



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 119

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Envisioning the future of agricultural advice for sustainable horticulture in Latvia

There is ample room for facilitating the uptake of sustainable agroecological farming practices in Latvia. Using the future vision of farming advice in horticulture for 2030-2040 as the basis for a debate involving farmers, advisors, researchers and public officials, a range of challenges faced by farmers as well as weaknesses of the current advisory system, and possible solutions to these, were discussed. The challenges for farmers relate to knowledge gaps in relation to innovative technologies, difficulties in balancing environmental and financial gains, burdensome formal requirements, lack of reliable markets and an unwillingness to cooperate to strengthen their market position. Frontrunner farmers need continuous access to new ideas, financial support, study trips abroad, and advisors that help them formulate the problems they wish to tackle. Mainstream farmers need easily accessible educational opportunities, hands-on experience, reliable markets, and stimuli for cooperation. The weaknesses of the current system are the lack of regional advisory presence, a small number of specialists in certain environment-friendly areas of farming, an unwillingness of farmers to pay for agricultural advice, insufficient funds for research, the high costs associated with training and retaining competent advisors, as well as an insufficient connection between research, education, and the advisory system. Suggested solutions include creating of a dynamic demonstration farm network, providing state support for reimbursing the advisory work carried out by research institutes, ensuring the adoption of a holistic approach to advising farmers, and encouraging international cooperation to facilitate knowledge exchange.

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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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