

CC Focus Group on Knowledge Transfer & Innovation

Case studies analysis & initial findings

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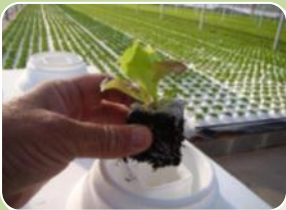
Content outline



FG work and first findings



Initial lessons learned



Possible areas for intervention

The FG work

Phase 1 (Jun – Dec 2012)

2 meetings

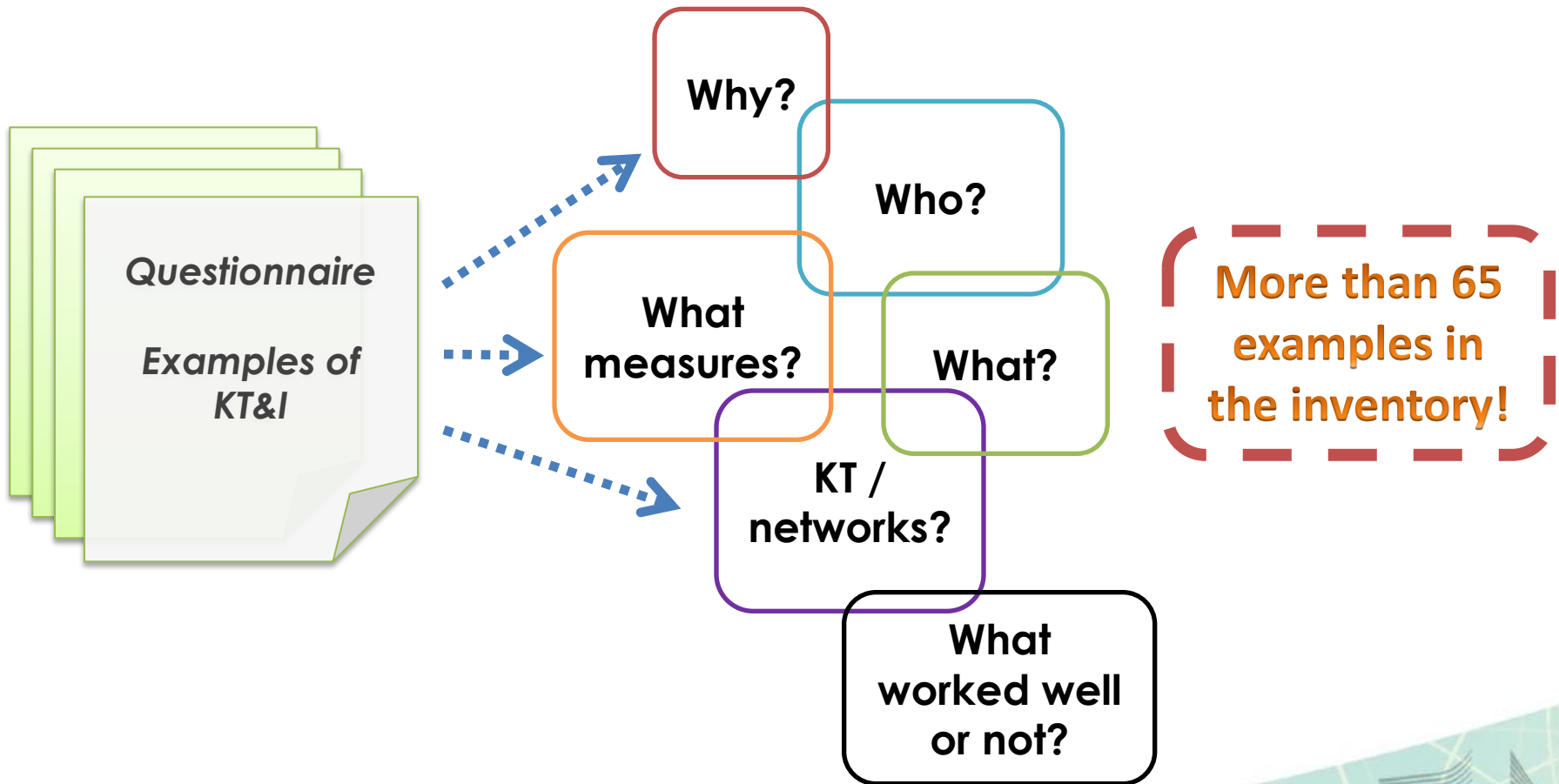
1 webinar

No	MS	FUNDING	Title of case study	A. WHAT / ACTORS		B. WHY / BENEFICIARIES		Benefits from KT	Roles of existing networks / advisory services or NBN	Results
				Type of innovation / Description / Initiator / Actors involved	Problem/Need and/or Opportunity - Beneficiaries	Problem/Need and/or Opportunity - Beneficiaries	Problem/Need and/or Opportunity - Beneficiaries			
1	AT	-	Organic plums	<i>new Process or Practice</i> Description: The aim of the project is the collaboration between marketers, farmers and research institutes to find out what requirements are necessary in order to establish a commercially successful cultivation of organic plums. Initiator: Farmer Actors involved: *Farmer or Producer group or association or Cooperative *Private institution / organization, *Extension / advisory service / business advice, *University or Education Institute or Research center	Problem/Need Strong price pressure in conventional farming Opportunity Increasing demand for organically grown fruit Beneficiaries * Farmers	Problem/Need The project is feasible only through the involvement of all relevant scientific institutions, from experts in the use of beneficial insects and biological pesticides and extension services. Beneficiaries * Farmers	Benefits from KT The consulting service (Chamber of Agriculture) in project coordination and technical advice is crucial. No involvement of local action groups or the national network for rural areas.	Results * Clarification of open questions and plant protection * Creation of a market analysis for fresh products and processed products * The amount of organic groups increased due to the results of the project		
2	BE	Axis 2 -	Agro-environmental cooperatives implementing the project (CCV)	<i>innovative form or organization</i> Description: Farmers agree in groups on common green/blue measures. Agro-environmental cooperatives are formed at the initiative of local farmers. The farmers: * are grouped around landscape, nature or water conservation projects * help determine how the management of an area is undertaken * individually or jointly implement management options Initiator: Farmer's Union Actors involved: * Farmer, * Producer Group, * Business advice, * Press, * Farmers Union	Problem/Need * decline biodiversity * decline of sustainable landscape maintenance * Water availability Opportunity Deliver green/blue services to society Beneficiaries * Farmers * Society	Problem/Need Main tools were partnerships discussions, interactive demonstration events. Knowledge is exchanged between different participants. Events are: * easy interactive, * easy for farmers to follow * bringing closer the realization of the vision for a more sustainable agriculture. Beneficiaries * Farmers * Society	To disseminate the start up of the cooperation, farmers took initiatives by farmer used papers, by farmer advisory groups, by farm business advisors of VLM. This project was disseminated through different existing networks. Exchange Flemish and Dutch farmers (FA project SOLARD) exchanges between Flemish and Dutch farmers were organized to exchange best-practices and knowledge.	Results Group agreement creates services efficiently in the longer term What worked (and well) * It is difficult to convince farmers * Only 10 groups were created * Cooperation vs competition		
3	BE	-	Public Agency for Innovation through Science and Technology (BO3N) + Private funds	<i>innovative form or organization</i> Description: The novelty is the linkage created between research and the sector to better address the companies' knowledge needs. Collaboration between knowledge institutes active in the ornamental plant production sector and a group of companies in this sector. A scientist/technical consultant was hired and employed in one of the institutes. Initiator: According to the logic of the funding scheme the beneficiaries, but in reality the research institutes played an important role. Actors involved: * companies, Universities, * Experimental station, * Consultant specialist.	Problem/Need * fierce competition, * innovations and technological advances are needed to remain competitive * almost impossible for farms to continuously monitor the developments etc. Opportunity Opportunity for a scientist (the technology consultant employed on the project) it was easier to follow the developments and make this knowledge available in an accessible way for the participating companies. Knowledge institutes have also international access to information. Beneficiaries: Farmers	Problem/Need Transfer of new knowledge by researchers to producers Beneficiaries * Farmers	The collective approach of the companies and the interaction between research and production users was the core objective of the initiative.	Results The farms benefited to become very innovative companies What worked (and well) * Contact between the members * Great technological consultant, e.g. to perform visits, profound technical needs of the companies, worth making of scientific character, we did not have a direct link with the knowledge needs * Activity ended when funding stopped		
4	BE	-	Flemish Government (Department of Agriculture and Fisheries)	<i>new Process or Practice</i> <i>innovative form or organization</i> Description: The umbrella and chain organization of the Flemish organic farming and food sector (Bioforum), and a knowledge and innovation centre launched discussion groups between organic farmers in collaboration with a Dutch Institute. Today, there are 6 such organic farmer networks aiming to: * exchange knowledge and	Problem/Need There is a lack of technical assistance and research in the organic sector. Private advisors are not interested to give advice to the organic producers (very specific and challenging knowledge demand and limited commercial possibilities due to the rather limited number of organic farmers)	Problem/Need Knowledge transfer and exchange are at the heart of the objectives of the organic farmer networks. Beneficiaries * Farmers	Benefits from KT The organic farmer networks were initiated and facilitated by existing organizations (Bioforum, Landvinder and Louis Bolk Institute). * There was no direct link with the networks involved in rural development.	Results * Better knowledge and other's experiences * Research (private) advisors and are aware can be applied and adapt their driven research questions are in agriculture. The organic farmer's collation in the search for know		

Background paper

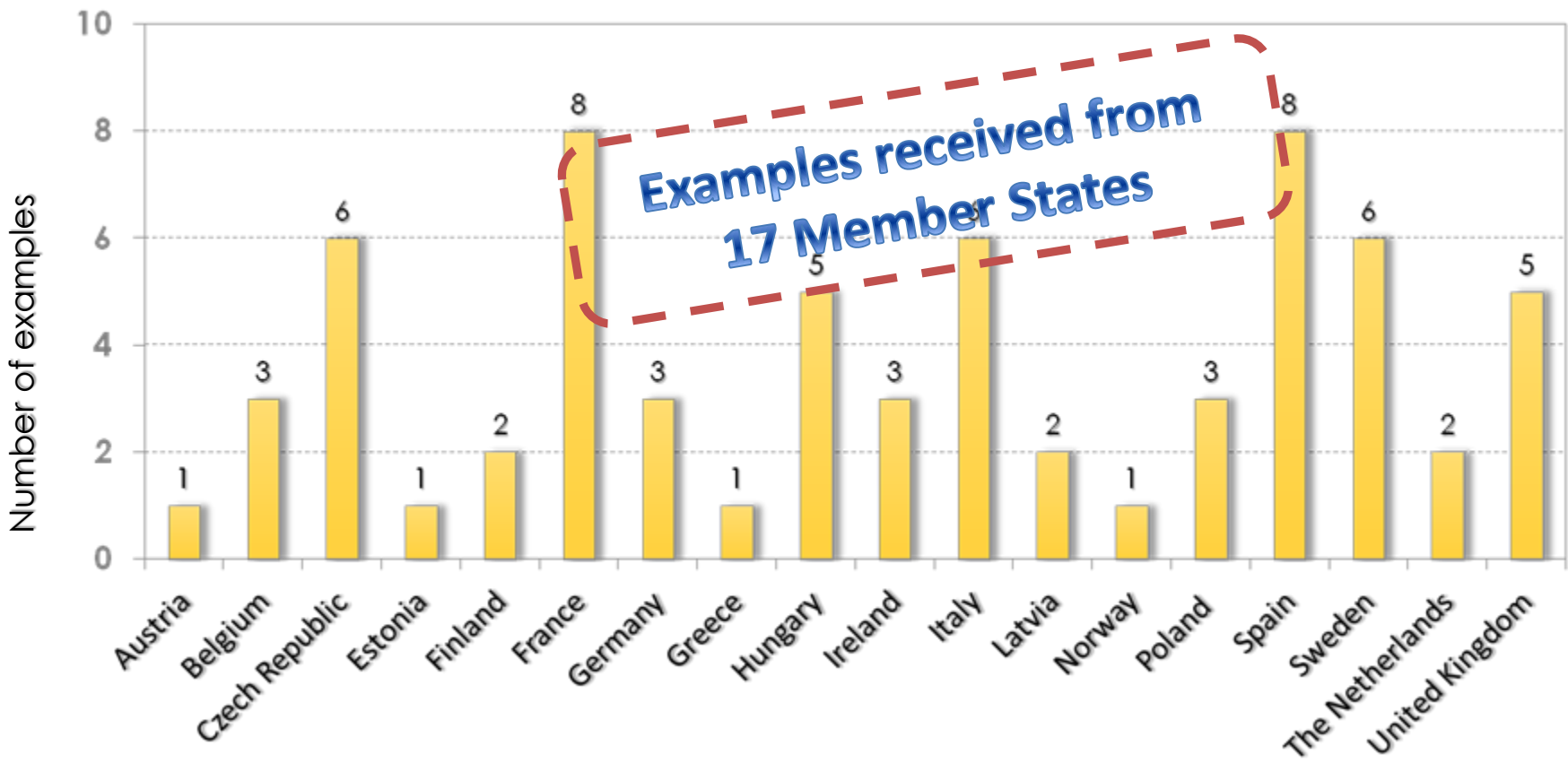
Phase 1 report

Phase 1 methodology



The case studies collected

Geographical coverage



The case studies collected

Measure coverage

Measure	Description	No. examples
Axis 1	Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector	17
M124	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector	14
Axis 2	Improving the environment and the countryside	4
Axis 3	The quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy	5
Axis 4	LEADER	5
TA	National Rural Networks	4
Other	European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund, Leonardo Da Vinci programme, INTERREG programmes, National and regional funds etc.	39

The case studies collected

Focus of the examples



Innovation



Competitiveness
(45 examples)



Environment
(12 examples)



Rural society
(9 examples)

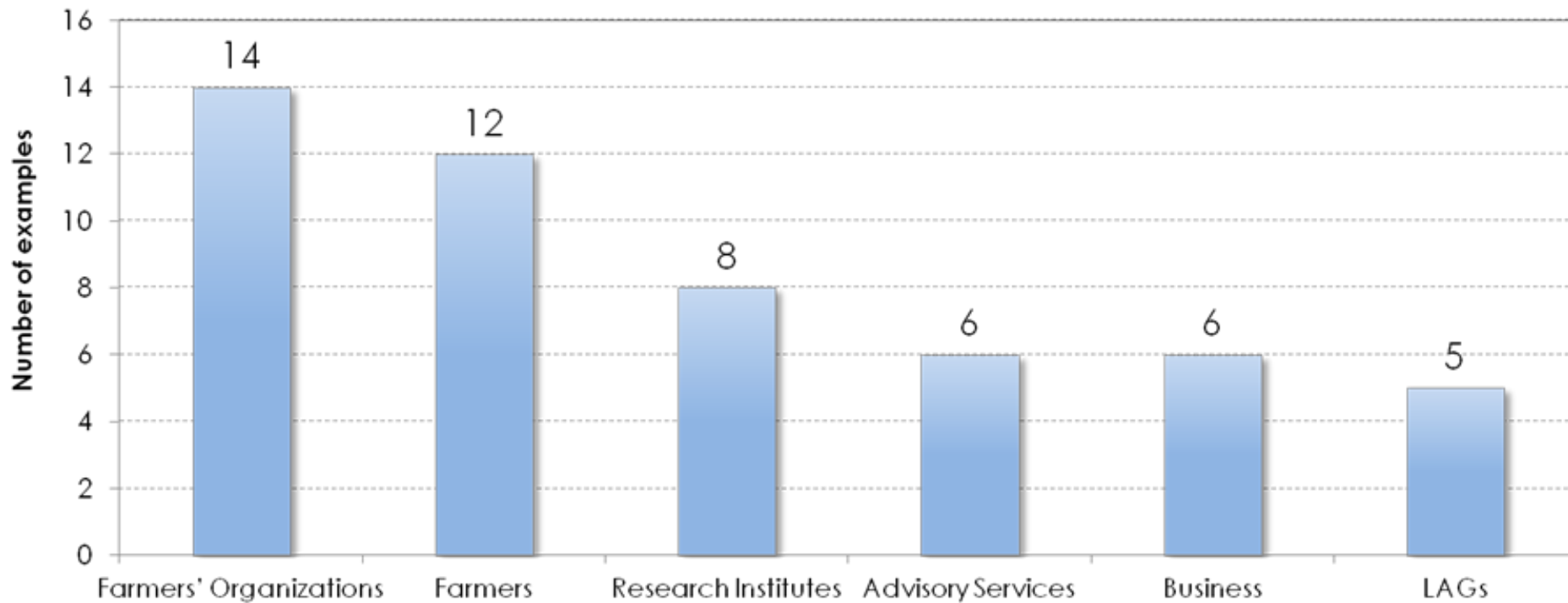
Problems

Opportunities

Price pressure / fluctuation	Demand for new products
Increased costs / competition	Increase production efficiency
Declining / scarcity of natural resources	New sources of income (bio energy, fuels etc.)
Dependency for fossil fuels	Lowering production costs
Population scarcity and lack of social services	Local products and services stimulate local the economy and diversify incomes
Unemployment especially for youth	Great potentials from energy production

The case studies collected

Who started the
innovation process



Benefits from Knowledge Transfer

Farmers, business,
rural society, etc.



Identification of opportunities

Improve skills & competences

Research sector



Demand driven questions

Mutual trust with the beneficiaries

New competences / techniques,
training skills

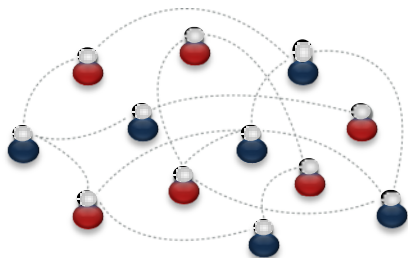
Public admin. &
policy makers



Receive information about the
implementation of the policies

Receive feedback for improving them

Role of networks, advisory services, NRNs



Formal & informal networks:

- ✓ **transmit information** on market changes or problems
- ✓ initiate and facilitate the establishment of new networks
- ✓ contribute to research and development



Farm advisory services:

- ✓ **intermediaries** between practice and science
- ✓ bring together stakeholders
- ✓ support formulation of partnerships
- ✓ training on and dissemination of the innovation

National Rural Networks:

- ✓ **training, advice** and **dissemination**
- ✓ subsidising, micro grants, awards
- ✓ support evaluation & up-scaling



What worked well or not

Did not work well / "bottlenecks"

Worked well

	lack of complementarity between different funds		tailored advice & training	
eligibility criteria and bureaucracy		complex administrative management		
lack of trust	engagement of actors		good communication and cooperation	
financing issues	lack of experience	non sustainability	identifying common technical problems and tools	
	Joint funding applications			



European Network for
Rural Development

Initial lessons learned



Funded by the

ENRD *Connecting Rural Europe* <http://enrd.ec.europa.eu>

Positive lessons: How to boost innovation

Local animators as catalysts

Well trained AKIS advisors and 'innovation brokers'

Communication, cooperation, Transnational learning

Innovation to address social needs or market demands

Combine funds / measures in complex innovations

Work in partnerships, involve local actors + farmers

Design local business models

Lessons from failure



More flexibility in the regulations and their implementation

Allow failure and learn from it

Accept risk and provide support

Clear framework: why innovation, for what?

Possible intervention areas

