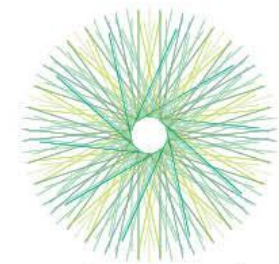


# The European Innovation Partnership (E.I.P.) "Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability" EIP-AGRI and the Service Point

Soil Platform Meeting, 24-25 th September – (Mission Greece)  
*Benaki Phytopathological Institute, Kifissia, Athens, Greece*



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# EIP-AGRI: context

- The EIP-AGRI has been established by the European Commission's **Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development** within the framework of **Europe 2020 Strategy**
- Europe 2020 flagship – EIP as a **tool to foster innovation**
- Innovation as a key element to prepare EU for **future challenges**
- Innovation on technological, non-technological, organisational or social **perspectives**, based on new or traditional **practices**

# EIP-AGRI: aims and objective

- Aims:
  - Foster a competitive and sustainable agriculture and forestry sector,
  - achieve “more and better from less”,
  - work in harmony with the environment,
  - and ensure a steady supply of food, feed and biomaterials, in harmony with natural resources
- Main objective - **bridging the gap** between research and farming practice, focussing on real, existing issues and research needs from the field



# EIP-AGRI: areas

- Increased agricultural productivity, output and resource efficiency.
- Innovation in support of the bio-based economy.
- Biodiversity, ecosystem services and soil functionality.
- Innovative products and services for the integrated supply chain.
- Food quality, food safety and healthy lifestyles

(indicative priority areas; content and other issues will emerge bottom up)

# EIP-AGRI: approach

- The EIP-AGRI will provide a working interface to facilitate **communication** on innovation and **sharing of knowledge** across Europe between agriculture, bio-economy, science and other players at all levels: **EU, national and regional**.
- It acts based on an “**interactive innovation model**”:
  - Focused on forming partnerships
  - Using bottom-up approaches
  - Link farmers, researchers, advisors, businesses, NGOs and other actors in a network → The EIP Network

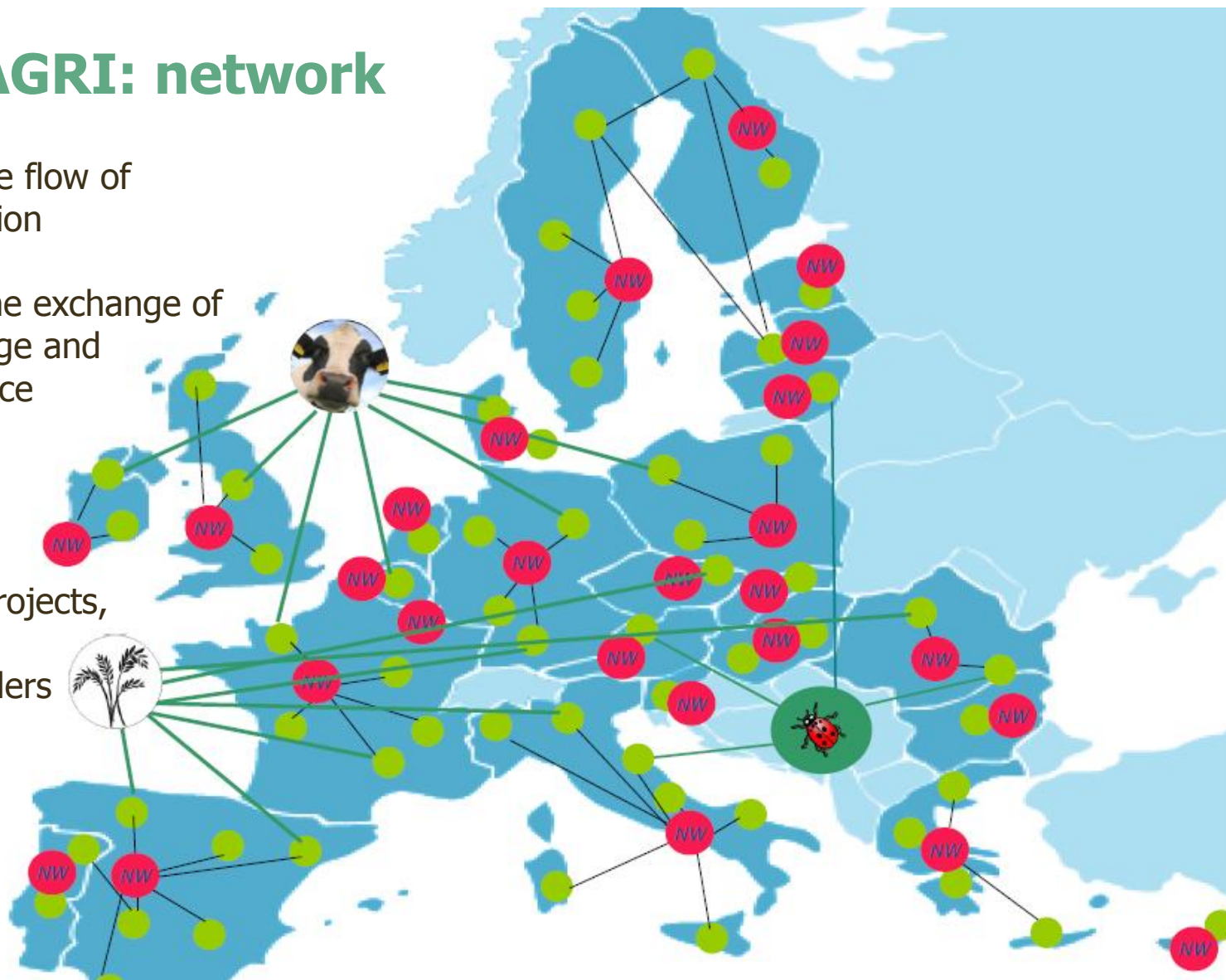


# EIP-AGRI: network

Boost the flow of information

Foster the exchange of knowledge and experience

across projects, sectors and borders



# EIP-AGRI: who's who

- **High Level Steering Board** – establishes general orientations and gives strategic advice; brings together 42 members, including MS representatives at ministerial level, farm and forestry organisations, environmental and consumer organisations, advisory services, agri-business and scientists
- Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (**DG AGRI**) – Unit H.1: Environment, Genetic Resources and European Innovation Partnership
- **Service Point** (internacional consortium)
- **Operational Groups** (key acting entities)

# EIP-AGRI: Service Point

- Established by the European Commission's Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development in April 2013
- Aimed to act as a **MEDIATOR** in enhancing communication and cooperation between all innovation actors
- Constituted by a **TEAM** of people from different nationalities, covering a wide range of expertise
- Headquartered in Brussels

**The EIP AGRI Service Point acts as a mediator in enhancing communication and cooperation between all innovation actors, including farmers, advisors, agri-business, civil society, and researchers, working at EU, national and regional level**



# EIP-AGRI: Service Point tasks

## Sharing knowledge

- Promote a flow of information and exchange of knowledge, interact with different actors, collect relevant information such as policy measures, research activities, funding opportunities, lessons learned from practice-oriented projects, other agricultural initiatives in the EU
- Actions: organise events (seminars, workshops), involve actors using multiple communication channels (publications, newsletter, website, database, etc.)

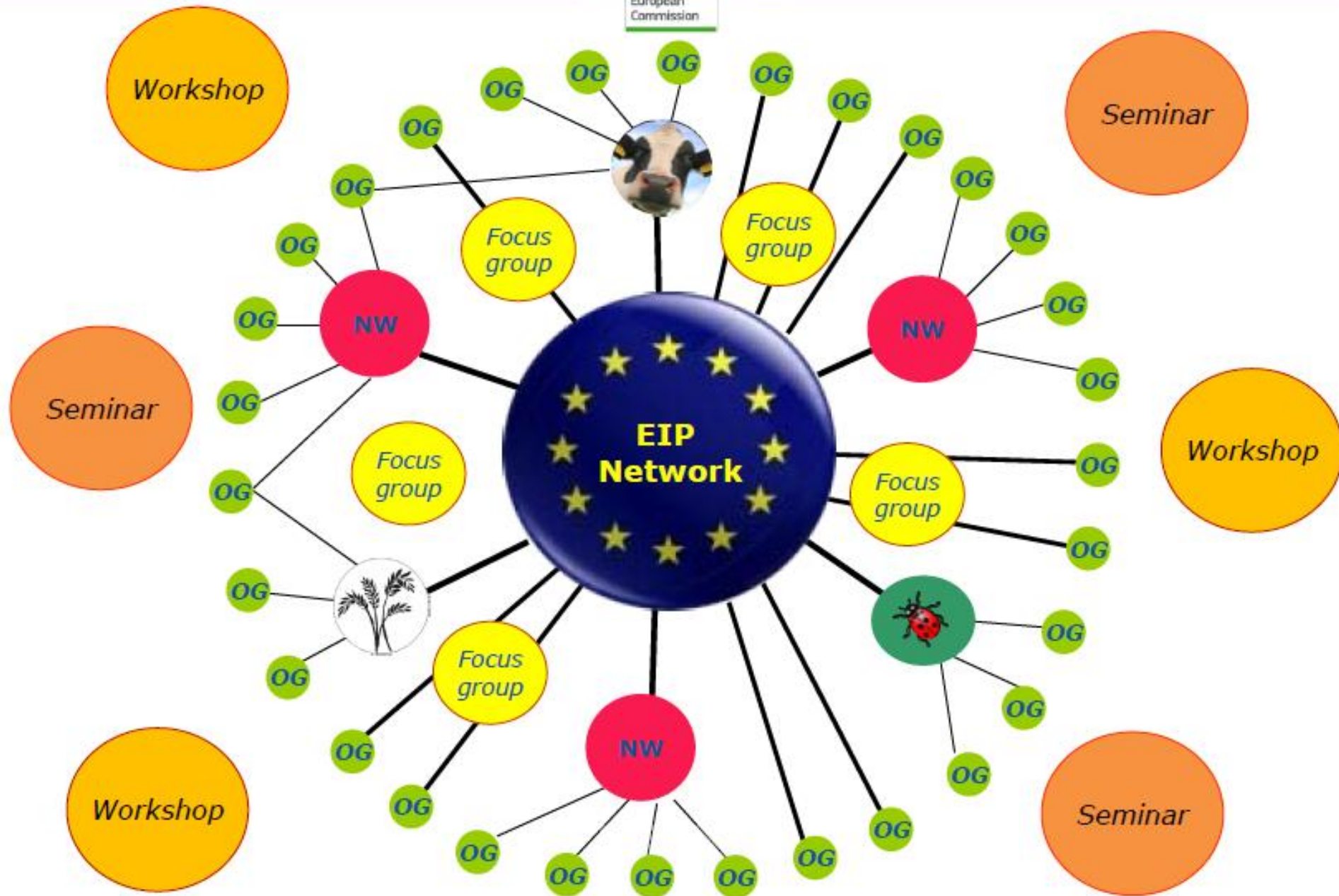
## Tackling challenges

- Facilitate knowledge sharing and search for innovative solutions to address key challenges, collect and give feedback on research needs from practice
- Actions: promote and facilitate the set up of Focus Groups on key issues, report and disseminate relevant findings

## Connecting people

- Involve all types of key players that are agriculture-related and relevant to trigger the innovation process
- Actions: promote and facilitate seminars, workshops, organise Focus Groups, use social media and other means of communication

# EIP-AGRI: S-P facilitates



# EIP-AGRI: Service Point main activities

## SO FAR

- Set up the facility team and the Service Point
- Seminar in June, Madrid
- 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter
- **Focus Groups (3 + 3)**

## IN PREPARATION

- Seminar in November, Germany
- Database (relevant initiatives)
- Website
- Other publications



# EIP-AGRI: Focus Group (I)

## WHAT IS

- Temporary group
- selected experts
- focusing on a specific subject
- formulated by DG AGRI
- integrated: scientists, farmers, consumers, NGOs...

## OBJECTIVES

- State of the art of practice, listing problems & opp.
- State of art of research & possible solutions
- Needs from practice & propose directions research
- Propose priorities for innovative actions (O.G.)





# EIP-AGRI: Focus Group (II)

## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

- From 17th september to 6th october
- Application procedure: On-line application
- Search experts for participating
  - With relevant technical knowledge
  - Or experience economic situation
  - Or experience in practical research

## FOCUS GROUP THEMES

- Genetic resources: co-operation models
- Soil organic matter content: Mediterranean region
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM): Brassica sp.



# SERVICE-POINT: CONTACT

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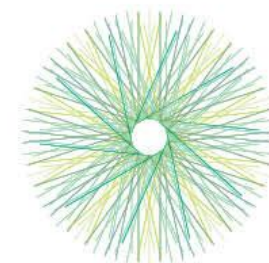
<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/eip/>





**Thank you for your attention!**  
**See you at the Focus Groups ! !**

**Athens, 24-25th September – SOIL PLATFORM MEETING**



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