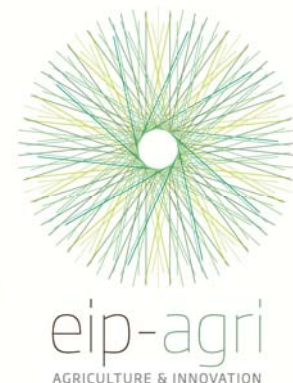


Press Release

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European Innovation Partnership searches for agricultural experts

EIP-AGRI Focus Groups to tackle challenges in genetic resources, organic matter content of soils and integrated pest management in Brassica

European agricultural and innovation experts are brought together by the European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability' (EIP-AGRI) in focus groups dedicated to important agricultural issues. Three new focus groups are created which will deal with genetic resources, organic matter content of Mediterranean soils, and integrated pest management in Brassica. EIP-AGRI is now inviting experts to reply to their call for expression of interest to participate in these groups, The deadline for applications is October 6th, 2013.

Each focus group will have twenty participants. These experts may be farmers, stakeholders, scientists as well as consumers, advisers, or others. However they should all have relevant experience in practical research and innovation on the concerned topic. Furthermore, a good understanding of the practical and scientific context of the topics concerned, including possible environmental or health issues, the respective market situation and the socio-economic impact for farmers is essential. Interested experts may download the call for expression of interest and complete the form on the EIP-AGRI website: <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eip/>

Every EIP-AGRI Focus Group will tackle specific challenges. Within Genetic Resources the questions are 'What are the bottlenecks that limit co-operation between seed- and cryobanks, research institutes, and private seed companies and breeding firms?' and 'How can co-operation between the different types of stakeholders be promoted?'. The EIP-AGRI Focus Group organic matter content of soils wants to improve soil organic matter content in the Mediterranean region in a cost-effective way. They will seek to answer the question of 'What new solutions for securing soil functionality and soil fertility can be proposed in this regard?' The EIP-AGRI Focus Group will investigate cost-effective integrated pest management solutions for Brassica species, including specialty crops and rapeseed.

All three EIP-AGRI focus groups will explore practical innovative solutions to problems and opportunities in the respective field and draw on experience gained in related useful projects. During the face-to-face meetings research results and implications for further research activities will also be discussed. Sharing and exchanging knowledge among actors involved in concrete projects should generate further innovation.

If you want to be kept informed on EIP-AGRI and its Focus Groups, you can subscribe to their e-newsletter via [this link](#).

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