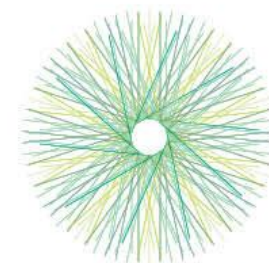


EIP-AGRI Focus Group Organic Farming

Optimizing arable fields



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**On-going work of FG
Organic Farming**

*Maria Wivstad
Cristina Micheloni*

funded by



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Optimizing arable fields

H2020 Thematic Networks

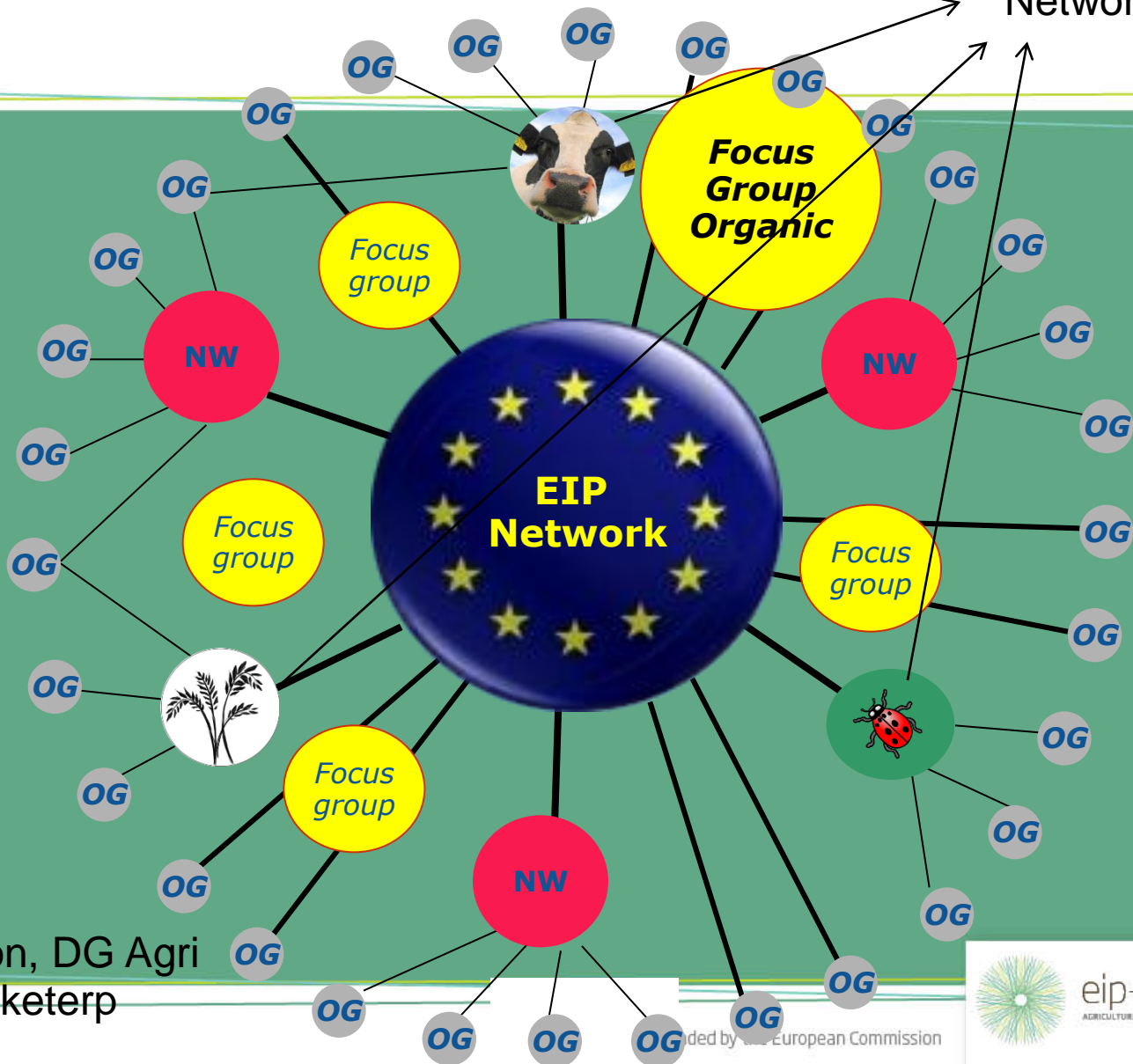


Figure:
EU Commission, DG Agri
Christiane Kirketerp

Four new Focus Groups

(call for experts in March)

High Nature Value (HNV) farming profitability -

HNV farming more profitable without losing its HNV characteristics.

Mainstreaming precision farming – application of precision farming for an optimisation of inputs and yields.

Profitability of permanent grassland -

management that combines profitability, carbon storage and biodiversity

Fertiliser efficiency – focus on horticulture in open field – crop quality demands vs legislative requirements through innovative fertilisation and nutrient recycling



The FG problem:

How to reduce the **yield gap** between conventional and organic?

Group agreed to focus on:

How to reduce the **yield gap within organic farming**, bring organic farms at the best organic practices?

Higher yields - sustainable yields, many factors must be considered, e.g. crop quality, maintenance of ecosystem services



5 main factors may negatively affect the yield:

1. Inadequate nutrients supply
2. Poor soil fertility management
3. Insufficient weed management
4. Pest and disease pressure
5. Variety choice

State of the art knowledge, experiences and proposed solutions and research needs (regional/national/EU level) are given in mini-papers, all materials on EIP-AGRI website (as soon as possible)



Zooming into the system

1. inadequate nutrients supply

What's the problem?

- Long term investment
- Slow release
- High costs

What is done?

- More legumes (cash and catch)
- Innovative mixed-farming systems
- Organic fertilizers (€!)



Zooming into the system

1. inadequate nutrients supply

What can be done

- Increase knowledge (on soil, on tools, on crops etc.)
- Breeding for leguminous crops
- Cheap alternative sources of nutrients
- Better use of manure
- More mixed-farming at landscape level



Zooming into the system

3. insufficient weed management

What's the problem?

- No “direct” immediate tools
- Crop rotation vs market pressure
- Agro-ecology vs specialization
- Innovative solutions are expensive

What is done?

- Many good experiences in system management, mechanical and physical tools

Zooming into the system

3. insufficient weed management

What can be done

- Improve machinery (also from other systems i.e. no-till)
- Breeding for competitiveness
- Organic herbicides?



Horizontal challenges important for productivity today and tomorrow

1. Knowledge sharing
2. Systems approach
3. Adapting capacity of production systems – robust systems
4. Goal conflicts – cropping system diversity and resilience vs shortterm economic returns



Ongoing activities of FG Organic

- From mapping (mini-papers) to proposals for action, **recommendations of operational groups**, demonstration activities, training and knowledge sharing
- Sharing of **examples of successful activities** for 'closing the yield gap', e.g. stakeholder groups, knowledge sharing activities with researchers-practitioners
- Refine **recommendations**
- Comprehensive web **documentation**



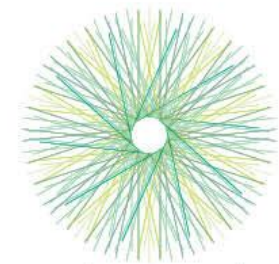
FG:s setting up valuable platforms for knowledge sharing and cooperation

FG Organic – gathered knowledge and experience that will be an important platform for memberstates forming Operational Groups to solve key problems in organic systems, what to give priority

Also a platform for future cooperation across national borders

Memberstates funding priorities?





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**Time to prepare initiatives
on regional/national and EU-
level!**

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