

Practice Abstract #35

The EIP-AGRI 'landscape' at a glance

Puzzled by the EIP-AGRI? Read on for a quick introduction.

Europe has become a world leader in agriculture and forestry research thanks to the EU Research and Innovation programme - formerly known as Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) and now Horizon Europe (2021-2027). However, the degree to which project results are implemented continues to be very low. There are several likely reasons for this, including the general lack of involvement of practitioners in developing and implementing research and innovation projects.

In order to address this issue, the EC developed the European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability (EIP-AGRI). This aims to involve different types of actors in identifying relevant challenges/opportunities and co-creating innovative solutions to them – the so-called multi-actor project approach.

The EIP-AGRI is a unique initiative since it brings together and connects two different 'streams' of project funding.

There are three different types of multi-actor projects financed under the EU Horizon research and innovation programme: Research & Innovation Actions (RIAs); Innovation Actions (IAs) and Coordination & Support Actions (CSA), including so-called Thematic Networks (TNs). These are all relatively large projects involving multiple partners from many different countries. The EUREKA project (www.h2020eureka.eu) studied over 100 of these projects.

Plus, there is one specific type of multi-actor project financed under the rural development component of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). These projects are much smaller, more localised and are called Operational Groups (OGs). They focus on co-creation and the so-called process of interactive innovation.

