

Transfarm4.0

FOCUS GROUPS WITH FARM ASSOCIATIONS & EIP OPERATIONAL GROUPS - SLOVENIA

D.T1.3.3

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A. Introduction

On 12 April 2021, activities were carried out within the Interreg Transfarm 4.0 project. It was conducted in a 90-minute webinar through the MS Teams tool. The webinar was led by dr. Damijan Kelc and dr. Peter Vindiš.

The aim of this task was to interview representatives of farms associations and EIP operational groups and learn how tech trajectories of PF are influencing them and how they could be led to catch the farmers needing.

B. Organisations

1.1. Farmers Associations to be contacted

The meeting was attended by representatives of farmers' associations (Panvita d.d., Perutnina Ptuj), who use precise technology on their estates and want to meet the knowledge of these topics.

1.2. Relevant EIP-Agri Operational Groups

EIP project managers also participated:

- Introduction of new mechanical and autonomous automated technologies for sustainable grape production in vineyards (leader by Dr. Berk Peter).
- EIP - Grain legumes-production, processing and use (leader Manfred Jakop, M.Sc.).
- Technological and economic analysis of the use of dust and cut straw litter in the breeding of various species of animals (leader Dr. Jernej Prišenek).

Representatives of the agriculture counseling service also participated, namely Mr. Vasja Juretič from Agricultural and Forestry Institute Nova Gorica, and Service providers in the agricultural sector (Monika Cvetkov from Technology Park Ljubljana d.o.o., Neža Finžgar from Envit, environmental technologies and engineering d.o.o., and Igor Prša from company Unichem d.o.o., Vrhnik).

Participants - overview list

Authors:

Dr. Damijan Kelc - Works in University of Maribor, Faculty of Agriculture and Life sciences as assistant for pedagogical work and researcher in different fields of projects.

Dr. Vindiš Peter - Works in University of Maribor, Faculty of Agriculture and Life sciences as assistant professor for pedagogical work and researcher in different fields of projects.

Other percipients:

Dr. Matjaž Ošlaj - Technologist at field crop production company Panvita d.d. They use precision equipment to cultivate more than 3,500 ha of agricultural land for the production of basic crops: wheat (for human consumption, fodder or seed), oilseed rape (for processing), maize for grain (for fodder or seed), barley (for fodder or seed) and oil pumpkins and traditional stubble crops (buckwheat, millet).

Dr. Monika Cvetkov - project management in the Ljubljana Technology Park.

Neza Finzgar - the managing director of Envit company (Envit, environmental technologies and engineering d.o.o.). Envit Ltd., the company for environmental technology and engineering was established in 2010 as a spin off company of University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Erik Rihter - Works in University of Maribor, Faculty of Agriculture and Life sciences as project researcher in different fields of projects.

Dr. Peter Berk - Works in University of Maribor, Faculty of Agriculture and Life sciences as a EIP project leader.

Mag. Manfred Jakop - Works in University of Maribor, Faculty of Agriculture and Life sciences as a EIP project leader.

Prša Igor - Technologist and sells manager from company Unichem d.o.o. Unichem is a leading Slovenian company that manufactures high-quality plant care and protection products with an emphasis on organic gardening and for the effective protection of the living environment from insects, mice and rats.

Dr. Jernej Prišenk - Works in University of Maribor, Faculty of Agriculture and Life sciences as a EIP project leader.

Dejan Kocbek - Technologist at field crop production company Perutnina Ptuj. They use precision equipment to cultivate (conservation tillage with combination of GPS navigation and GIS mapping) on more than 4,500 ha of agricultural land for the production of basic crops: wheat, oilseed rape, maize for grain and silage, barley, oil pumpkins and soybean.

Vasja Juretič -agricultural adviser from Agricultural and Forestry Institute Nova Gorica. Advising farmers on new tillage technologies, precision agriculture and preparation of project documentation.

C. Results

1.3. Examples of existing initiatives (e.g. results from EIP-Agri-Projects)

The following information's were presented at the meeting:

- Examples of existing initiatives (e.g. results from EIP-Agri-Projects).
We presented the activities and results of the EIP project, which we run at our department (Introduction of new mechanical and autonomous automated technologies for sustainable grape production in vineyards and Sustainable production of grapes for wine and fresh use - "Use of high-tech modern spraying equipment equipped with LIDAR sensors on the effectiveness of control of diseases and pests of vines"). We also presented the results and activities so far on the Transfarm 4.0 project. We presented the state and guidelines for the development of precision agriculture in Slovenia. We also presented the results of a survey conducted within the project and the results of a SWOT analysis. The results of the survey were compared with the results of the survey of partner countries on the project. At the same time, a debate and proposals for improving the development of precision agriculture in Slovenia started.
- Innovation needs for precision farming (we also presented the areas and needs for various innovations in precision agriculture in Slovenia). In cooperation with representatives of agricultural associations and representatives of Service providers in the agricultural sector, new ideas and findings emerged in the field of development of precision agriculture in Slovenia.

1.4. Innovation needs for precision farming

At the end, there was a debate for improving the development of precision agriculture in Slovenia. Representatives of major agricultural establishments pointed out the great importance of precision agriculture in their work. Work without precise technology is no longer imaginable for them, because of huge time and financial savings. Environmental protection and water purity are also improving, as the impact of farming on the environment is improving due to the precision of work. In the discussion, we also emphasized the importance of cooperation brought about by various projects in connection between universities, agricultural advisers and farmers. Smaller farmers also want equipment for precision farming, but they are counting on the help of the state and relevant institutions. The challenge is also on the transfer of knowledge, education and presentation of precision techniques to the farmers. The presentation of new ideas and the possibility of working on various projects that would bring improvements in the development and implementation of precision agriculture in Slovenia was also highlighted in the debate. Farmers have a lot of ideas about reducing production costs and optimizing their working process. They want to participate in projects where they could test equipment and new technological processes of production. Representatives projects managers emphasized the importance of cooperation and presented the possibilities of monitoring their work and presenting technological processes in precision agriculture in the field. Participants expressed a desire to hear from each other again and check the possibilities of networking and cooperation in the future, as they are very interested in topics of precision farming.