

Policies enabling innovation, learning and transition towards sustainability of agriculture

3 December 2013, Thon Hotel EU
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 75, B-1040 Brussels

Final Conference of the FarmPath and Solinsa 7th Framework projects

9am to 4:30pm



How can innovation and learning be supported to enable transition to more sustainable agriculture? The Solinsa and FarmPath 7th Framework Programme research projects have been addressing these questions over the past three years and are in the process of formulating policy recommendations (European Innovation Partnerships, Horizon 2020 etc). Findings and draft policy recommendations will be discussed in a joint conference.

In participating in the final conference, you will have the opportunity

- To learn about the research findings from Solinsa and FarmPath on how networks, collaboration and innovative initiatives such as alternative marketing systems, the reduction of inputs in farming, high nature value farming, and on-farm renewable energy production can increase the sustainability of agriculture in Europe
- To discover or deepen your knowledge of key concepts and approaches that could be used to foster sustainable agriculture in Europe (e.g. Learning and Innovation Networks for Sustainable Agriculture, transition, and knowledge systems)
- To discuss the implications of those approaches in terms of policy and practice, and to contribute to the development of policy recommendations



SOLINSA
Support of Learning and Innovation
Networks for Sustainable Agriculture





AGENDA

9am **Welcome :** **Hans-Jörg Lutzeyer**, Directorate General Research and Innovation (DG Research), European Commission

Keynote address

“Facilitating learning, innovation and transition towards sustainable agriculture – the European Innovation Partnership and beyond”: **Inge Van Oost**, Taskforce Research and Innovation in the Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) of the European Commission.

Over view of FarmPath project **Lee-Ann Sutherland**, James Hutton Institute, Scotland

Overview of Solinsa project **Heidrun Moschitz**, FiBL, Switzerland

10:35am Coffee

11am **Poster session on research findings. Researchers will be available at their posters to present findings and answer questions.**

Posters will include topics such as: transition towards on-farm renewable energy production; the evolving role of local food networks, lifestyle farming in the European periphery, reducing the environmental impact of farming, enabling farmer collaboration, challenges facing local certification schemes, visioning processes for regional sustainability, learning and innovation mechanisms in networks, the link between AKIS and learning and innovation networks, external support needed by networks, and the role of innovation brokers. There will also be a poster on the AKIS 2 Report.

12:30pm Lunch

1:30pm **Participative parallel sessions on policy recommendations**

How to effectively support learning and innovation networks:

This session will identify potential mechanisms for effective external LINSa support and the access to them. Policy schemes, arrangements, instruments will be identified and discussed.

How to support young farmers and new entrants:

This session will identify the trends in numbers of young farmers and new entrants at European and national levels, and give the opportunity for participants to discuss the extent to which there is a ‘young farmer’ problem in Europe, and identify options for supporting young people and new entrants to the agricultural sector.

How to facilitate progress towards regional sustainability of agriculture:

This session will identify policy actions that can be undertaken at European and national levels in order to enable increased regional sustainability of agriculture in Europe.

A handbook and a policy brief developed to assist regional, national and European policymakers enable agricultural sustainability at regional level will be discussed.

What is the contribution of EIP to the development and functioning of LINSa?

The session will explore how the EIP can become attractive to LINSa and what could be the relations between Operational Groups and LINSa. This session will also explore the different options to support and facilitate networking at European or national level among regional networks (Operational Groups/LINSa).

3:20pm Coffee break

3:45pm Feedback from parallel sessions

4:10pm Handover of the AKIS 2 report “Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems Towards 2020” by Krijn Poppe (Wageningen UR) to Martin Scheele (DG AGRI)

4:25pm Closing statement from Hans-Jörg Lutzeyer

4:30pm Close

For further information on the **FarmPath** and **Solinsa** projects see:

www.farmpath.eu and **www.solinsa.net** or contact the project co-ordinators

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