

The Smart-AKIS Network

Closing the Research and Innovation Divide in the area of Smart Farming Technology

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Background and Introduction

Smart Farming Technologies (SFT) refers to :

- farm management information systems
- precision farming and
- agricultural automation and robotics

Benefits

- more efficient use of inputs
- increased work speeds and comfort
- improved decisions

The problem

ICT is causing such fast development in **Smart Farming Technologies (SFT)** and researchers, equipment suppliers, advisors and certainly farmers are struggling to keep up with the technologies available.

The Smart-AKIS Solution

The Smart-AKIS thematic network (www.smart-akis.com) aims at **effective exchange** between industry, applied research, agricultural advisors and the farming community to **close the gap** between research and practice in SFT applied in crop production.

Why follow Smart-AKIS?

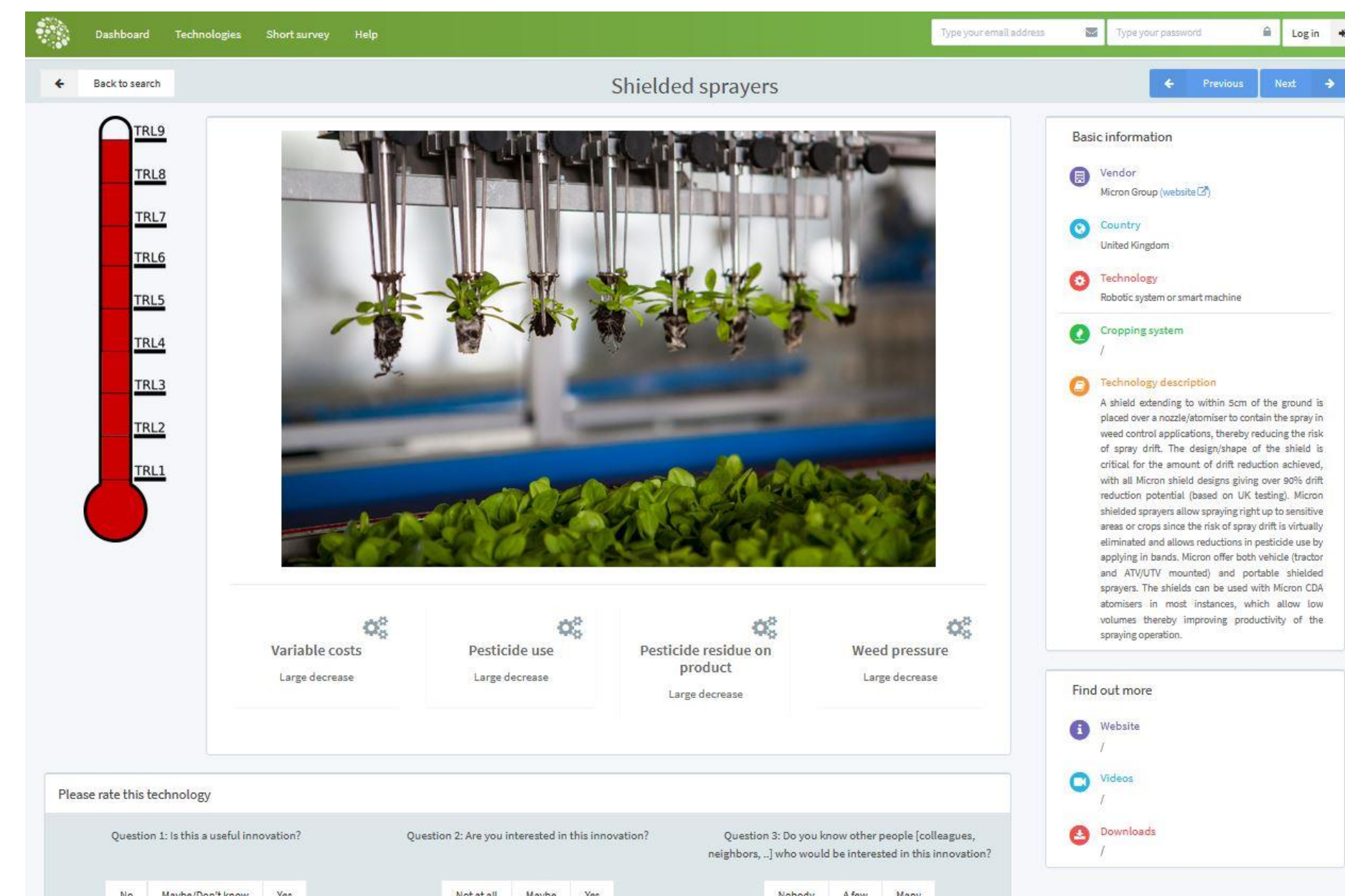
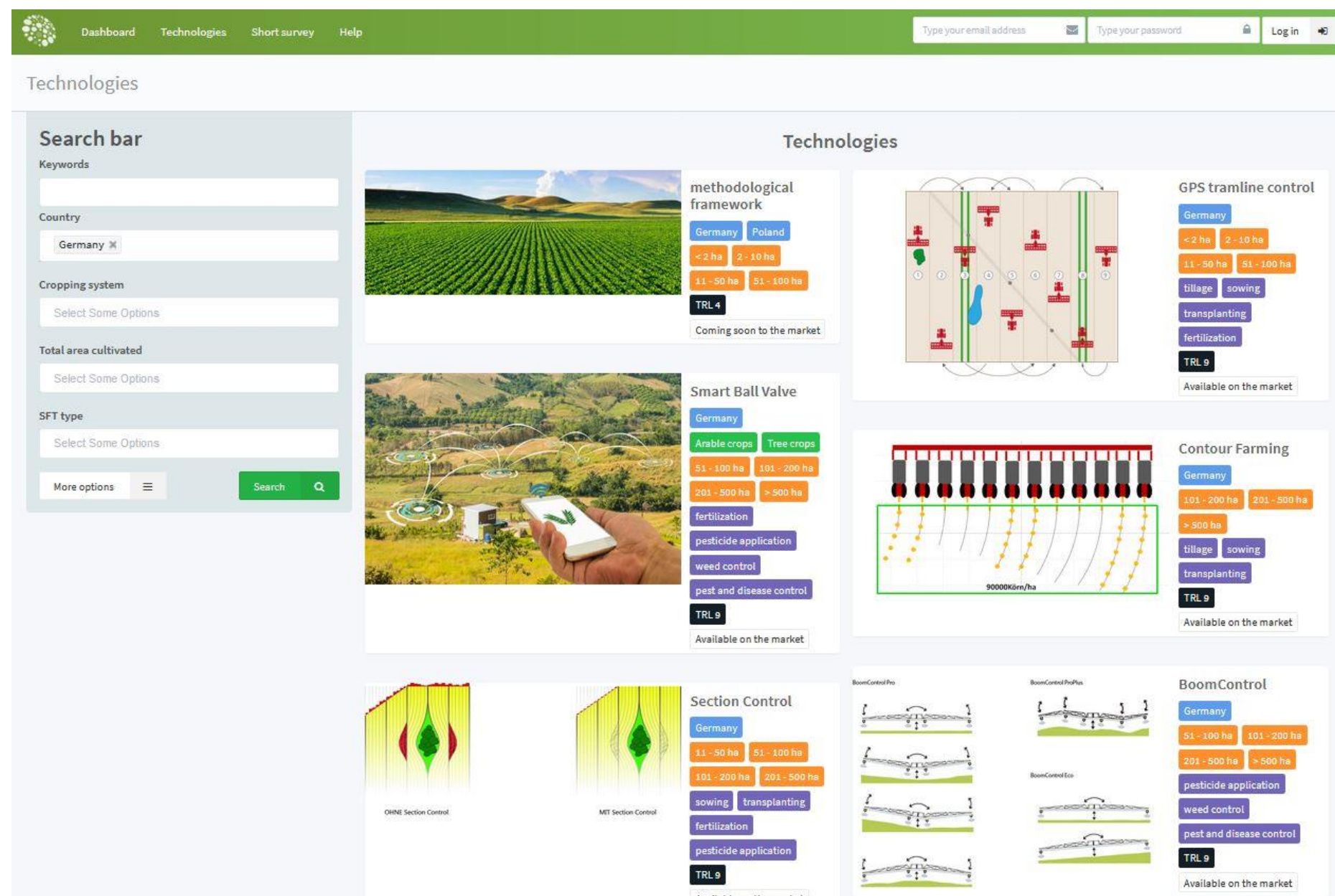
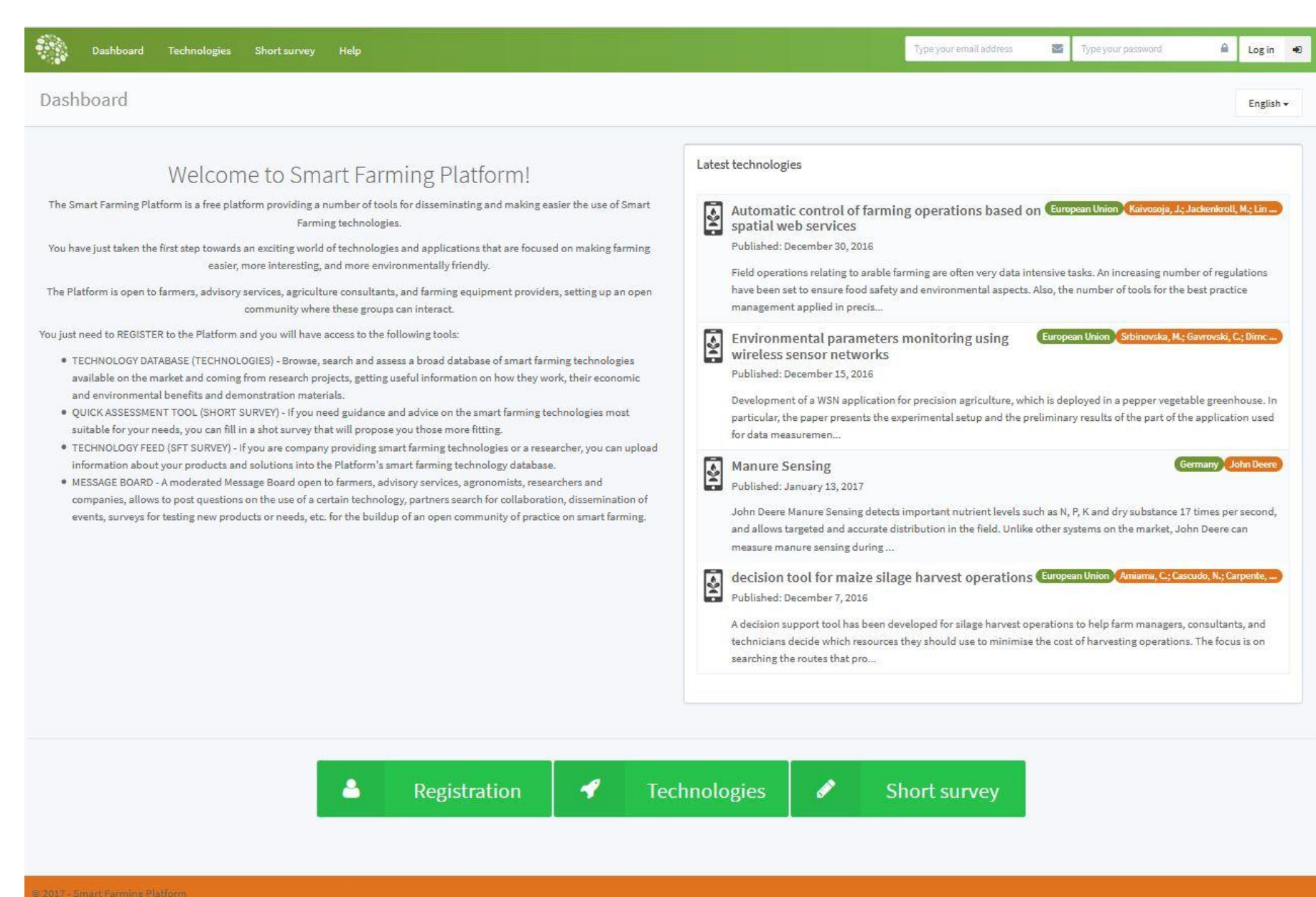
www.smart-akis.com



It is a Thematic Network that:

- Creates an **easily-accessible online inventory** of direct applicable Smart Farming Technology solutions from research results and commercial applications named **Smart Farming Platform**.
- Assess end-user needs and interests, and identify factors influencing adoption in regional level
- Organise Regional Innovation Workshops in 7 countries to adapt the inventoried technologies to regional context and capture grassroot-level ideas for the development of innovation projects.
- Hold Transnational Innovation Workshops to widen this process in the EU level for cross-border collaborations.

Smart Farming Platform <https://smart-akis.com/SFCPPortal>



The Platform

- 1094 SFTs have been included already in the Platform
- 172 entries are for commercial products (**FREE of charge promotion of SFTs**)

The search engine

- 719 articles (and growing quickly) and 203 projects included
- TRLs is more than "5" (*Technology validated in relevant environment*)

Example of Technology Card

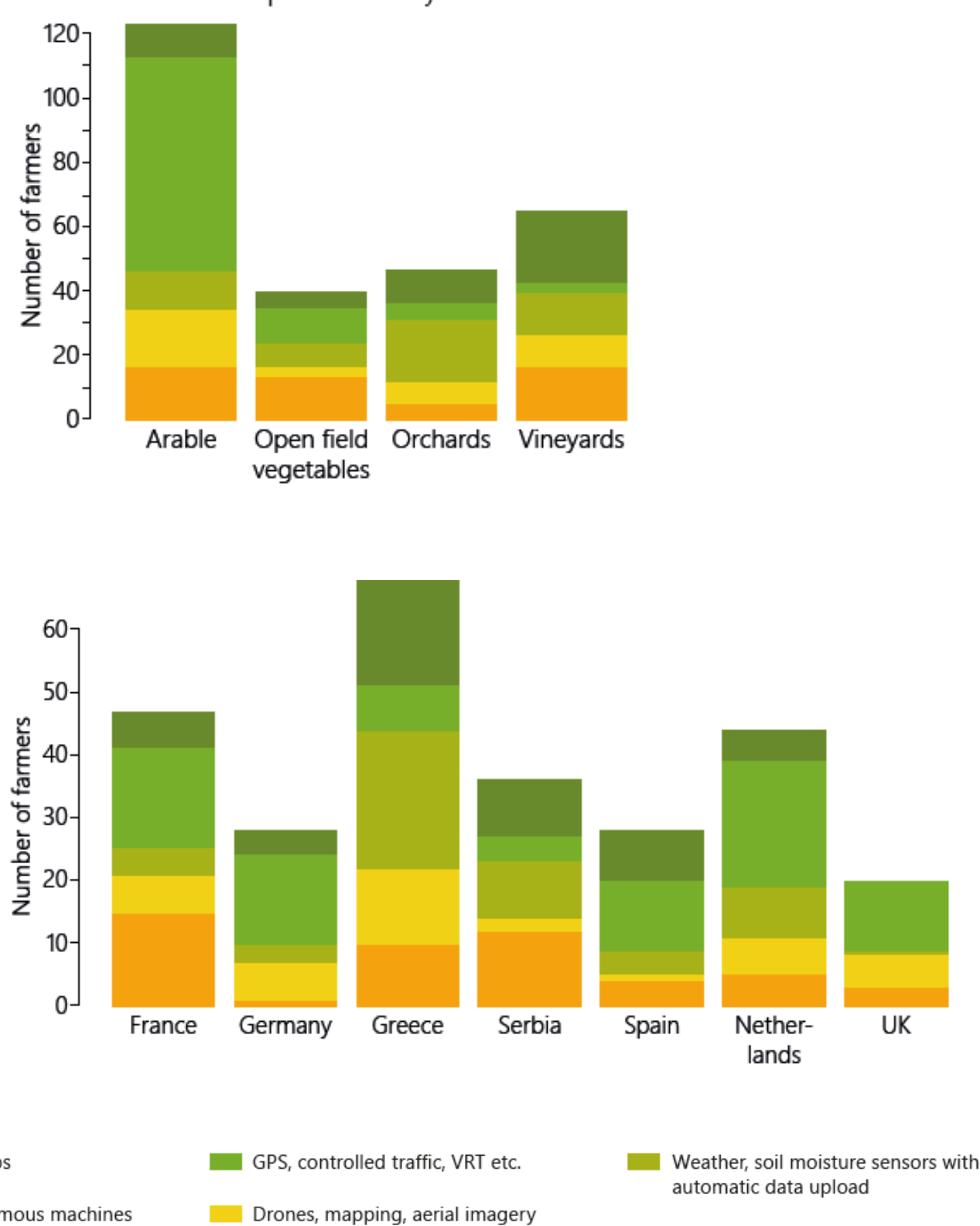
Farmers Survey

- 271 farmers from 7 countries surveyed for their needs and interests on Smart Farming

Results

- Crop disease and soil conservation main challenges.
- SFT perceived to reduce inputs and improve productivity
- SFT perceived to have no environmental benefits
- Most useful SFT are considered as:
 - ☐ Robots for monotonous tasks
 - ☐ Real time diagnostics with drones
 - ☐ Integrating SFT systems
 - ☐ Data for information and decision support
- High cost and poor compatibility are barriers.
- Advisors, farmers and agri-tech providers are main sources of information

Prioritisation of Smart Farming technologies broken down into production systems and countries



Innovation Workshops

A series of Workshops in the seven partner countries have started from late February 2017 with very positive results.

If, as a researcher, product supplier, potential funder or distributor, you are interested in taking part in Smart-AKIS Innovation workshops, please contact your Smart-AKIS Contact Point.

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