



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 109

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Delivering Farm Advice in England and Gradual Change

The Farm Advice Service (FAS) in England has been relatively stable in that not much change has occurred since the commercialisation and privatisation of state-funded advisory suppliers such as ADAS in the late 1990s. The main advisory sources identified for farmers included private consultants (farm conservation advisors, agronomists, vets, land agents), National Park authorities, trusts and conservation organisations, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and suppliers of agricultural inputs, mirroring the diverse range of suppliers contracted from the UK (Westminster) wide level. This diverse and plentiful list of suppliers that farmers recognise as advisors do not always accept this identity and suggests a gap in current farming advisory policies.

One example includes the Facilitation Fund Group to work towards environmental benefits. There were various incentives and reasons why farmers joined a group, and this didn't necessarily align to the overarching principles behind a Group's creation. Moreover the Group facilitator was noted as the main advisory source for farmers, yet they themselves did not always identify as an advisor. In some NGOs, there was a high level of staff turnover, and the priorities set by NGOs did not automatically align to those of the farmers involved with a Group. The success of a Group within the CSFF scheme which is operational across the whole of England is largely dependent upon local and regional Group facilitators to build momentum and ensure consistency with the Group objectives. This is also important to ensuring the long-term continuation, funding and success of the Group's objectives.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Practice abstracts, from 101 to 141 can be found here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/agrilink-agricultural-knowledge-linking-farmers-0>



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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All the Practice Abstracts prepared by the AgriLink project in the EIP-AGRI common format can be found here:
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