

Towards Better Monitoring of Investments in Agricultural Research in Europe

16 April 2015, FAO, Rome, Ethiopia Room (C289)

An international workshop organized by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) within the framework of the EU-funded project on the Impact of Research on EU Agriculture (IMPRESA).

Draft Agenda

Workshop Facilitator – Karin Nichterlein (FAO)

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| 8h00 | Registration |
| 9h00 – 10h00 | <p>Welcome and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome address, by Festus Akinnifesi, Deputy Coordinator, Strategic Objective 2 - Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems, FAO Welcome address, by Peter Midmore, Coordinator of the IMPRESA project Overview of policy context, by Marc Duponcel, European Commission, DG AGRI Research and Innovation Presentation of key results of the SOFA 2014 report on ‘Innovation in Family Farming’, by Terri Raney, FAO Policies for agricultural research and innovation in OECD countries, by Catherine Moreddu, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| 10h00 – 12h30 | Session 1: Agricultural research expenditures in Europe: Current status and rationale for monitoring |
| 10h00 – 10h20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring agricultural research investment and capacities around the world, by Gert-Jan Stads, Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) program, IFPRI |
| 10h20 – 10h50 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of key IMPRESA findings regarding data availability and investment trends, by Angéline Serre and Myriam Doghmi, Euroquality |
| 10h50 – 11h00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questions and answers |
| 11h00 – 11h15 | Coffee break |
| 11h15 – 12h15 | <p>Panel discussion on the monitoring of agricultural research spending (current status, rationale and way of improvements). Facilitated by Nienke Beintema, ASTI/IFPRI, with the following panel members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Johanna Laiho-Kauranne, Director, Statistical Services, Natural Resources Institute, Finland Vincent Linderhof, LEI Wageningen UR (author of the IMPRESA national report for the Netherlands) Giulio Perani, Statistical Officer (Science, technology and innovation statistics), Eurostat Talis Tisenkopfs, Baltic Studies Centre, Riga, Latvia (author of the IMPRESA national report for Latvia) Egizio Valceschini, INRA (French National Institute for Agricultural Research), Paris, France |

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| 12h15 – 12h30 | Introduction to the afternoon session (i.e. presentation of the three options*) – by Peter Midmore |
| 12h30 – 14h00 | Lunch |
| 14h00 – 16h45 | Session 2: Recommendations for monitoring investments in agricultural research in Europe |
| 14h00 – 15h15 | Discussions in three groups - one for each of the three options* (Preparation of 1-2 slides by each group presenting drawbacks, advantages, feasibility, relevance, actors concerned, budgetary constraints) |
| 15h15 – 15h30 | Coffee break |
| 15h30 – 16h45 | Plenary: Reporting from breakout sessions, discussion and recommendations – moderated by Peter Midmore |
| 16h45 – 17h00 | Concluding remarks and way forward , by Patrik Kolar, Head of Unit F3 (Agri-Food Chain), European Commission, DG for Research & Innovation |

* The three options: It is IMPRESA's ambition to put forward realistic recommendations regarding how the monitoring of agricultural research investments in Europe can be improved. Three options have been identified:

Option 1: Oblige countries to produce detailed agricultural R&D statistics and submit these to Eurostat on an annual basis: This takes advantage of the existing institutional set-up for the production of statistics relevant to R&D in Europe. It will improve the Eurostat database by ordering member states to provide more detailed statistics relevant to the agricultural sector. This can be achieved by updating the regulation on the production of Community statistics on science and technology (Regulation 995/2012 of 26 October 2012). According to this regulation, member states must deliver biennial statistics on R&D expenditure by NACE (classification of economic activities in the European Community) for the business enterprise sector and by major field of science (FOS) for the higher education and government sectors. Ideally, data should be provided by socio-economic objective (NABS classification) for the four sectors of performance (business enterprise, higher education, government and private non-profit). The quality of the data provided at the sector level (by FOS or NABS classification) also needs to be guaranteed to allow appropriate impact assessments.
(This group discussion is facilitated by Giulio Perani, Statistical Officer, Eurostat)

Option 2: Implement an annual survey collecting agricultural research expenditure data from a representative sample of public research organisations based on the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) model: Relies mainly on the successful example of the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN). FADN is a database on accountancy data of EU farms used to evaluate the impacts of the Common Agricultural Policy. It was established in 1965 and relies on a network responsible for the collection of data on the incomes and business operation of agricultural holdings in each member state. A similar network could be established to collect financial data from the major public research organisations in the agricultural sector. DG Agriculture could take the lead in creating such a network which would closely monitor public research activities. The methodological framework developed by IFPRI/ASTI could be utilised to ensure cross-country comparability of the data.
(This group discussion is facilitated by Gert-Jan Stads, ASTI/IFPRI)

Option 3: Provision of annual reports regarding the status of agricultural research investments in the member states: These annual reports could be prepared by the Ministries in member states or be based on a set of well-targeted questionnaires returned by major public research performers. This option could complement the other two options by providing qualitative insights into research investments, including trends in research expenditures and financing, human resources and recent developments affecting the future of agricultural research. Option 3 on its own will be insufficient to allow detailed impact assessments of agricultural research but it will help to inform decision makers on recent trends regarding investments in agricultural research.
(This group discussion is facilitated by José Matos, National Institute for Agrarian and Veterinarian Research (INIAV), Portugal - member of the SCAR-AKIS SWG)