

Practice Abstract #44

Establishing the governance and sustainability of an agricultural knowledge reservoir

The aim of the EUREKA project (<https://www.h2020eureka.eu/>) was to test the feasibility of building an EU-level open-source agricultural knowledge reservoir for making the results of EU-funded research and innovation projects, especially multi-actor projects (MAPs), in food, agriculture and forestry more widely accessible.

In order to give confidence to users (e.g. researchers, advisors, farmers, foresters etc.) and to make a knowledge reservoir attractive for the distribution and storage of research outputs it is necessary to establish **proper governance** and apply some **best practices**.

Key principles of good governance are:

- Ensure that the creators of knowledge objects retain control over their outputs and that mechanisms are in place to ask permission where and if necessary;
- Organise explicit permissions from contributors to include their knowledge objects in the reservoir and to allow third parties access to them;
- Apply the FAIR Data Principles in the preparation of knowledge objects and to the technological design of the knowledge reservoir;
- Where relevant, make GDPR rules explicit and build them into IoT devices and platforms.

Creation and maintenance of a knowledge reservoir, such as the EU Farmbook, should therefore consider:

1. The basic infrastructure, including focus and anticipation of developments
2. How to populate and publish knowledge objects, incl quality control
3. National and regional adaption
4. Individual use and feedback

There are multiple sources of funding for the development of agricultural knowledge reservoirs that can provide a good foundation for both their long-term future and adaptability to changing circumstances.

