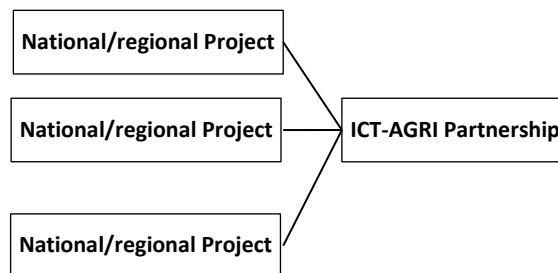


ICT-AGRI Partnerships

The purpose of ICT-AGRI Partnerships is to generate added European and international value from national or regional funded projects. Partnerships are intended to increase the compatibility and adaptability of Smart Applications to local farming conditions as well as local Farm Management Systems (FMS). The overarching goal is to promote uptake of Precision Farming and sustainable agriculture.



ICT support to European farmers is spread over a large number of FMS operators including extension and advisory services, software companies, public services, manufacturers and food chains. The compatibility between ICT products from different operators is generally low. The capabilities and incentives concerning development of new applications are generally weak. The result is a slow adoption of the rapidly emerging technologies within sensors and robotics. These technologies are rather picked up by innovative SMEs and research groups creating Smart Applications. The value for farmers of the Smart Applications depends however on compatibility with farm data organised and maintained by a FMS.

A possible way out of this dilemma is Smart Applications that can be easily implemented in existing FMS. The suppliers of Smart Applications will benefit from distribution through existing FMS by access to farm data and by savings on marketing and customer relations. The uptake by farmers can be expected to increase when a Smart Application is embedded in a FMS known by the farmer. Issues concerning data security and data ownership can be handled by the usual procedures of the FMS.

ICT-AGRI Partnerships will encourage the development and exploitation of third party adaptive Smart Applications. The implementation of a Smart Application into a FMS will usually require exchange of data between them. It will be an advantage if data exchange models comply to common rules. ICT-AGRI partnerships are therefore requested to share information about data exchange (protocols, standards, data schemes, ontologies, practical experiences, etc.) in the ICT-AGRI website. Partnerships may voluntarily share information about e.g. algorithms and internal data structures.

The eligible topics of ICT-AGRI Partnerships range from prototype development to implementation of commercial Smart Applications. Topics concerning methodologies for integration of Smart Applications and FMS are also eligible.

The ICT-AGRI Partnerships are established interactively in the ICT-AGRI website:

- Projects can seek partners and offer to be partner in a matchmaking tool
- Groups of projects can create and submit applications for partnerships
- Submitted applications are reviewed online by independent experts
- Funding agencies can allow or deny funded projects to enter partnerships

The projects in a partnership may be funded prior to the partnership application or may use the partnership application when seeking funding from a national or regional funding agency. Projects based on own funding or EU funding may also participate. Partners from at least three countries or autonomous regions are normally required. Partnerships with only two partners can be allowed when the partnership provides good reasons for this. Partnerships may include projects from countries not represented in ICT-AGRI, hereunder non-European countries.

Any Funding Agency can participate in ICT-AGRI Partnerships given it allows funded projects to join an ICT-AGRI Partnership, hereunder non-European countries. Funding Agencies may participate with projects funded by a regular funding programme or by a programme dedicated to ICT-AGRI Partnerships. It is expected that Funding Agencies inform about the possibility of joining ICT-AGRI Partnership.