



eip-agri
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

WORKSHOP ENABLING FARMERS FOR THE DIGITAL AGE: THE ROLE OF AKIS 26-27 APRIL 2018 - JŪRMALA, LATVIA

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Speakers' CVs

Opening



Jānis Dūklavs

Minister of Agriculture of Latvia

Jānis Dūklavs is the Minister of Agriculture of Latvia; this is the third time that he has served in this post. He was also elected twice as a Member of the Latvian Parliament. With his professional experience and knowledge he leads important sectors for the Latvian economy: agriculture, forestry and fisheries. J. Dūklavs has always emphasised the importance of modern technology in sectoral development, and especially the role of knowledge and innovation. "Agriculture, forestry and fisheries are changing together with the latest technologies. Entrepreneurs are looking for new opportunities and solutions to technological development more often to achieve success, because these technologies can for instance lower production costs, or improve product quality. Regardless of the farm or the company it is very important that they can invest now to develop the future. Just as people are constantly changing, the economic sectors, including agriculture are facing many new technological challenges and changes. For us it is very important to follow those changes", says Minister of Agriculture of Latvia Jānis Dūklavs.



Dušan Chrenek

Head of Unit, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission

He has broad experience within the European institutions and the Slovak diplomatic service. He joined the European Commission in 2007 as Head of Unit for enlargement at the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development. During the years 2012 – 2017 he was Head of Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia. Before he had been working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (i.e. as Head of Office of the Chief Negotiator for EU accession) as well as in the team of the former High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana. He graduated in Diplomacy at the Oxford University and at Diplomatic School in Madrid. He also studied at the Institute of International Relations of the Comenius University in Bratislava and Slovak Technical University.

Session: Knowledge exchange and innovation supporting the digital transformation of the farming sector: who is doing what?



Pille Koorberg

Director of the Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) in Estonia.

ARC is a competence centre under the Ministry of Rural Affairs supporting agriculture and rural development policy by provision of different kind of laboratory services (agro-chemistry, plant health and microbiology; seed testing; residues and contaminants; plant products), field testing as well as agro-environmental and rural economic analysis and coordination of the rural and innovation networks in Estonia. ARC is also leading the consortia developing agricultural big data system in Estonia.

Pille has over 17 years experience in agri-environment policy, with a special focus on development of evaluation schemes for rural development programme (RDP) regarding relevant indicator system, data collection and data management. Since 2003 Pille Koorberg has been a team member of several work groups and has participated in several projects regarding RDP issues both at Estonian and EU level.

Since 2013 she is also a team member (rural development officer) and works part time for the EU level network facility of European Innovation Partnership (EIP) concerning Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI Service Point).



Leho Verk

Director of the Advisory Service in Estonia, Rural Development Foundation

Leho Verk is responsible for Rural Advisory Service's day-to-day operations, including partner relations with universities and research institutions. Before joining the Rural Development Foundation in 2016 he spent several years as a Vice-Chairman of the Estonian Farmers Federation, covering the topics of rural development and knowledge transfer.

As a member of numerous rural policy steering bodies and expert groups both in Estonia and beyond since 2010 Leho has an excellent overview of the developments in the sector and never forgets the farmers' point of view.



Theodoros Zografos

Marketing & Communications Coordinator of NEUROPUBLIC S.A

NEUROPUBLIC S.A., an innovative Greek company, is specialized in developing integrated information systems and high performance applications based on Web and Cloud environment. Theodoros is a bachelor's Degree holder in Economics with a specialization in Marketing (MA marketing). He has gained significant experience in the field of sales through his work over the last years. Mr. Zografos has been working on the marketing and promotion of **gaisense**, NEUROPUBLIC's smart farming system, in the Greek agricultural sector. His work focuses on the communication activities, using available innovative tools and communication channels, aiming to inform the farmers, the agricultural advisors and researchers about the benefits of gaisense.



Neil MacKintosh

Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences-Distance Learning, Aberystwyth University, Wales.

After working on farms in Scotland, Wales, Canada and Austria, Neil obtained a Higher National Diploma and a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture. After his degree he continued working on dairy farms in South Wales, before returning to Aberystwyth University to undertake his PhD on triclabendazole resistance in sheep and cattle. Since 2012 Neil has been the lead lecturer in the IBERS-DL team, delivering postgraduate-level courses in animal science, farm business management and research methods. Neil also coordinates the dissertation projects undertaken by the students.



Gaëlle Cheruy Pottiau

Agricultural engineer

Gaëlle is working on digital projects in agriculture in France since 2001. Today, she is in charge of the maintenance of technical harmonized repositories (crops, pests, diseases, phenological stages). She managed also workshops in link with interoperability in farm level between connected tools used by farmers and she is in charge of the deployment of SC TRACE project (traceability of phytosanitary products).



Markku Granander

M.Sc. Forestry and Agriculture

Granander has worked among rural development, with farmers and forest owners for 20 years. He has excellent skills and practical experience in forest management and challenges about living and entrepreneurship in sparsely populated rural areas. He has educated and give guidance for forest owners not only on forest management but also questions related to ownership of holdings or economical issues. He knows well wide operating environment of forestry, market policies, operators and their interests, national forest policy and of course interests of forest owners.



Stéphane Diard

Farmer, administrator of National Federation of CUMA (Farm Machinery cooperatives)

Stéphane Diard set up in 1998 as dairy farmer in the Western part of France, close to Angers. He also chose to develop direct selling on his farm and educational activities.

His Cuma gather 40 local farmers, who use 50 different agricultural equipment, from air seeder to striptill. Deeply involved in the cooperative life of this group, M. Diard is especially in charge of the silage activity.

Since 2008, he is administrator of the local federation of Cuma, and become in 2015 member of the Board of the regional federation (Union des Cuma des Pays de Loire). In 2016, he also joined the Board of the National Federation of Cuma.

<http://www.ferme-andard.com>

<http://www.france.cuma.fr>



Rocío Wojski Pérez

Programs Coordinator at the Innovation Unit of the DG for Rural Development and Forestry Policy at MAPAMA.

She is Agricultural Engineer with expertise in hidrology and agricultural water management and irrigation, rural infrastructures, rural development and territorial policies and modernization. She has been as well working for the National RD Management Authority. She is now supporting the implementation of the EIP-AGRI in Spain through the National Rural Development Program and the development of the Digitisation Strategy of MAPAMA. She is alternate member of the EU Rural Development Networks General Assembly and Innovation Sub-Group and Member of the SCAR SWG AKIS since 2017



Andrés Montero Aparicio

Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering

Andrés has developed his research career in the field of agri-food cooperatives. With more than 14 years of experience in management of research and innovation. He has been Co-Chair of the EC Strategic Working Group on Agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS). Currently Coordinates as external expert the Focus Group on digitalization and big data in the agri-food and forestry sectors and the rural areas at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment and advises on aspects related to knowledge and innovation systems in the framework of the CAP after 2020 and FP9.



Dr. Machi Simeonidou

General Director DRAXIS Environmental SA

Machi Simeonidou works as a General Director at DRAXIS Environmental SA, since 2013. She is a member of the business development team and responsible for company's operational improvement. She has a wealth of experience in agricultural project preparation and implementation and she is specialized in agricultural production issues that take advantage of modern technology. Machi has a background in Agroecology, with a PhD in Competitiveness and Sustainability of Self Companies from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of Agriculture. Before joining DRAXIS, she worked at organizations and companies in the public and the private sector, and as external partner at agricultural cooperatives being in direct contact with farmers and assisting their everyday work. She is the co-founder and the General Director of Agroapps PC, a company specialized in providing ICT sustainable solutions that help modern farming and agriculture.



Greet Pauwels

Coordinator plots/parcels Manure Bank, Flemish Land Agency

She is responsible for the exchange of data between the Department Agriculture and Fishery concerning the parcels. The inspections performed by the Department for derogation, measures, farms, crops, fields and watercourses have been monitored and assessed by her. As coordinator she oversees the fertilisation standards, works on new policies, controls derogation and is responsible for soil samples within the Manure Decree. A correct representation of the watercourses at the various government e-offices is also one of her tasks. For all these assets she has to facilitate relations with various stakeholders, governments, farmers and advisors.

She has been working for the Flemish Land Agency since 2007. At first she was an expert within the Manure Bank. Later on she became team leader data management in three different provinces. Her team did operational work for the Manure Bank. Since 2013 she works at the Head Office of the Manure Bank in Brussels. There she started as expert vegetables where she had to develop the policy with the agricultural consultation. Beside expert vegetables she was for a while responsible for the external communication and e-government of the Manure Bank. In October 2013 she entered her current role as coordinator of plots and parcels.



Przemysław Kupidura

Ph.D., Sc.D., Eng.

Graduate from Warsaw University of Technology (2002) and Sorbonne University of Paris VI (2004). Ph.D. (2007) and Sc.D. (2015) in Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. Associate Professor at Warsaw University of Technology. Expert in digital image processing and GIS applications. Academic teacher and a participant in a number of scientific and implementation projects for using GIS and remote sensing in agricultural applications.



Inge Van Oost

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Inge Van Oost is policy officer at the European Commission, Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI). She has been setting-up and is now supporting the implementation of the European Innovation Partnership "Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability" (EIP-AGRI), in particular as regards rural development and cross-cutting aspects in Horizon 2020. As member of the DG AGRI Taskforce "Research and Innovation" she was instrumental in shaping DG AGRI's research and innovation approach and Horizon 2020 work programmes, and developed the new concepts "multi-actor approach" and "thematic networks". In her former post at the Commission she was policy officer in the Direct Support Unit and the Cross Compliance Unit, responsible for cross-compliance, the Farm Advisory System and interlinking with the Rural Development policy.

Before working at the Commission Inge Van Oost was coordinator of the demonstration projects at the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Horticulture of the Flemish Region. There she drafted rural development measures and designed the farm advisory system. She was also evaluator of many agricultural research projects and member of diverse selection committees. In the former federal Belgian Administration for Agriculture she served the Secretariat-General as coordinator of the Horticultural Chain, dealing with chain management, food quality, traceability and safety, sustainability of production methods, communication with consumers and much more.

Before joining the administration, she worked as a farm advisor, and after a while as coordinator of the advisory team. Based in an applied research institute, the team did not only advise farmers, but also designed and implemented experiments and on-farm demonstration projects.

Session: Digital technologies stepping up advice and transforming AKIS



Samy Ait-Amar

Agricultural Engineer AgroParisTech (France)

He is Project Manager in ACTA since 2012. Samy has been involved in several national and European projects in the field of innovation and digital agriculture (sensors, equipment, data management). Amongst these, we might quote API-AGRO and DIGIFERMES in France or Smart-AKIS in Europe.



Jussi Juhola

Chief Information Officer of ProAgria

He has been in his current position for 2,5 years and before that in various positions in the IT as well as the business sector. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration as well as a Diploma in IT Leadership. In his current position he is in charge of group IT services as well as digitalization and new opportunities in electronic service development.

Session: Enabling farmers to the digital era: tools and practices



Frans Broeders

Hands-on, result driven entrepreneurial executive with more than 20 years management experience in different stages of agri/food value chains. Specialized in strategy, business development, operations, new business models, digital transition based upon broad international experience



Dr. Spyros Fountas

Editor-in-Chief in the ELSEVIER journal "Computers and Electronics in Agriculture" and Associate Professor at Agricultural University of Athens.

He holds an MSc from Cranfield University UK in Information Technology, and PhD from Copenhagen University, Denmark in Systems Analysis on Precision Agriculture. He has 130 papers, including book chapters, journal papers and conference papers and 2050 citations. He is currently the coordinator of Smart-AKIS Thematic Network (<https://www.smart-akis.com>); GATES H2020 project (<http://www.gates-game.eu/en>) on a serious game for the application of smart technologies; and the newly funded OPTIMA project on optimised Integrated Pest Management for precise detection and control of plant diseases in perennial crops and open-field vegetables. He is also participating in 5 other H2020 funded projects (IoF2020, APOLLO, PANACEA, BigDataGrapes, Ochrvine).



Martin Hirt

Department Rural Development, Education & Consulting

Martin Hirt studied environmental resource management in Vienna and Prague. After finishing educational career he started in LKO where he could gather experiences in Vienna and various regional chambers as well as in European Office located in Brussels. Currently he is engaged in department "Rural Development, Education & Consulting" where he is responsible for all activities related to digitization and new technologies relevant to farmers and rural communities. His main task is to design and to establish educational and advisory products for farmers, continuing trainings for advisors and a comprehensive digitization strategy for Austrian Chambers of Agriculture



Bruno Almeida

Senior researcher and project manager

Bruno has close to 10 years of experience on the research and engineering of advanced ICT solutions. He holds an MSc in electrotechnical and computer engineering from the Faculty of Science and Technology of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa (FCT NOVA). Bruno is the Chief Technology Officer at UNPARALLEL and exhibits recognised skills in architectural design, specification and development of CPS/IoT technologies. Presently, Bruno is involved in the H2020 IoF2020 project developing support services in the IoT catalogue (e.g. use-cases interactivity) and use-case analysis. Bruno is especially competent in idealising, designing and testing/validating practical and pragmatic applications/uses of CPS/IoT technologies



Andrew Lazenby

CEO Innovation for Agriculture - CEO Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE)

Innovation for Agriculture is a UK based organization built as a partnership of 15 regional Agricultural Societies. It has built a network of farmers throughout each of these 15 regions and specializes in Knowledge Transfer and the dissemination of innovative practice directly to farmers. Andrew has a global career in Food and agriculture and has worked across the Supply chain in the UK, Europe East Africa and Australia. Most recently in farming for Waitrose a UK retailer and as Director of Operations for the Farming business of the Wellcome Trust.



Claire Hardy

The James Hutton Institute

Claire Hardy is a member of the Social, Economic and Geographical Sciences (SEGS) Group at The James Hutton Institute Aberdeen, Scotland. She is the Project Manager for the PLAID project looking at Peer-to-peer Learning: Accessing Innovation through Demonstration, throughout Europe. She is also working on the project as a Research Assistant looking at the concept to develop a Virtual Farm as an innovative method to increase access of farm demonstration to the multi actor farming community.

She has a background in Biology specializing in Food Microbiology, a MSc in Fish Biology and a PhD in Animal Behavior from the University of Stirling. She has worked in the Agriculture sector for several years



Aldo Bertazzoli

Full professor in Agricultural Economics at the University of Bologna

He is full professor since 2001. He had different organisational responsibilities as Responsible of the Cesena site of the Faculty of Agriculture (2006-12) and Head of the Department of Agricultural Sciences (2016-17). In 2013 he joined the expert panel organised by the Italian Ministry of agricultural food and forestry policies to prepare the "Strategic plan for innovation and research in agriculture 2014-2020". He was a promoting partner and Board member of ERGO Consulting, spinoff of the University of Bologna, a company established in order to utilise and transfer the socio-economic study results and to disseminate the University technological know-how as regards the rural areas. His research activity includes the measurement of farms' efficiency and profitability, supply chains management and value added creation, agricultural policy evaluation. He coordinated research project financed at national level and participated to European research projects.

Session: Understanding and accessing digitisation opportunities: what farmers needs



Miroslav Záhradník

R&D at the National Agricultural and Food Centre, Research Institute for Animal Production

He holds a PhD in Economics and Management of Agriculture and Food Processing. He works in R&D where he's been responsible of developing the EkonMOD milk application, a decision support tool for dairy farms.



Jozef Kanoš

Agricultural general manager at AGB Beňuš cooperative

The cooperative manages 1.500 ha of agricultural land in the Alpine area of Horehron region in Slovakia.

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development



Fabio Cossu

Fabio has worked as policy officer at the European Commission since September 2015, when he joined the Research & Innovation Unit within the Directorate General for agriculture and rural development (DG AGRI). He contributes to the implementation of the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture productivity and sustainability (EIP-AGRI) holding responsibility for communications and supporting EIP-AGRI networking activities to bridge "research and practice".

Agronomist by academic background, he has been working on rural development-related issues for more than ten years, starting as independent evaluator of EU rural development programmes.

Before joining the European Commission he was policy analyst at the Contact Point of the 'European Network for Rural Development'. Initially in charge of monitoring of rural development programmes, he then led the 'policy analysis' team, responsible for the analysis of the programmes' implementation, several thematic working groups and the dissemination of good practices.



Ana Cuadrado Galván

European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Ana Cuadrado Galván joined the European Commission (DG Agriculture and Rural Development) in 2012 as Desk Officer for the Rural Development Programmes of Scotland and Wales.

She is currently Research Programme Officer in the Research and Innovation Unit within DG AGRI. This Unit is responsible for the implementation of the EIP-AGRI and co-manages the Societal Challenge 2 of Horizon 2020 with DG RTD.

Ana's main responsibility is the programming of funding activities under H2020 in the area related to digital agriculture (Precision Farming, Internet of Things, Big Data etc.). She is project officer of the IoF2020 project and she is responsible of the Precision Farming Focus Group under the EIP-AGRI.

Ana Cuadrado Galván is an agricultural engineer and has a university degree on environmental sciences. She completed her studies with a Master in European affairs.

Before joining the Commission, she was Head of the Delegation of the Innovation Agency of Castilla y León in Brussels. She has 15 years of experience in the management of EU research and innovation programmes and projects.

CVs - EIP-AGRI Service Point team



Antonio Carlos Ruiz Soria

Main facilitator

Antonio Carlos Ruiz Soria is an international consultant, researcher and capacity building trainer. Expert on creative & digital economy, innovation and regional development. Significant experience facilitating and delivering focus groups, seminars, workshops, lab and conferences for institutions such as European Commission, Spanish Embassy, foundations, NGOs, Development Agencies, among other stakeholders. Work field experience in Europe, MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa.



Quico Onega

Task Manager / Facilitator

Quico is Research and Science Policy Officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point. He works as researcher and lecturer at the Land Laboratory at University of Santiago de Compostela (Galicia-Spain). He participates in the Master on Sustainable Land Planning, coordinating and lecturing in courses dealing with Land Development Instruments and Conflict Negotiation and Resolution. From 2007 until 2009 he was involved in the creation and development of the Land Bank of Galicia, being its first Managing Director. He has practical experience in agriculture as he is part-time farmer (sheep farm) and co-partner of a small company for Direct to Consumer Lamb Marketing.



Ineke van Vliet

Facilitator

Ineke has broad experience in the field of agriculture and rural development. She is most effective in a coordinating position with a lot of short-term mile stones. Working together in a team motivates her to create high quality products. She enjoys developing new ideas in interactive cooperation and has both analytical and creative skills to offer. She always carefully considers the institutional environment, the different stakeholders and the client's demand in her work.



Liisa Kübarsepp

Facilitator

She is a member of the EIP-AGRI Service Point team in the Science and Research Sub-unit since 2017. Also, she is currently working for the Estonian Agricultural Research Centre and in the Estonian Crop Research Institute where she maintains the Potato Genebank which contains more than 450 varieties all over the world. She has previously worked in the Estonian University of Life Sciences as a junior researcher and continues her Ph.D. studies in the same university focusing on impacts of climate change on plant water relations and stomatal anatomy.



Margarida Ambar

Facilitator

Margarida Ambar is one of the Rural Development officers in the EIP-AGRI Service Point, and her main tasks are related to networking, and to management and facilitation of events, while contributing to other diverse activities of the Service Point.

Margarida Ambar studied Agricultural Engineering at the Technical University of Lisbon and has a master in Territorial Management and Urbanism, focusing on stakeholders' involvement. She worked for about 20 years for the Portuguese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Prior to becoming part of the EIP-AGRI Service Point team, she gained experience in international cooperation projects and networks aiming at knowledge exchange. She has organised and facilitated events at national and international level, and participated in advisory missions in CEE countries.



Pacôme Elouna Eyenga

Facilitator

Pacôme Elouna Eyenga is Belgian and was born in Yaoundé, Cameroon. He graduated as Agricultural Engineer in the field of rural economy and sociology, at Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech / Université de Liège in Belgium. Since July 2014, he is the Team Leader of the EIP AGRI Service Point in which he was appointed Deputy Team Leader at its establishment in 2013 by the European Commission, namely DG AGRI. Before joining EIP AGRI Service Point, he has been working as European Affairs Officer from 2008 at VLM – Flemish Land Agency (Belgium) where he was dealing with European projects and policies especially rural development and cohesion policy, and networking. He is also Secretary General of AEIAR (Association Européenne des Institutions d'Aménagement Rural) since 2012.



Ina Van Hoya

Communication officer

Ina Van Hoya is communication officer at the EIP-AGRI Service Point. She is responsible for the communications strategy, press contacts, social media, dissemination of the communication tools and events coordinator. Ina Van Hoya is a communication expert who has more than 15 years communication experience. Previously she was involved in several regional and European projects for the Flemish Government, Waterwegen en Zeekanaal NV to support them in their communication for several Sigma Plan projects.