



AGRI RESEARCH FACTSHEET

UNDERSTANDING DYNAMICS AND MODERNISING POLICIES

Why do research and innovation on rural and farming policy matter?

Rural areas across the EU have undergone and are still undergoing profound changes, including the transition from economies focusing on the primary sector towards more diverse economies where industries and services play an increasing or even dominant role. In many areas, new activities are flourishing, including tourism, small-scale and niche manufacturing, food production and business services. Digital developments also offer a wide range of new business and networking opportunities. At the same time, many rural territories are facing demographic and social decline that endangers the delivery of vital ecosystem services. While economic diversification away from primary production was an important objective of

rural policies for decades, the food security agenda – including concerns over generation renewal in farming – and the increasing demand for biomass for bio-based applications generate renewed interest towards primary production. This new interest needs to accommodate stakeholder concerns over the capacity of rural areas to cater sustainably for all these needs while sustaining a high level of delivery of environmental and social benefits to society in a context of urbanisation and climate change. Evidence and knowledge are an essential input into the design of modern policies that will help rural communities and businesses overcome these challenges, using the most appropriate instruments and governance approaches.

Rural policy under Horizon 2020 Societal challenge 2



23

Projects or expected grants



107 M€

EU contribution 2014-2020



262

Participations in selected projects

Key themes

Food and nutrition security policies
Social innovation – Business models
Rural-urban relations – Generation renewal – Foresights – Modelling – Rural policies

Rural policy under EIP-AGRI activities

Focus group: New entrants into farming

bit.ly/2pX9hwP

Workshop: Cities and Food – Connecting Consumers and Producers

bit.ly/2pSKetP

Seminar: Data revolution: emerging new business models in the agri-food sector

bit.ly/2pTPf5o

SC2 Collaborative Projects - Farming and food and nutrition security policies

SUSFANS

www.susfans.eu

Total cost: 5,3 M€

EC contribution: 5 M€

Coordinator: WUR

Apr. 2015 -Mar 2019

SUSFANS aims at identifying how nutritional health and food production policies can be better aligned to deliver more sustainable production and consumption. It will provide tools for assessing the implications of the current diet for the sustainability of production and consumption in the EU, and the options for the EU agri-food sector to improve future diets in the near and long-term future.

PROintensAFRICA

www.intensafrica.org

Total cost: 1,7 M€

EC contribution: 1 M€

Coordinator: WUR

Apr. 2015- Mar. 2017

PROIntensAfrica developed an outline for a long-term research and innovation partnership between Europe and Africa, with the final aim to improve food and nutrition security and the livelihoods of African farmers. It explored the value for both continents of new partnership activities, described the scientific and innovation domains needing further research and suggested financial and governance structures that can adequately support the partnership.

SUFISA

www.sufisa.eu

Total cost: 4,8 M€

EC contribution: 4,8 M€

Coordinator: KU Leuven

May 2015 – Apr. 2019

SUFISA aims to identify practices and policies that support the sustainability of farming and fisheries in a context of complex policy requirements, market imperfections and uncertainties and globalisation. It will combine knowledge on market conditions and driving forces and propose scenarios supporting greater sustainability

SALSA

www.salsa.uevora.pt

Total cost: 4,9 M€

EC contribution: 4,9 M€

Coordinator: Univ. Evora

Apr. 2016 – Mar. 2020

SALSA aims to provide a better understanding of the current and potential contribution of small farms and food businesses to sustainable food and nutrition security. It uses a food systems perspective to look beyond production capacity and investigate food security in terms of availability of nutritious and safe food, food access and control (inc. affordability), food utilisation, and food stability.

SURE-FARM

surefarmproject.eu

Total cost: 4,9 M€

EC contribution: 4,9 M€

Coordinator: WUR

Jun. 2017-May 2021

SURE-Farm aims to analyze, assess and improve the resilience and sustainability of farms and farming systems in the EU. It will create scenarios and a novel resilience-enabling analytical framework. It will develop a set of advanced risk assessment and management tools as well as an improved demographic assessment model and a resilience assessment tool for policies.

SUPREMA

www.suprema-project.eu

Total cost: 1 M€

EC contribution: 1 M€

Coordinator: WUR

Jan. 2018 – Jun. 2020

Impact assessments in the areas of agriculture are partly based on projections delivered by models. With sectoral policies becoming more and more interrelated, models need to be upgraded and better interconnected. SUPREMA will address this challenge by exploring and testing future directions to be taken in modelling and by setting-up a meta-platform supporting modelling groups.

SC2 Collaborative Projects - Understanding dynamics and modernising rural policies

<p>SIMRA www.simra-h2020.eu Total cost: 5.9 M€ EC contribution: 5.6 M€ Coordinator: James Hutton Institute Apr. 2016 – Mar. 2020</p>	<p>SIMRA aims to improve the understanding of social innovation and innovative governance in agriculture, forestry and rural development. It looks at how to boost them, particularly in marginalised rural areas across Europe, with a focus on the Mediterranean region where there is limited evidence of outcomes and supporting conditions.</p>
<p>ROBUST www.rural-urban.eu Total cost: 6 M€ EC contribution: 6 M€ Coordinator: WUR Jun. 2017 – May 2021</p>	<p>ROBUST will advance our understanding of the interactions and dependencies between rural, peri-urban and urban areas and identify and promote policies, governance models and practices that foster mutually beneficial relations. Improved governance arrangements and synergies will contribute to Europe's smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, maximising the creation of rural jobs and value-added.</p>
<p>SiEUGreen bit.ly/2HPsffj Total cost: 8,4 M€ EC contribution: 7 M€ Coordinator: NMBU Jan. 2018 – Dec. 2021</p>	<p>SiEUGreen aspires to enhance the EU-China cooperation in promoting urban agriculture for food security, resource efficiency and smart, resilient cities. Building on the model of zero-waste and circular economy, it will demonstrate how technological and societal innovation in urban agriculture can have a positive impact on society and economy.</p>
<p>NEWBIE www.newbie-academy.eu Total cost: 2 M€ EC contribution: 2 M€ Coordinator: WUR Jan. 2018 – Dec. 2021</p>	<p>NEWBIE will facilitate the development and dissemination of new business models, including new ways to enter into farming, to a full range of new entrants going from successors to complete newcomers to the agricultural sector. It will establish networks supporting new entrants, disseminate innovative business models developed by them and seek to integrate these models into research and education.</p>

Activities related to **Public goods, Sustainable value chains, digital revolution and knowledge and innovation systems** are also relevant for rural policies.

Interesting activities under other Horizon 2020 sections

Six projects funded under **Marie-Skłodowska Curie Actions** worth almost 5M€ of additional EU contribution are also relevant, including for example:

- The Research and innovation staff exchange on social innovation in rural areas "**RURINNO**": <http://rural-innovations.net/> (225.000€ - Feb 2016 to Mar 2018)
- The Innovative training network "**RURACTION**" on social entrepreneurship in structurally weak regions: <http://ruraction.eu/> (2,5 M€ - Jan. 2016 to Nov. 2020)

Projects informing policy-making are also funded under the "**Inclusive societies**" challenge of Horizon 2020, such as "IMAJINE", which seeks to address spatial justice and territorial inequalities: <http://imajine-project.eu/> (2,7 M€ - Jan. 2017 to Dec. 2021).

In the pipeline – 11 projects to start under 2017 and 2018 SC2 calls (54 M€)

Synergies between land-based and sea-based activities	(1 project, 5M€)
Business models for modern rural economies	(2 projects, 8 M€)
Integrated digital land-use decision support systems	(1 project, 7 M€)
Rural society-science-policy hub	(1 project, 5 M€)
Renewing rural generations, jobs and farms	(2 projects, 12 M€)
Socio-economic impacts of digitisation of agriculture and rural areas	(1 project, 5 M€)
Analytical tools and models supporting farming and food related policies	(3 projects, 12 M€)

Funding opportunities - Open SC2 calls for 2019 (11 M€)

RUR-01-2018-2019 – Building modern rural policies on long-term visions and societal engagement	
C - (2019) Building resilient mountain value chains delivering private and public goods	(1 project, 6 M€)
RUR-04-2018-2019 - Analytical tools and models to support policies related to agricultural and food	
B - (2019) Modelling international trade in agri-food products	(1 project, 5 M€)

Rural R&I and rural policy

Rural research and innovation activities supporting policy makers were developed in close alignment with the rural policy objectives pursued by the current Common agricultural policy, with the Cork 2.0 declaration “A better life in rural areas” and with the objectives foreseen for the future as laid out in the European Commission’s Communication on the fu-

ture of food and farming. They also support the EU Action on Smart villages. Finally, they contribute to a mutually beneficial dialogue with European Rural Networks, benefitting from their activities as much as they feed into them.

More info: <https://enrd.ec.europa.eu>



Cork 2.0 Declaration



EU action for smart villages

