



Update on EIP-AGRI and AKIS

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1. EIP-AGRI and AKIS

New Focus Groups

- FG 44: Sustainable ways to reduce the use of pesticides in pome and stone fruit production
- FG 45: Digital tools for sustainable nutrient management
- FG 46: Water: Nature-Based Solutions for water management under climate change



FG 44: Sustainable ways to reduce the use of pesticides in pome and stone fruit production

Main question: How can alternative methods reduce the use of pesticides in pome and stone fruits and support the productivity of the sector in a sustainable way?

Tasks:

- Identify good practices which may be adapted to different conditions
- Take stock of preventive agro-ecological strategies and solutions including current and forgotten methods as well as strategies of organic agriculture
- Make an inventory of IPM (Integrated Pest Management) strategies (including biologic control) to combat pests and diseases in pome and stone fruits.
- Compare these different management practices and strategies, consider existing problems and opportunities, bearing in mind practicability and costs.
- Compile examples of 'good practice', i.e. farm level case studies, across Europe
- Identify needs from practice (farming sector) and possible gaps in knowledge which may be solved by further research.
- Propose priorities for relevant innovative actions / projects including practical ideas for EIP-AGRI Operational Groups.



FG 45: Digital tools for sustainable nutrient management

Main question: Which are the key conditions, functions and technical requirements to develop, promote and facilitate the use of digital applications for farm nutrient management?

Tasks:

- Providing and assessing good examples of digital farm tools that are already in place for nutrient management
- Assessing the uptake level and usability of the tools by farmers
- Exploring other technical and environmental aspects to be addressed by these or similar tools
- Proposing potential innovative actions and ideas for Operational Groups
- Identifying needs from practice and possible gaps in knowledge



FG 46: Water: Nature-Based Solutions for water management under climate change

Main question: How nature-based solutions could have an impact on water management and water availability at farm level and contribute to sustainable farming under climate change?

Tasks:

- Collect good practices, approaches, and inspiring success stories for farm-level nature-based solutions in different farming systems and small water catchments
- Analyse benefits or potential drawbacks of nature-based solutions, both at farm level and at small water catchment level
- Identify challenges and opportunities for applying nature-based solutions in different European pedo-climatic regions
- Identify capacity building experiences and socio-economic needs for implementation of proposed approach
- Suggest innovative models to foster links between farmers, small watershed managers, advisers and applied research
- Identify further research and knowledge needs from practice, possible gaps in technical solutions
- Suggest innovative solutions and provide ideas for EIP-AGRI Operational Groups and other innovative projects.



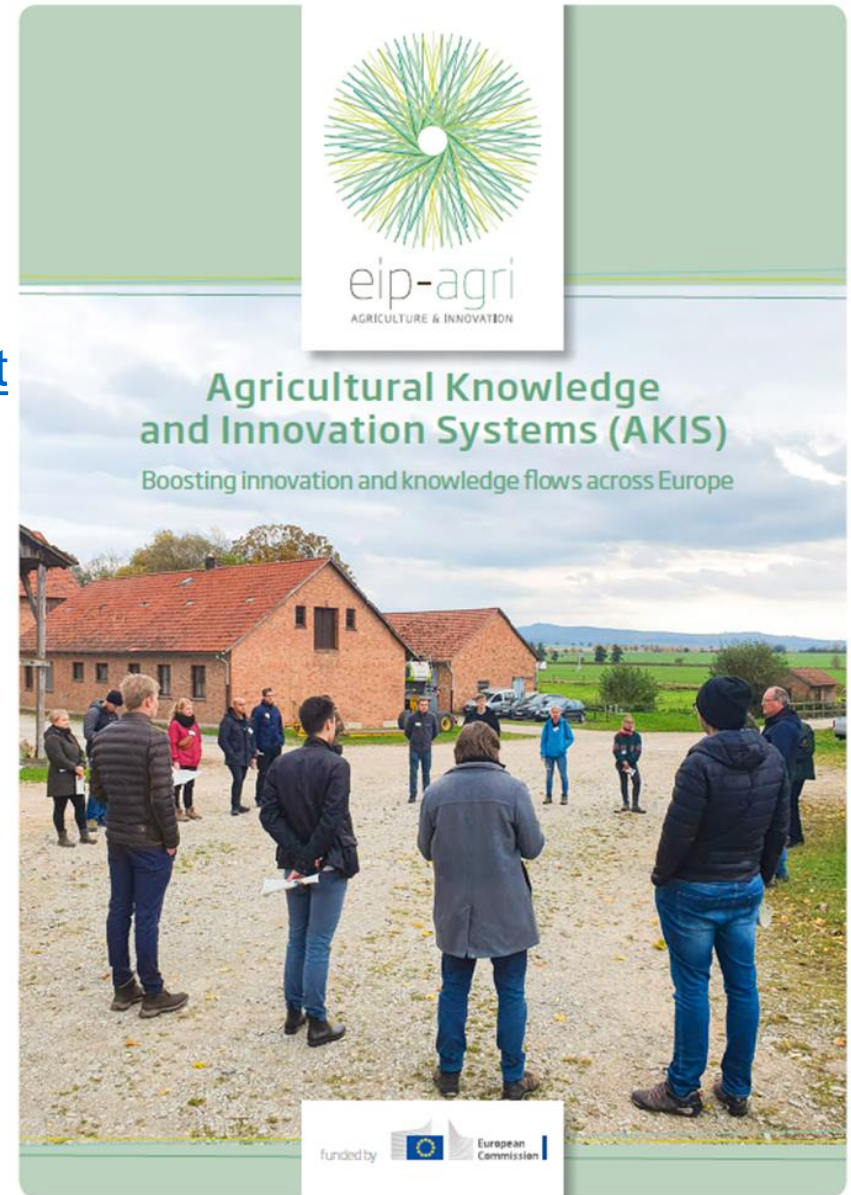
Upcoming EIP-AGRI networking activities (May/June 2022)

- EIP-AGRI workshop on conversion to organic farming
- EIP-AGRI brokerage activity linked to the work programme of EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe



EIP-AGRI communications

- A **Thematic webpage on AKIS** is created: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/about/akis-eip-agri-spotlight>
- **New brochure** on AKIS, see frontpage here
- **New EIP factsheets** on:
 - Sustainable beef production
 - Tropical crops
 - Reducing the plastic footprint of agriculture



EIP-AGRI communications

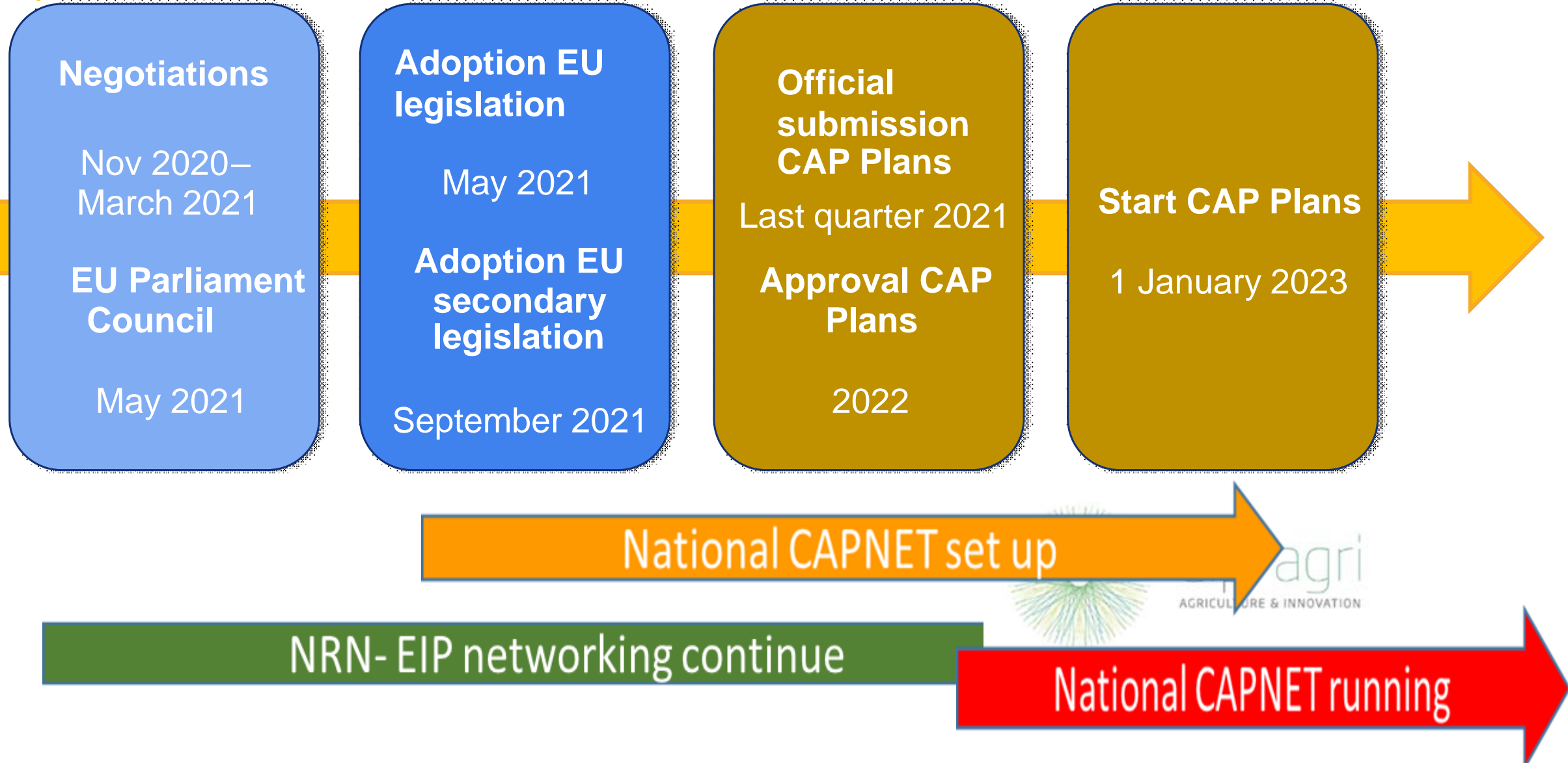
- **January** and **February newsletters** are out
- Promoting the **opportunities for funding** under the EU Mission 'A soil deal for Europe'
 - in the February newsletter
 - news item and 8 funding opportunities at the website
 - a videoclip on our social media (Twitter and LinkedIn) channels
- 10th Anniversary of the European Bioeconomy Strategy – social media campaign



Successful EIP networking in numbers (2500-3000 OGs)



State of play CAP reform proposals – provisional timeline(2023-2027)





2. CAP post 2020

Summary CAP plans post 2020 – main new issues

- **The CAP Strategic Plans regulation provides many new or improved tools for AKIS** under the Cross-Cutting Objective:
 - **Farm advice**: MS must have impartial advisors integrated within the AKIS covering all sustainability fields with up-to-date K&I, obligatory training
 - Support for **knowledge exchange** and information events, including for advice, demo and training, **thematic and cross-sectorial events**
 - Obligation to provide **innovation support for OGs** - from grassroots ideas
 - **CAP networks** (Art. 113): will connect existing OGs & interact with **Horizon Europe NCPs** (seminar June 2021 on EIP website)
 - EIP Operational Groups (Art. 114): **80% cofinancing instead of 43%**
 - **Advance payments up to 50%**
 - **State Aid derogation till 350.000 Euro project**
- **CAP Strategic Plans** to start formally on 1/1/2023, so far 22 plans received

Assessment observations to be sent to MS

Overall: very good descriptions of substantially improved AKIS with more knowledge flows, very good AKIS strategies. Interministerial agreements not sufficiently developed. Interventions not always coherent with each other or with the strategy: CAP plans appear to be made hasty and seem « unfinished ». 19 Observation letters going into Interservice consultation. As from April new versions can arrive to be assessed again.

Farm advice: MS must have impartial advisors integrated within the AKIS covering all sustainability fields with up-to-date K&I, and should be trained obligatory.

- Support for advice substantially raised and available in all MS except one.
- Involvement of advisors in EIP OGS well taken up.

Assessment observations to be sent to MS

Farm advice: MS must have impartial advisors integrated within the AKIS covering all sustainability fields with up-to-date K&I, and should be trained obligatory.

- Not all advisors treated equally, sometimes based on lack of understanding of the more flexible new delivery model and keeping old unnecessary obligations: improvement needed, however without losing existing well-functioning organisations, which may grow into a back-office for the whole country and serving all advisors.
- Misunderstanding on the obligatory fields: not per advisory body but for the whole MS. This can be checked through a public list of impartial advisors which all have equal rights to be trained.
- Unclear if sufficient training is given to advisors: clarifications asked
- Obligatory training with CAP support will also help implementation of the SUR – Regulation on Sustainable Use of Pesticides (Commission proposal ready)
- Back-offices or CAP networks ensuring updating on latest K&I: positive but doubts on capacity of the CAP networks for this task

Assessment observations to be sent to MS

Farm advice: MS must have impartial advisors integrated within the AKIS covering all sustainability fields with up-to-date K&I, and should be trained obligatory.

- CAP networks very supportive for AKIS and knowledge flows, which may conflict with other tasks. Engineering of spillovers and synergies within the CAP network needed.
- Not much technical details if the knowledge databases will be made interoperable with the EU EIP website and EU knowledge reservoir for practice (FARMBOOK project starting mid 2021)

Support for **knowledge exchange** and information events, including for advice, demo and training, **thematic and cross-sectorial events**

- Many MS organise on farm demonstrations which involve farmers, advisors and researchers: great opportunity for knowledge flows and AKIS formation
- All kinds of information events, as intervention + under CAP network

Assessment observations to be sent to MS

Obligation to provide innovation support for OGs - capturing grassroots ideas to develop into EIP OGs

- Regularly forgotten or misunderstood (detailed in recital)
- Where organised, risk of lack of capacity if calls are not continuously open
- Focus on group activities to discuss themes or farmers' needs, or raise awareness.

CAP networks (Art. 113):

- Will do many efforts to connect existing OGs & make them visible.
- Interaction with Horizon Europe NCPs could be better.
- Proposals rather to have an own Contactpoint under the CAP network with Horizon, as the NCPs for Cluster 6 are overloaded

Assessment observations to be sent to MS

EIP Operational Groups (Art. 114):

- already more than double with still 6 plans to be submitted
- 5800 OGs planned in 24 MS' first draft CAP plans – for only 5 year period instead of the current 3200 for 7 years (2014-2020): is x 2,5
- More MS pay for preparation actions than in the current period

Advance payments up to 50%:

- Yes, but less than expected: probably not sufficiently known yet? The relevant article is not in the CSP regulation, but Art. 44(3) of the financial regulation R.2021/2116 => possible ignorance on this article.

Assessment observations to be sent to MS

State Aid derogation till 350.000 Euro project:

- Not sufficiently known but essential for some of the 9 CAP specific objectives which really need 100% support (social innovation, energy, biomass etc), as no private actor is willing to pay a contribution to develop new approaches in many non Annex I themes

Main reasons besides simplification to chose for the EIP OG format instead of any kind of non-EIP cooperation:

- 80% EAFRD EU contribution instead of 43%, automatic State Aid derogation (R.2021/1237), profiting from preparation aid to make better project proposals (Art 77(1)), can allow 100% support rate for non-productive investments, flexibility to cover 9 CAP SOs, count for R.1 indicator on K&I, can cover traditional « new » practices, can take network-alike approaches between peers, work also without researcher etc etc...

Assessment observations to be sent to MS

Difference with non-EIP cooperation:

Importantly, non-EIP cooperation projects **reduce AKIS building and knowledge flows within and across the MS:**

- cannot be found in the EU EIP database, so
- do not profit from joining or making Horizon Europe MA projects
- nor from cross-border OGs,
- nor from CAP network support for existing OGs to cooperate (Art 126(4)),
- do not involve advisors /intermediates to bring in practice knowledge and spread the better useable outcomes to end-users, etc...

Simplification of Costs (SCO) for EIP OGs, training and advice:

- Much used already as from **2017 EIP seminar**. The classics: Flat rate for indirect costs and staff costs (25% if based on calculation or comparison), 15% of direct staff costs without calculation, flat rate on direct staff costs if already used in Union policy, lump sums for OG preparation, training etc:
https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/field_event_attachments/19_sem-athens-2017_intro_interactive_session_inge_van_oost.pdf
- **Addition in 2018**: lump sums above 100.000 Euro, draft budget agreed ex ante by the MA in case the project is less than 100.000 Euro (expert judgement, no exact calculation needed), flat rate of up to 20% of the direct costs other than staff costs (no need to perform a calculation to establish the applicable rate), no certificate of an independent body needed anymore, 40% of « remaining » costs, other than direct staff costs (this can cover both indirect and direct costs) => a flat rate up of 40% of direct staff costs, see ppt Marina Hadjijanni with additional types of SCO:
https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/field_event_attachments/eip-agri_sem-spoletto-2018_marina_hadjijanni_new_options_with_scos_in_eafrd.pdf

Questions?



Thank you for your attention