



THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE IN EUROPE: SMART FARMING LEADS THE WAY

SMART-AKIS CONFERENCE



Smart-AKIS
Recommendations:
From the field to policy

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Methodology

Recommendations & policy briefs for closing the research and innovation divide in SFT in Europe

Trends in SFT research

Factors affecting SFT adoption & innovation cases

Most popular SFT & applications

Policy gaps for SFT adoption

Actions to overcome the barriers

Validation of barriers, incentives and needs

European level

Grassroots level

Most popular SFT & applications

Policy gaps for SFT adoption

Barriers, incentives and needs



Recommendations for closing the research and innovation divide in SFT in Europe

Enhancing innovation-driven agricultural research within the EIP-AGRI ecosystem

Future research in Smart Farming

Mainstreaming Smart Farming

"Smart Farming
Technologies are
another tool, not an
end in themselves"

Best value for money

Agricultural data

The 3 C's problem

Support strategies



Enhancing innovation-driven agricultural research within the EIP-AGRI ecosystem

- 1. Increase farmers' participation: fund proposals' preparation, demos, visits, etc.
- **2. Coordinate** TNs and MAA projects: joint workshops, integrated platforms, translation.
- 3. Reinforce the intermediary role of advisory services and other facilitators
- 4. Create small networks of end-users. Empower NRN and TNs outreach to OGs
- 5. Increase the RDPs budget for creation of OGs, including cross-border OGs
- **6.** Facilitate synergies between EIP-AGRI (**H2020**, **EARDF**), **INTERREG** for territorial cooperation and **Erasmus+** for education and training. **Challenge-based approach.**
- 7. Simplify access to R&D and innovation funding and reporting
- 8. Close the gap between agricultural research and rural development: Smart Villages Act



Future research in Smart Farming

- Close the knowledge gap between measuring the status of crop and soils and using that information to make practical decisions in farming
- 2. Provide the required knowledge in the measuring tools to be applied for different cropping systems
- 3. Support research on reactive technologies: VR fertilization, pesticide, seeding and tillage
- 4. Develop robots for weeding, precision spraying and selective harvesting
- Foster research on SFTs directly improving sustainability: e.g. biodiversity, soil compaction
- 6. Develop and mainstream SFTs for small farms
- 7. Develop technical solutions and mechanisms for stakeholders to collaborate in all issues related to data collection, standardization and data management



Future research in Smart Farming

Some ideas from workshops participants...

Affordable sensors

New indexes for ripening, disease, weeds...

More flexible switch between nozzle types

Translation of data into actionable information

Drones for crop

VRF with biological based fertilizers

Integrated autonomous systems for in-field operations

System-based approach: tech-plant-soil system

Data Hubs for farmers: market and compulsory government info

Integrate traceability and consumers requests





Best value for money

> **Agricultural** data

Support strategies



The 3 C's problem









Create an **independent organization** for neutral benchmarking of SFTs including cost/benefit analysis.



Disseminate and demonstrate successful business cases at the farm level, peer-to-peer exchanges, training and demonstration of SFT. I.e. Digifermes (FR) and Digital Farm (RS)



Innovate on business models and on price schemes: "SFT-as-a-service" as a fitting model for end-users



Conduct independent and neutral research and **demos** with a wide variety of farmers, soils and crops: "ground truth evaluation"





Increase public investments for ensuring broadband connectivity

Adopt User Experience tools and promote Plug & Play



Increase the accuracy and reliability of data and ease its translation into intelligence

Promote interoperability standards and increase the visibility and outreach of standardisation initiatives



Increase research on wireless technologies (LoRa/LoRAWAN, etc.)





Agricultural data



Promote Agricultural Open Data policies and support the development of public-private agricultural data platforms, i.e. <u>API-AGRO</u>

Boost dissemination of the newly agreed EU Code of Conduct



Increase the transparency in the contractual agreements between farmers and industry providers

Improve the quality of data and foster automatic transfer of data



Increase research in the field of data accuracy, reliance and usability.

Embrace the Open Data Research principles



Empower farmers in the data economy: awareness raising, dissemination and training on the EU Code of Conduct.



Focus on the valorisation of data sharing models







Mainstream into TNs and MAAs an Education & Training strand



Advisors as facilitators: trustworthy and independent bodies for connecting users with experts

Advisors as specialists: by crop or by areas of expertise



Increase participation of start-ups, applied research institutes and industry in OGs, demo farms...



Formulate applied research results in easily to understand language for facilitating take-up



Overall conclusions

"Smart Farming Technologies are another tool, not an end in themselves"

- Demonstrate smart farming's benefits
- Improve smart farming funding
- 3. Innovate on business models
- 4. Ensure rural broadband connectivity
- 5. Develop user friendly solutions
- 6. Promote interoperability standards
- 7. Promote a transparent framework for agricultural data
- 8. Spur growth from agricultural data
- 9. Mainstream smart farming into education & training
- 10. Strengthen the advisors role for the digital era



















Further information

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