



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 35

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Farmers' micro networks: promoting peer to peer learning through demonstration

Interviews in AgriLink's case studies show that when implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) innovations in their farms, farmers in Navarra (Spain) obtain their knowledge principally from advisors and other farmers who are applying the technique. Therefore, innovative farmers have a key role in the progress of the innovation and demonstrations can be a good tool to encourage it.

Valdorba cooperative, one of the Living labs (LL) that has been launched in Navarra, is developing farmers' micro networks that together with advisors promote peer to peer learning and bring the innovation closer to the cooperative. Farmers start by identifying urgent training and experimentation/demonstration needs (e.g., new techniques, alternative crops, reduction of pesticides, varieties). Then they organise periodic meetings to learn and exchange about these topics and they organise on-farm visits in which some of the innovations are tested and farmers take part as demonstrators showing their experience and learning outcomes. The LL process has allowed identifying the needs that farmers have with regard to their crops and joining the efforts of experts in field trials, advisors and farmers to meet those needs. Farmers acquire a relevant role in the innovation process, knowledge is exchanged, innovative IPM techniques are disseminated and adoption is promoted. This LL experience is a pilot test and the evaluation of the process will enable transferring the methodology to other cooperatives to improve the connection between experts in field trials, advisors and farmers and to contribute to reducing environmental risks in crop protection

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COUNTRY/REGION:

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Presentation of the Spanish Living Lab:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2drylNfyau0>



## 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>