



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 120

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The future of farming advice: Improving farming advice in the area of crop protection in the Netherlands

The use of crop protection products is strongly regulated because of the risks concerning leakage to the environment and health risks from remaining residues on crops. These regulations will tighten in the years ahead. A workshop with participants from farming advisors, farmers' representatives and crop protection experts explored the possible future role of farming advice to help farmers cope with related challenges. A starting point is that advice very much needs to be tailored to a specific farm and farmer and that a relation of trust is essential to be able to do this successfully. One key conclusion is that, to tackle crop related challenges effectively, there is a need to broaden advising on crop protection to advising on sustainable farming more generally. The current advisory system, however, is not well positioned to address this, nor is current policy that regulates various aspects of farming without taking into account how they influence each other. Furthermore, crop growing becomes increasingly complex, leading to more advice specialisms. This complicates the provision of more integral advice which requires combining advice from various areas of expertise. To achieve this, advisors would need to work more in teams consisting of both specialists and generalists. Such forms of cooperation do currently exist in the Netherlands but need further development to become a more common approach. A second challenge is to share the experiences of frontrunners and research with the wider farming community to stimulate wider adoption. There is a general lack of sharing knowledge and advisors could try to learn more from frontrunners and research to be better able to advise mainstream farmers, for instance by (co-)organising demonstrations.

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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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