

## Notes from young farmer workshop, FarmPath Final conference meeting

4<sup>th</sup> December, Hotel Thon Brussels.

### Discussion 1:

-There are two main problems with YF/NE – these are: access to land and access to money. However, if you have money there may not be land available to buy. Some older farmers may not want to pass land down to YF. Or they may not want to put it on the market as they want to keep it in the family. In some cases there is even a reluctance to rent it out -There are complex issues about passing farms down. Resistance to change is huge.

-The figures mask that younger farmers may be running the business but the father or grandfather is the one whose name is on the paper or the deeds. In Scotland YF are sometimes lead partners to allow the farm to enter into scheme targeted towards YF and allowing the farm to increase its income. Conflicting issue - some countries (Scotland for example) there are tax benefits to for those holding onto a farm. This means that people are reluctant to give it up.

-Education is also important for YF. Especially that which gives them the opportunity to leave the area and try something new. This leads them to come back to their home farm with new ideas and - innovations. Education could be described as the link to innovation.

-Researchers and decision makers must have closer ties with farmers and work together more often

### Discussion 2

Improved income should be the most important policy recommendation. If you are a YF and you buy some cows for example and then you have a bad winter, it means that have to work off farm too. Then you don't get any time off or can enjoy holidays like everyone else gets to. By increasing income the quality of living of YF can increase and YF can live a normal life like everyone else.

-In Scandinavia all farmers have a degree. This means that farmers are respected as educated people by their peers. Education is very important in the sense therefore that through education, farmers can be viewed positively by other parts of society.

-Participants liked the idea of 'coffee money' as it would allow YF to try things that may not work but they are new and innovative. But to do this we must define first who YF are...

-Education and increased income are the most important recommendations however they are also the most difficult to implement in the long run.

-All the recommendations are important, what's most important is that policies are coherent and are joined up. They must not contradict each other

-The problem with the issues is that maybe the 'family model' as it is what is stopping YF getting any land. Different models may be possible depending on the socio-economic context of the country. This too is a priority.