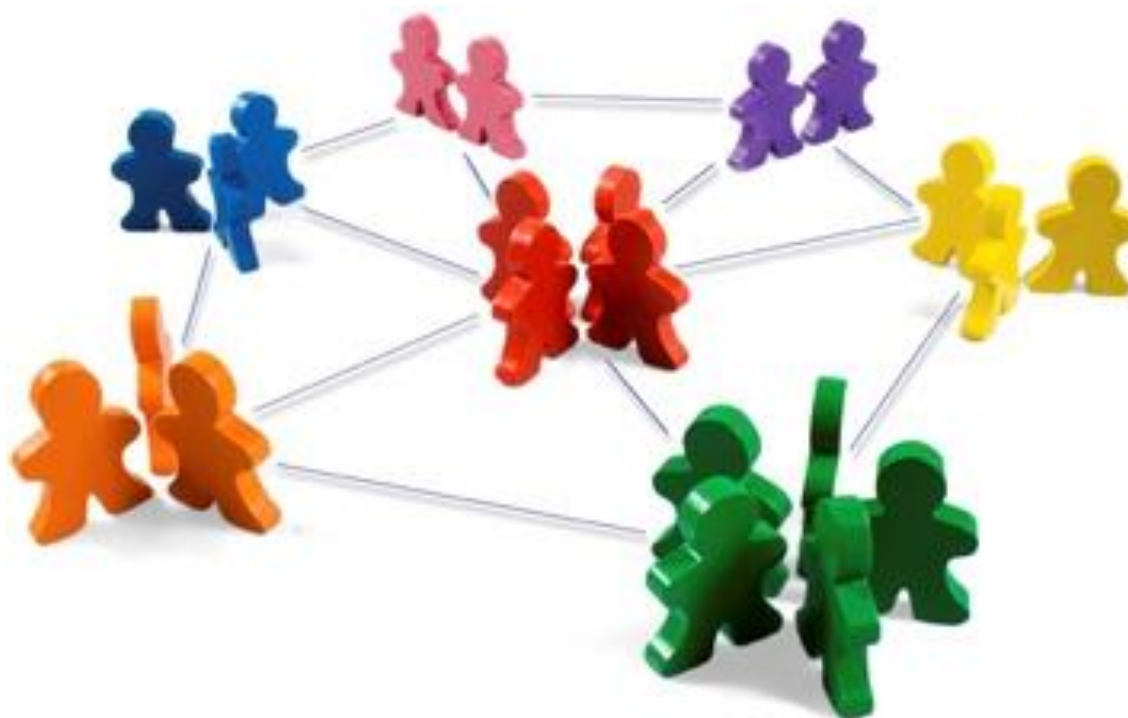
## ***Horizon 2020 – State of play***

- *EIP AGRI -> Societal challenge 2*

*"Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry...."*

- Two-stage call for multi-actor-projects in **2014** (deadline was 12.3.2014) -> First stage evaluation finished, best proposals were invited to submit full-proposals by 26 June 2014
- Two stage call for multi-actor-projects in **2015** (deadline for proposals 24.2.2015)
- ***20 June 2014:*** EIP-AGRI Stakeholder consultation on work programme for Horizon 2020 - *2016/2017*

# ***Key actors of the EIP AGRI: Operational Groups under Rural Development Policy***





## ***Concept of Operational Groups***

- **Action- and result-oriented** "hands-on" groups
- Built around **concrete innovation projects**, developing and testing innovative solutions
- Established on the **initiative of innovation actors** such as farmers, foresters, scientists, advisors, agri-business, and NGOs
- **Combining competencies** (practical and scientific), needed for the implementation of a certain project

# Getting started







## ***Obligations from EU side***

- *Establish internal procedures*
- *Describe the project*
- *Describe the expected results*
- *Disseminate the results*



## ***Workshops on Setting Up Operational Groups for Multipliers***

- 27 February    **Portugal**, Spain, Greece, Cyprus, Malta
- 25/26 March    **Slovenia**, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Croatia
- 2/3 April        **Estonia**, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland,  
Denmark, Sweden
- 6/7 May         **Czech Republic**, UK, Netherlands, Ireland, Bulgaria,  
Slovakia
- 21/22 May      **France**, Italy, Romania, Belgium, Luxemburg

## ***Objectives***

- Provide guidance on the setting up of operational groups
- Give examples of "Interactive Innovation Projects"  
*e.g. Tallin workshop: Example of Profitable Energy from Forests in Finland (Tavastia region) (METKA Project)*
  - > *creating an operational model based on research results*
  - > *improvement of profitability and quality of forest energy*

*Various partners from research and practice: Forest Management Associations, loggers, researchers (i.a. Metla, finnish forest research institute).*

- Brainstorming between the different participants (also within country specific groups) to discuss ideas
- Identify next steps

## **Outcomes**

*Four workshops took place, one still to go:*

*Differences in levels of preparedness*

*Great interest in EIP everywhere*

***But:*** *Need to have more information*

*-> Ongoing process and discussion*

*Background documents und presentations  
regarding Workshops:*

*[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eip/events/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eip/events/index_en.htm)*

*Toolkit for multipliers:*

*[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eip/multipliers/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eip/multipliers/index_en.htm)*



***Thank you for your attention!***