



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 18

Making 'big data' useful for farmers

Farmers daily generate and partly use a large amount of data (big data), produced when they register farming operations, manage Pest and Disease (P&D), use inputs, manage their herds and process their products. Almost all these operations are mandatorily registered, even if not always digitally. Farmers also use big data when applying a Decision Support Tool (DSS) for P&D management, irrigation or remotely checking crop maturity. Nevertheless, farm data could be used in a more systematic way, especially considering the complementarity with data produced by other agriculture actors such as control bodies, health and environment authorities, managers of subsidies etc. It is possible to measure almost anything on-farm and in few hours vast amounts of data can be collected, the challenge remains how data can become a useful tool for farmers, not only a burden. Today the state of art is data under exploitation, due to: a) low interoperability; b) infrastructural limitations (rural areas often not served by high speed connections, factor leading to a digital divide between farmers in areas differently served); c) lack of farmers' skills/information; d) inadequate support from usual advisory services and lack of different brokers. The issue of data ownership should also be taken into account, as so far only code of recommendations was developed (EU code of conduct on Agricultural Data Sharing, by COPA-COGECA). The lack of a regulation puts at risk farmers' rights.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A large scale innovation project on the use of IOT in agriculture and related value chains is currently running. It involves several use-cases that propose practical solutions aiming at improving farmers and advisers work, basically facilitating information and knowledge use.

More info at <https://www.iof2020.eu>

Besides a project on digital transformation of European agri-food sector just started: <https://smartagrihubs.eu/>

This Practice Abstract is derived from one of 27 Theory Primers that support the conceptual framework which underpins the AgriLink project. Each Theory Primer introduces a specific theoretical topic in the conceptual framework and is intended primarily for academic readers. The Practice Abstracts derived from each Theory Primer aim to make these topics more accessible and understandable to a wider non-academic audience.

The AgriLink Conceptual Framework and all Theory Primers can be found here: <https://www.agrilink2020.eu/our-work/conceptual-framework/>



## ABOUT AGRILINK

AgriLink is a multi-actor project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It brings together 16 partners from 13 countries, including universities, applied research institutes, advisors and consultants from public organisations, private SMEs, a farmer-based organisation and specialists in communication and distance learning.

### DISCLAIMER:

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All the Practice Abstracts prepared by the AgriLink project in the EIP-AGRI common format can be found here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/agrilink-agricultural-knowledge-linking-farmers>