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AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

## EIP-AGRI SEMINAR NEW SKILLS FOR DIGITAL FARMING 5-6 FEBRUARY 2020 - SPAIN



### EIP-AGRI Seminar 'New skills for digital farming'

5 – 6 February 2020, Spain (venue tbc)

Digital technologies hold the key for a smarter, more competitive and resource-efficient agricultural sector. Today, EU farmers are already benefiting from digital solutions, but barriers preventing a more widespread use of new technologies still exist. Among these, low levels of awareness and a lack of adequate skills are crucial hurdles to overcome. Better awareness and improved skills can also help farmers find the right digital solutions to fit their needs.

Technical solutions are increasingly used across different administrative and economic sectors, fuelling the demand for digital skills. In the future, they will be required for 9 out of 10 jobs, while 169 million Europeans – 44% of the EU population – do not have any basic digital skills. To close this gap and increase the use of digital technologies in European agriculture and rural areas, EU countries recognise the need to invest in training and 'upskilling'<sup>1</sup>.

Previous EIP-AGRI work has shown that a farmer's 'digital profile' – a combination of awareness and skill levels – plays a key role in the uptake of digital technologies<sup>2</sup>. Specific training and educational programmes need to be developed to give farmers, advisers and rural entrepreneurs the skills to operate in a digitalised agri-food sector<sup>3</sup>.

Various EU policy instruments and initiatives promote training in digital skills across economic sectors. For instance, initiatives under the New Skills Agenda for Europe or the future Digital Europe Programme. Digitalisation also takes up an important role in the future CAP, which will place a strong emphasis on sharing knowledge, fostering digitalisation and encouraging its uptake in agriculture and rural areas.

#### Seminar objectives

The seminar aims to contribute to the design and implementation of approaches and tools that can help farmers and farm advisers develop the skills they need in the face of the digital transition in agriculture.

Specifically, seminar participants will

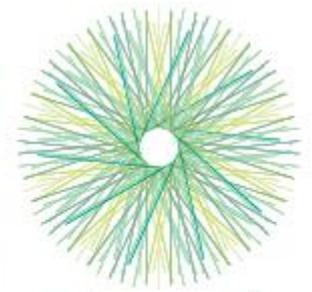
- Identify the skills that can help farmers better understand and use digital technologies
- Share successful educational and training initiatives that can raise awareness and foster digital skills in the farming community
- Discuss how the CAP strategic plans can address the digital skills gap in the farming sector, by stimulating cooperation between relevant actors and by combining policy instruments
- Explore ways to connect European actors in the farming, advisory, educational and vocational training sectors to develop a strong support system for agricultural knowledge exchange and innovation

All information from the event will be posted [on the event webpage](#).

<sup>1</sup> [Declaration](#) of cooperation on 'A smart and sustainable digital future for European agriculture and rural areas'

<sup>2</sup> See the [report](#) of the EIP-AGRI workshop "Enabling farmers for the digital age: the role of AKIS" (2018)

<sup>3</sup> See the [report](#) of the EIP-AGRI seminar "Multi-level strategies for digitising agriculture and rural areas (2018)



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### Draft programme

Please note that this seminar will be held in English only

#### Day 1: Wednesday 5 February 2020

**12:00 – 13:30**      **Registration and buffet lunch**

**13:30 – 13:50**      **Welcome**

- Welcome by representative of the Ministry of agriculture, fisheries and food, Spain (tbc)
- Opening by representative of European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development (tbc)
- Introduction to the programme by **Esther Koopmanschap**, EIP-AGRI Service Point

#### Session 1: Where do we stand?

**13:50 – 14:15**      **Skills development in the face of digitalisation**

- Key note speech (tbc)

**14:15 – 15:15**      **Working with digital technologies: the farmer experience**

Diversity of experiences with digitalisation at farm level

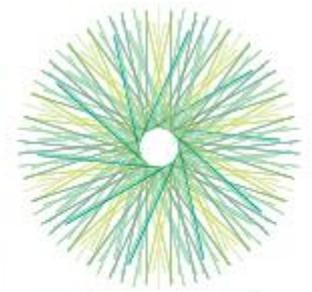
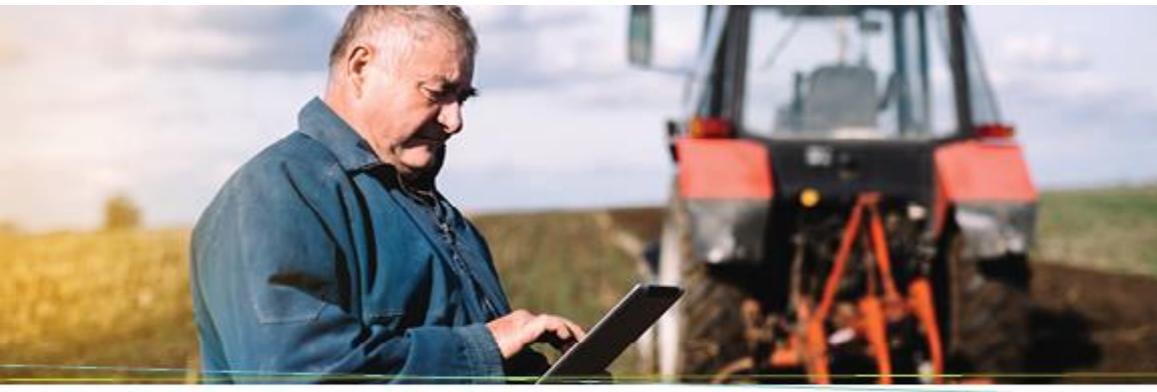
**15:15 – 15:45**      **Coffee break**

**15:45 – 17.15**      **What skills for digital farming?**

Breakout session: parallel group discussion on addressing the 'digital' skills gap in agriculture

**17.15 - 17.45**      **Wrap up and introduction to Day 2**

**20.00**              **Networking dinner**



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**Day 2: Thursday 6 February 2020**

**09:00 – 9:20**                    **Introduction to the day**

**Session 2: How do we move forward?**

**9:20 – 10:30**                    **Developing skills for digitalisation**

Inspiring examples on how to support knowledge and skills development for digital farming

**10:30 – 11:00**                    **Coffee break**

**11.00 – 12.50**                    **Tools and approaches for skills development in the farming sector**

Parallel group discussion on fostering cooperation and synergies across Europe now and in the future

**12.50 – 13.00**                    **Closing of the seminar**

**13.00 – 14.00**                    **Buffet lunch and departure**