

MULTI-ACTOR NETWORK MEETINGS TO IDENTIFY BARRIERS AND SOLUTIONS FOR SMART FARMING ADOPTION

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MAIN CHALLENGE/ OBJECTIVES

The network meetings aimed to identify priority topics that could support and accelerate the development and adoption of smart crop farming technologies in Finland. The meetings played a key role in enabling open discussion among stakeholders, helping to build a shared understanding of the challenges and needs related to technology uptake. To complement these discussions and ensure broad multi-actor representation, an online survey was conducted after the meetings.

MAIN RESULTS/ OUTCOMES

Two network meetings were organised utilising existing networks in Smart agriculture thematics and national AKIS network. Based on the results from the meetings and survey combined, four practical innovation challenges were defined in the Finnish smart agricultural context: 1) strengthening peer-to-peer learning among farmers; 2) improving support systems for technology uptake; 3) developing matchmaking solutions to connect farmers with expertise; 4) using "lighthouse farms" to share best practices.



PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

Facilitated multi-actor network meetings enable open discussion and build a shared understanding of challenges related to smart farming adoption or any specific topic in place. By leveraging existing networks, smaller, targeted groups were identified based on specific topic or need. Interactive methods such as workshops, group discussions and voting helped to capture diverse perspectives and ensure engaged participation. These discussions were effectively complemented by targeted survey to validate findings and broaden stakeholder input. Complementary survey also allowed stakeholders outside the core network to provide inputs. Based on jointly identified needs, it is important to formulate clear, user-driven challenges that guide further actions.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Finland

FURTHER INFORMATION

The TechCoach project (Horizon Europe) organises smart agriculture related network meetings in five countries to support smart crop farming. The format aligns with the EU's Multi-Actor Approach and is designed to strengthen AKIS by embedding co-innovation and participatory methods. Outputs are shared via the EU FarmBook and TechCoach project site: <https://www.techcoachproject.eu/>

