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The <u>European Innovation Partnership on Agriculture and Sustainability EIP-AGRI</u> is about to start a new <u>Focus Group</u> on "**Moving from source to sink in arable farming**" where 20 experts will gather to try and answer the main question of the Focus Group:

Which cost effective farm management practices and tools could foster and ensure long lasting carbon storage in arable farming contributing to climate change mitigation?

The call for experts is now open and we are looking for farmers, scientists, farm advisors, people from agribusiness or anybody who could contribute with their expertise and experience.

Are you one of the experts we are looking for?

Joining an EIP-AGRI Focus Group allows you to share your knowledge and to learn from peers. It may also help broaden your professional European network, and form the start of a new cooperation.

The debates between the selected experts will take place over two meetings which are to be held within the period of a year. During the meetings they will share knowledge and experience. Each group explores practical innovative solutions to problems or opportunities, and draws on experiences derived from related useful projects. **The first meeting is set for 28-29 or 29-30 November 2017.**

Read the call text for this new Focus Group and submit your application by 6 September 2017 23:59 CET.

Or do you know others who might be?

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Background information

Three new Focus Group themes

For the current call, experts, including farmers, advisers, researchers and others are invited to apply for participation in focus groups on the following topics:

- Moving from source to sink in arable farming
- Circular Horticulture
- Enhancing production and use of renewable energy on the farm

All Focus Groups will be required to:

- make a summary description of the issue
- take stock of the state of the art of practice in the field of its activity, listing problems and opportunities.
- take stock of the state of the art of research in its field, summarising possible solutions to the problems listed.
- identify needs from practice and propose directions for further research.
- propose priorities for innovative actions by suggesting potential practical operational groups or other project formats to test solutions and opportunities, including ways to disseminate the practical knowledge gathered.

The outcome of the Focus Group will be presented in a report and feed into the EIP-AGRI network which will share the knowledge and practical experience with the wider public as well as with relevant programming authorities.

All Focus Groups will be organised and carried out in English, and members will participate in two face-to-face meetings.

More information on the Focus Groups can be found here:

- webpage on EIP-AGRI Focus Groups
- <u>brochure on EIP-AGRI Focus Groups</u> (available in English, Estonian, Finnish, French, Italian, Romanian, Spanish)

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About EIP-AGRI

The European Innovation Partnership "Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability" aims to provide a working interface for innovation actors, including farmers, advisors, agri-business, civil society, and researchers, working at EU, national and regional level. The partnership aims to act as a catalyst for innovation-related actions to foster enhanced productivity and sustainable resource management across the whole value chain. In line with this, the European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, requested the EIP-AGRI Service Point to set up Focus Groups on specific agricultural topics to facilitate innovative actions in the field and better connect science and practice.

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