



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 7

Crop rotation between farms in Norway: Developing innovation support services and tools through Living Lab

In Agrilink, the Norwegian Living Lab aims at developing innovation support service and tools for crop rotation between farms. The lab was a part of a regional agricultural innovation program L21T (Agriculture 21 Trøndelag) and is termed “Crop rotation Trøndelag”. The L21T program was a multi-actor initiative in the region of Trøndelag. In L21T a number of stakeholders (e.g. the county governor, researchers, farmers, advisors, suppliers of feed concentrates and machinery) aim at increasing value added from agriculture and improving sustainability. Now the project on crop rotation is owned by the Norwegian Agricultural Extension Service Trøndelag. The ambition is to include most of the life cycle of resources and products in the main agricultural productions in the region. The Living Lab shall develop an advisory service supporting cooperation between farmers to build a shared crop rotation and thereby increase crop rotation at the regional level. Crop rotation means rotating from year to year what kinds of crops that are grown on each plot of land, for example vegetables one year and different types of grain the following years. Crop rotation can increase soil fertility and secure the health of the plants. Because many farmers practice monoculture, a way of gaining environmental and other benefits of crop rotation is to cooperate with other farmers, who grow other kinds of monocultures than yourself. In this way, you as a farmer can rotate crops on your fields without changing your productions. Through this measure, this Living Lab aims at improving agronomic knowledge and practice, leading to increased produce per hectare, reduced costs, and more climate-friendly grain farming. The Lab is currently working on forming groups of interested farmers and planning the next year’s season.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The work is concentrated on developing a prototype on how advisors can motivate farmers for crop rotation, and follow up with service that can help farmers to cooperate and improve their production by crop rotation.

Crop rotation across the farms' borders are challenging and need a strong trust between the farmers. For advisors there is a challenge to develop competence and relevant tasks to facilitate cooperation.

The work from AgriLink includes an analysis on what conditions are needed to and what factors are important to stimulate cooperation.



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.

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