

Copa-Cogeca – WssTP Workshop “Innovative agricultural water management”

Date: 20th March 2013, 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Location: Copa-Cogeca offices, rue de Trèves 61, 1040 Brussels

Language: English

The workshop is jointly organised by WssTP, the Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform and Copa-Cogeca, representing European farmers and their agri-cooperatives.

Workshop objectives

The aim of this workshop is to have a broad debate on how to unlock the potential of improved water management in the agricultural sector. It will bring together representatives from the water industry, science and the agricultural sector to share their knowledge on innovative solutions and how to apply them in practice.

The main objective is to share recent technological developments and new management tools with participants, which can enable farmers to further improve water management in agriculture. This will lead to a more efficient use of water and contribute to achieving a good ecological status for European water bodies.

In particular, the event will provide an opportunity to conclude an expression of commitment to form an Action Group on “Water & Irrigated agriculture Resilient Europe (WIRE)” under the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Water. This will bring together existing expertise and identify opportunities to work together for the benefit of the farming community and water industries.

Background

In the EC Communication “A Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources” (COM(2012)673) published on 14th November 2013, it is stated that the EU will pay particular attention to the allocation and use of water in economic sectors, sustainable agriculture and the nexus water-agriculture-energy-environment. The Blueprint contains a number of proposals for actions aiming to fulfil the Water Framework Directive objective of achieving a good status for all surface and ground water in the EU.

For further information see: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/index_en.htm

The intention of the Innovation Partnerships on Water and on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability is to help find solutions to water challenges in the agricultural sector. It is stated that this will both achieve environmental objectives and create market opportunities.

The EIP Water recently adopted the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP), stating that Action Groups will be core to the implementation.

An expression of commitment to form an Action Group must be submitted by 4th April 2013 at the latest.

For further information see:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/innovationpartnership/index_en.htm

Up to 140 participants can attend the workshop. The workshop will be split into two parallel sessions in the afternoon (maximum 90 + 60).

DRAFT PROGRAMME

OPENING

10:00 – 10:20 *Welcoming words*

Mr Pekka Pesonen, Secretary General of Copa-Cogeca

Mr Durk Krol, Director of WssTP

SESSION I **The European Innovation Partnerships and how they can contribute to innovative agricultural water management**

Moderator: **Mr Luis Bulhao Martins**, Chair of the Copa-Cogeca Working Party on the Environment

10:20 – 10:45 *The European Innovation Partnership on Water*

Mr Robert Schröder, DG ENVI, Unit D1 Protection of Water Resources

10:45 – 11:05 *The European Innovation Partnership on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability*

Ms Inge van Oost, DG AGRI, Unit H1 Environment, Genetic Resources and European Innovation Partnership

11:05 – 11:20 Discussion

11:20 -11: 40 Coffee break

SESSION II **Recent EU projects and networking approaches – some insights how successful collaboration could look like**

Moderator: **Mr Antonio Lo Porto**, IRSA, co-leader of the WssTP pilot “Water and Agriculture”

11:40 – 12:00 *The Baltic Deal – various approaches to reduce nutrient losses in the Baltic Sea*

Mr Sindre Langaas, LRF, project manager

12:00 – 12:20 *Approaches to improve the productivity of water use in irrigation*

Mr Adriano Battilani, CER, Copa-Cogeca representative in the EIP Water Task Force

12:20 – 12:40 *An example for public-private innovation in water technology and nutrient recovery*

Mr Anthony Verschoor, Wetsus, scientific project manager

12:40 – 13:30 Discussion

Summary by the moderator

13:30 – 14:30 **Sandwich lunch**

SESSION III Innovation to improve water efficiency in agriculture – contributions for future work within the “WIRE” Action Group

(concurrent with session IV)

Moderator: **Mr Ragab Ragab**, Centre for Ecology & Hydrology

- 14:30 – 14:45 *Effective irrigation devices, improved management & use of alternative water sources*
Mr Bruno Molle, IRSTEA, Board member of the European Irrigation Association, (EIA)
- 14:45 – 15:00 *Water4Crops – combining bio-treated wastewater with enhanced water use efficiency to support the green economy in the EU and India*
Mr Antonio Lopez, IRSA, project coordinator
- 15:00 – 15:15 *Efficient irrigation management at cooperative level – use of a decision support tool for Ecologically Intensive Farming*
Mr Bertrand Pinel, Terrena, R&D Project leader
- 15:15 – 15:30 *Water-Energy Balance at Irrigation Systems*
Mr Mariano Navarro, Head of ICT Unit, TRAGSA Group
- 15:30 – 15:40 *Achievements in the rice production in view of efficient water management*
Ms Alice Cerutti, rice producer, Young Farmer
- 15:40 – 16:00 Discussion with audience participation to suggest examples for possible action within the future WIRE Action Group
- 16:00 – 16:45 *REFLECTION ON THE DRAFT EXPRESSEION OF COMMITMENT FOR “ WIRE”*
animated by Ms Tania Runge / Mr Adriano Battilani

SESSION IV Innovation to reduce the negative impacts of agriculture on water quality – contributions to the future work of the Agricultural and Water EIPs

(concurrent with session III)

Moderator: **Mr Bjartur Swart**, MWH Global, Business Development Manager

- 14:30 – 14:45 *Integrated water management at farm level. How farmers’ organisations cooperate with science to achieve a profitable, sustainable and resilient food production*
Mr Peter Prins, LTO
- 14:45 – 15:00 *The Danish approach to boost innovation benefitting the farming sector and at the same time water – the cluster project “WATERCAP” and other examples*
Ms Trine Balskilde Stoltenborg, Danish Knowledge Center for Agriculture, industrial and environmental adviser
- 15:15 – 15:30 *Sustainable sewage management- closing the nutrient cycle – the P-REX project*
Mr Christian Kabbe, Kompetenzzentrum Wasser Berlin (KWB)
- 15:30 – 15:45 *Recovery of nutrients for fertilizer production*
Ms Jennifer Bilbao, Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering + Biotechnology
- 15:45 – 16:45 Discussion on the way forward to work within the EIPs, illustrated by additional contributions from the audience

SESSION V Reporting back from sessions III and IV and conclusions

- 16:45 – 17:15 **Feedback from session III** by xy **and from session IV** by Ms Liisa Pietola, MTK

17:15-17:30 **Concluding remarks**

17:30 End of the workshop