



## Focus Group Mixed farming systems: live stock / cash crops

PROGRAMME OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING

**24 – 25 November 2015**  
**Dublin, Ireland**

### Preamble

The specialisation of farming systems led to the separation of livestock rearing and crop cultivation. This has mostly been driven by economies of scale and of agglomeration producing however, certain consequences: pollution due to an excess of manure and slurries, dependence on external inputs and fodder/feed, loss of biodiversity, lower resilience to climate and market changes, among others.

Mixed farming systems can contribute to tackling these issues. In mixed farming systems, different agricultural practices are associated to optimise resource efficiency, reduce and re-use waste, reduce dependency on external inputs and increase farm productivity and resilience by diversifying the sources of income.

Different mixed farming systems exist and are being (or have been) used. Among existing mixed systems, *the Focus Group will work on the combination of livestock and cash crops* - both at the local and farm level - that can enable European agriculture to become more resilient and environment-friendly without neglecting farm competitiveness.

The aim of this Focus group is to discuss these issues in the specific context of the EIP-AGRI – a new policy instrument for 2014-2020 that aims to stimulate innovation and seek practical solutions to practical on-farm problems by bridging the gap between the practice and science of agriculture.

The specific objectives of the Focus group for its first meeting are:

- Identify, describe with adequate examples and compare different combinations of livestock/cash crop systems both at farm and/or territorial level.
- Analyse cases of re-introduction of mixed farming at farm and/or at landscape/territorial level: what made it possible? What stopped the process? Lessons learnt.
- Start identifying possible solutions and strategies for the maintenance/reintroduction of mixed farming systems and key questions for further analysis by the Focus Group.





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### Day 1: Tuesday 24 November 2015

12:00	13:00	<b>Joint lunch</b>
13:00	13:05	<b>Welcoming words</b> <i>Andrés García (Task manager, EIP-AGRI Service Point)</i>
13:05	13:30	<b>Ice breaker</b>
13:30	13:45	<b>Introduction to the EIP-AGRI concept and the purpose of the Focus Group</b> <i>Fabio Cossu (DG-AGRI)</i>
13:45	14:00	<b>Presentation of the Service point and agenda of the meeting</b> <i>Andrés García (Task manager, EIP-AGRI Service Point)</i>
14:00	14:30	<b>Setting the scene: presentation of the starting paper</b> <i>Julie Ryschawy (Coordinating expert of the Focus Group)</i>
14:30	14:50	<b>Coffee break</b>
14:50	15:10	<b>Short presentation of two examples of mixed farming systems by focus group members</b> <i>Soniar Ramoneteu, Alberto Bernués (Experts of the Focus Group)</i>
15:10	16:40	<b>Breakout session 1: opportunities and barriers</b> <i>(Discuss the mixed system study cases provided by experts. Identify opportunities and barriers for the maintenance/introduction of the provided study cases)</i>
16:40	17:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
17:00	17:20	<b>Conclusions of the breakout session 1</b>
17:20	17:35	<b>Presentation of CanTogether project results</b> <i>Phillipa Nicholas-Davies, Marc Moraine (Experts of the Focus Group)</i>
17:35	18:15	<b>Plenary session to reflect on opportunities and barriers</b> <i>(Discuss identified opportunities and barriers and identify the most relevant ones)</i>
18:15	18:20	<b>Wrap up: conclusions and agenda for the next day</b> <i>Andrés García (Task manager, EIP-AGRI Service Point)</i>
20:00	22:00	<b>Networking dinner</b>





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### Day 2: Wednesday 25 November 2015

09:00	09:15	<b>Summary of the first day and validation by the group</b> <i>Julie Ryschawy (Coordinating expert of the Focus Group), Fabio Cossu (DG-AGRI)</i>
09:15	10:15	<b>Breakout session 2: solutions and strategies</b> ( <i>Discuss solutions to main barriers and the strategies to follow so as to take advantage of main opportunities. Identify knowledge which is needed to adopt solutions and strategies</i> )
10:15	11:00	<b>Results of the breakout session and discussion</b>
11:00	11:20	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:20	11:50	<b>Minipapers, concept and identification of topics</b> <i>Beatriz Guimarey (Backup, EIP-AGRI Service Point) and Julie Ryschawy (Coordinating expert of the Focus Group)</i>
11:50	12:00	<b>Introduction to the website and the collaborative area</b> <i>Beatriz Guimarey (Backup, EIP-AGRI Service Point)</i>
12:00	12:05	<b>Conclusions and next steps after the meeting</b>
12:05	13:00	<b>Lunch and departure</b>

