



## **The European Innovation Partnership**

Opportunities for organic farming and agroecology

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# Goals of the EIP-AGRI

- Bridge the gap between research and practice
- Working together for innovation
- Focus on implementation in practice
- Solutions that are well adapted to local conditions
- Key entities: operational groups

# Operational groups

- Built around concrete innovation projects
- Action- and result-oriented groups aiming for co-creation and cross-fertilisation
- Funded by
  - Rural development (CAP): national/ regional level
  - Horizon 2020: EU level (multi-actor projects)

# Which priorities?

- Strategic Implementation Plan:
  - improving productivity must go hand-in-hand with sustainable consumption measures
  - new ways of delivering public goods
  - sustainable use of genetic resources
  - improvement of soil fertility
- Rural development regulation
  - EIP-AGRI shall promote an "agricultural sector progressing towards agroecological production systems"

# Lost the plot?

- The dossier explains
  - political background
  - rural development versus Horizon 2020
  - role of the service point
  - relevant articles in rural development regulation
  - focus groups
  - inspiration from the Member States
    - What do the authorities plan?
    - What does the organic sector think?



The dossier is funded by European Commission  
Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural  
Development in the context of “Mind the CAP” project



# Operational groups in Flanders (BE)

- Open call for proposals
- Max. budget: EUR 40,000 for no more than two years
- Funding rate: 90%
- Support will help operational group to develop ideas into fundable concept
- Flemish organic sector afraid that focus is too much on economic prospects

# Operational groups in Baden-Württemberg (DE)

- Combination of top-down and bottom-up selection of themes
- Possible themes
  - **More organic from and in B-W**
  - Protein production for animal feed, maintenance of orchards, optimising resource efficiency...
- Members can also be from outside B-W, even outside Germany
- Funding rate: 50%, 100% possible if theme of special public interest
- Three years
- Funding for cooperation and direct project costs

# Organic operational group in Estonia

- Research centre for Organic Farming, Organic Farming Platform and Organic Farming Foundation
- Increase productivity of arable rotations
  - Develop appropriate crop rotations
  - Include protein crops in rotations
  - Growing catch crops
  - Minimum tillage
  - Cooperation between livestock and arable farmers for closing nutrient cycle



## Duchy original Future Farming Programme (UK)

- Soil Association and Organic Research Centre
- Field labs: producers examine agroecological approaches
  - share existing best practice
  - learn how to run effective DIY trials
  - identify research gaps
- Themes: cereal varieties, microbial soil amendments, biochar, reducing antibiotics, peat-free materials for seed propagation

# Thank you for your attention

Contact

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for more information

## THE EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP



OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR INNOVATION  
IN ORGANIC  
FARMING AND  
AGROECOLOGY