



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 129

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The future of farming advice: Exploring the need for farming advice in variable rate precision farming in the North East of Scotland

A workshop was held in August 2021 in Scotland with farmers, advisors, and precision farming industry representatives, to explore the future of farming advice in more sustainable agricultural systems. The topic of the workshop was variable rate precision farming technologies. Precision farming is often understood as a means to adopting more sustainable farming practices. The current advisory system was seen to have several weaknesses leading to challenges in adoption and implementation. These weaknesses include: a limited number of advisors with experience to support adoption; a current FAS which does not meet support needs on digital technologies; and a lack of trained advisors with specialist knowledge. The main future challenges that our participants felt that farmers would face include compatibility issues between hardware and software; knowledge of how to apply data outcomes at a field level; a lack of effective communications on technological advances; challenges concerning time and finances; constantly changing regulations on environment and agricultural practices; and succession challenges, including the potential for lost knowledge on how to work with the precision farming system. The main areas of future support for farmers include better peer support; support with applying data on the field; support for those in remote locations; affordable independent advice; and virtual networking to benefit both remote and accessible regions. Suggested improvements in the advisory system include mentoring of graduates entering agricultural advice; modernisation of the current FAS system; and implementation of monitor or demonstration farms focusing on technological innovations.

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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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