



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (ISIB-2015-1 programme) under grant agreement No 696364

## **FINAL PROJECT CONFERENCE**

### **Sustainable Organic and Low Input Dairying**

# **'EuroDairy' - H2020 thematic network in support of dairy farming**

**Ray Keatinge, AHDB Dairy**

# Post-quota challenges common to EU dairy farmers

- Long-term price volatility
- Maintaining relative competitiveness
- Dealing with environmental regulation
- Increased societal scrutiny of animal production
- Achieving an acceptable quality of life for farmers & families
- Industry development - infrastructure, land mobility, succession

No soft landing



# European Cattle Innovation Partnership

Collaboration of levy bodies & farmer organisations

France, Netherlands, GB, Republic of Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Northern Ireland, Israel

## Mission

Improve co-ordination between partners in applied R&D

Closer collaboration, to:-

Better exploit the results of existing research

Avoid duplication in commissioning new research

Improve value for money in R&D spend

Increase impact & uptake by farmers

Actively engage in EU initiatives under Horizon 2020



# ECIP activity

- Inventory of 200, mainly levy-funded, projects
- Eight collaborative themes
  1. Nutrient efficiency (S)
  2. Grass and forage (NI)
  3. Feed efficiency (D)
  4. Business tools (I)
  5. Animal welfare (NL)
  6. Environment (RoI)
  7. Biodiversity (F)
  8. Reducing vet inputs (Isr)
- Strategic insight e.g. P management in dairy systems
- Progressing to co-fund/parallel fund projects
- Key player in a successful application for new EU funded project ('EuroDairy')

# Background to Horizon 2020

- 'Europe 2020'

Strategy sets out key role for research & innovation in preparing the EU for sustainable agriculture & rural development

Approx. €4.5 billion for research & innovation in food security, bio economy & sustainable agriculture

- Flagship initiative 'Innovation Union'

Concept of European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) to foster innovation

# Aims of the European Innovation Partnership (agriculture & forestry)

- Efficient, productive, environmentally friendly ag.
- Steady supply of food, feed and biofuels
- Improved processes to preserve the environment, adapted to climate change & climate change mitigation
- Building bridges between research and farmers, business and advisory services
- Underpin more interactive, multi-actor approach to development & diffusion of innovation

# EU definitions

## Innovation

'... successful implementation of a technique, tool or technology previously unknown on that farm or region....'

## 'Operational Group'

'Multi-actor' group focussed on a particular problem, constraint or opportunity

Combining scientific and practice based knowledge

Developing and innovating to produce implementable solutions

Which can be demonstrated & shared more widely

# The 'Operational Group' model

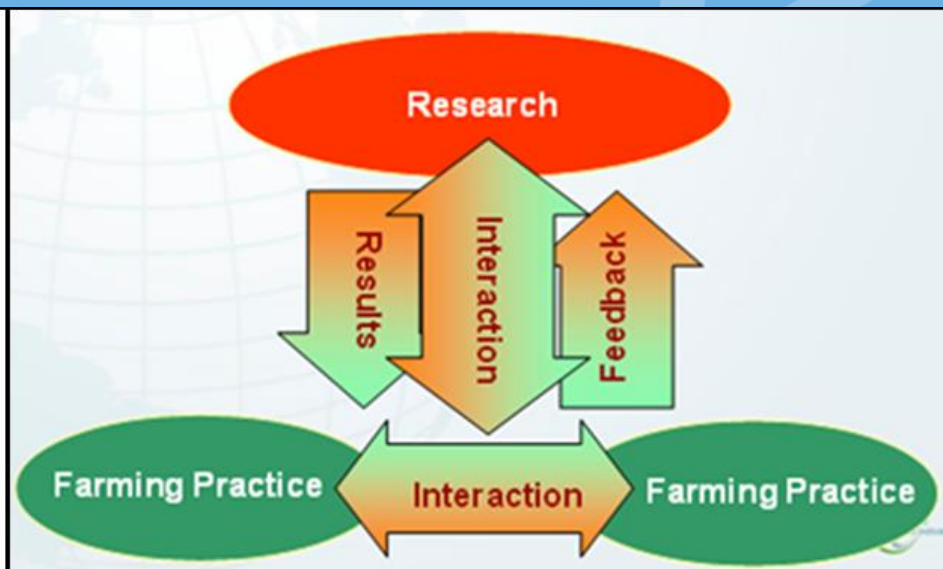
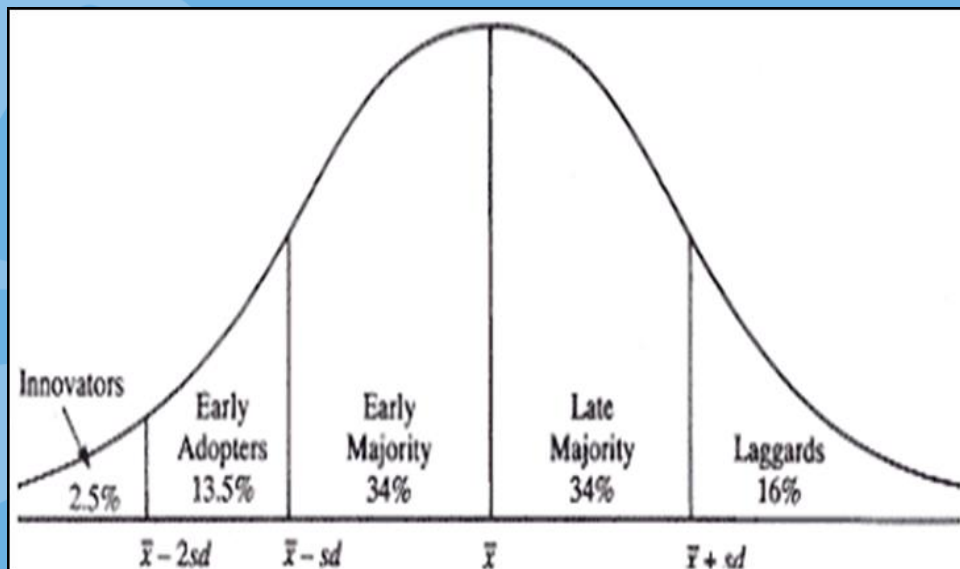
- Multi-actor, bottom-up approach, demonstrating integration of measures
- Generic structure
- Funding mechanisms



# Twin track approach to increasing productivity

More rapid update of best practice

More practice-based innovation



# Thematic Networks link Regional Operational Groups

*Regional  
Multi actor  
OG  
e.g. UK*

*Regional  
Multi actor  
OG  
e.g. Fr*

*Regional  
Multi actor  
OG  
e.g. NL*

*Regional  
Multi actor  
OG  
e.g. S*

**H2020 Thematic Network project**

# EuroDairy – H2020 Thematic Network (February 2016 – January 2019)



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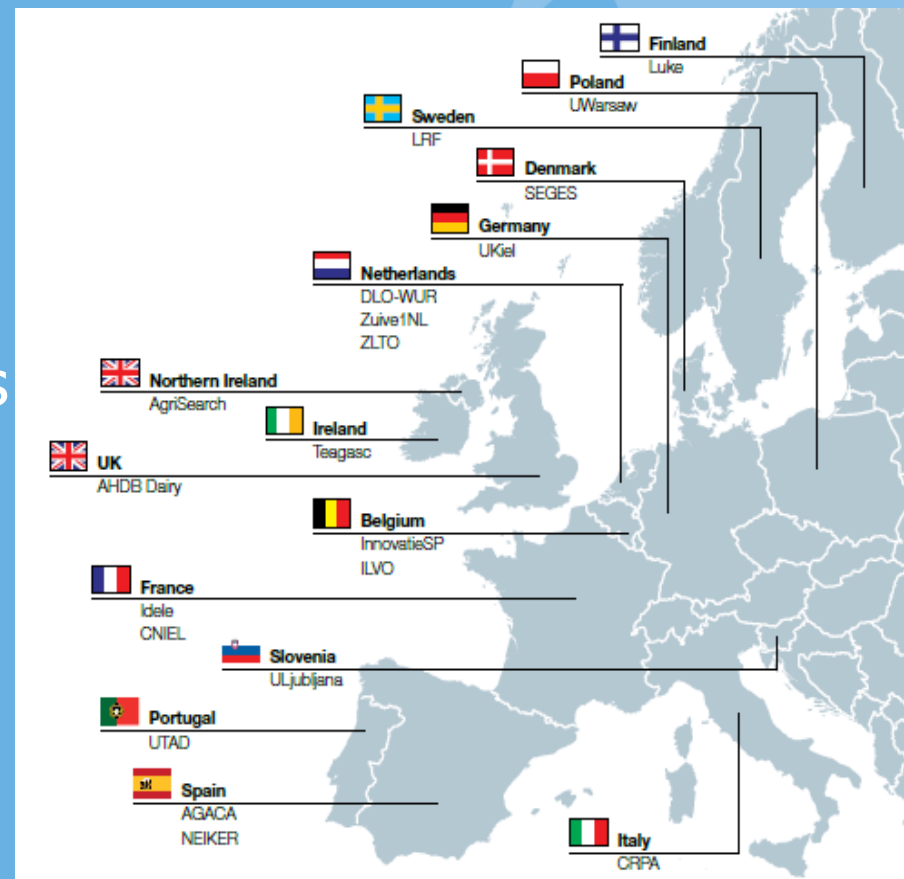
[www.eurodairy.eu](http://www.eurodairy.eu)

# EuroDairy objectives

- Key objectives
  - Improve the economic, social & environmental sustainability of European dairy farming, by
  - Promoting best practice and the adoption of practice-based innovation, and
  - Sharing that knowledge across the network
- Sub-objectives
  - Identify end-user requirements for further R&D
  - Collaborate with other H2020 projects – e.g. Hennovation, AgriSPIN
  - (Demonstrate effectiveness of EIP model)

# EuroDairy - who is involved

- 14 states, 20 project partners
- Covering:-
  - 40% of EU dairy farmers
  - 45% of EU dairy cows
  - 60% of EU milk output
- Mature & developing regions
- Supported by:-
  - European Dairy Farmers
  - Copa-Cogeca
  - European Cattle Innovation Partnership
  - European Grassland Federation

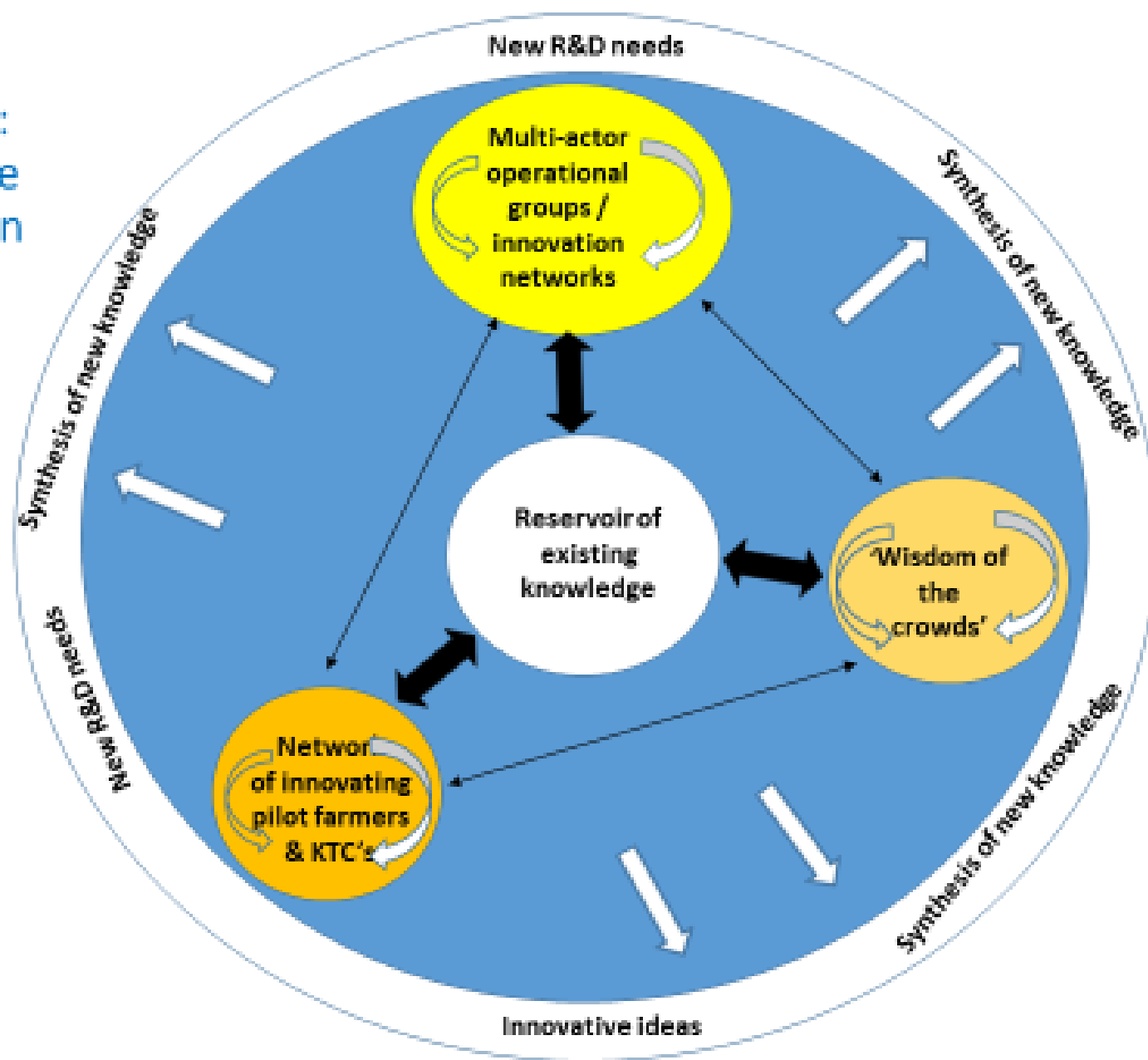


# EuroDairy will encompass

- 40+ operational groups
- 120+ innovating Pilot Farmers
- Four broad technical areas
  - Resource efficiency
  - Animal care
  - Socio-economic resilience
  - Biodiversity
- Economic costing using EDF methodology
- Schedule of seminars, meetings and workshops
- Farmer exchanges
- Programme of case studies, videos, webinars, interactive website



# EuroDairy: Knowledge Generation



# Structure of project

Work Package	Lead	Contact
Coordination	AHDB Dairy	Ray Keatinge
Network of Innovating Pilot Farmers & KTC's	IDELE	Valerie Brocard
Resource efficiency	SEGES	Thomas Anderson
Animal care	ZuivelNL	Willem Koops
Biodiversity	CNIEL	Sophie Bertrand
Socio-economic resilience	Innovatiesteunpunt	Stijn Bossin
Synergies and trade-offs	CRPA	Alberto Menghi
Communication	ZLTO	Mark de Jong

# Farmers at the core

## Network of Pilot farmers and OG's

- Establish a network of innovating pilot farmers
- Benchmark current levels of farm performance
- Establish multi-actor operational groups whose activities can be linked to innovating pilot farmers
- Connect innovating farmers to share knowledge and experience



# Farmers at the core

## Technical work packages

- Direction and technical leadership
- Agreement on methodology
- Knowledge exchange 'events'
- Quality assurance of outputs
- Exploitation and communication



# Farmers at the core

## Pilot farms

- Operating close to the frontiers of efficiency
- But some progress to make along a developmental path
- Innovative in spirit and action
- Open, willing to share physical and financial results
- Good communicators, willing to engage with other farmers
- Available to commit to demonstration and dissemination activity

# Cross border vs Regional funding

- Thematic Network will fund cross border KE
- Regional/local funding will be required for OG's
- OG's linking to EuroDairy can be existing, or new

<b>French Region</b>	<b>Preference for operational groups</b>	
Rhône Alpes	1 - Socio economic resilience	
Nord Picardie	1 - Socio economic resilience	
Normandie	1- Efficient use of ressources 2- antibiotics	
Pays de la Loire	1 - Socio economic resilience (innovative buildings)	
Bretagne	1- Efficient use of ressources	

# Summary and conclusions

- EuroDairy embraces new Thematic network under the EIP
- Emphasises bottom-up approach in generating and exploiting knowledge
- Cannot not solve all problems in the dairy sector
- But can accelerate progress by identifying specific implementable innovations & demonstrating the impact of best practice
- EuroDairy partners now active in the regions stimulating OG activity under relevant themes

# Summary and conclusions

- Regionally funded OG bring challenges and opportunities
- Outputs will be amplified by project partners
- Scope to pick up and further exploit best practice and innovation developed by SOLID
- Further lease of life for participatory activity in the regions
- Other legacy opportunities ?