ICT and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

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ICT related support in EU programmes relevant for farming / rural areas

**European Research Framework Programme (e.g. FP 7):**
- **Character:** R&D focus – very innovative ICT
- **Targeted to:** (ICT-) companies and research institutions

**European Regional Development Fund (ERDF):**
- **Character:** Investment ICT infrastructure, exchange info and experience
- **Targeted to:** Provincial and local governments plus NGOs

**Structural and Cohesion Funds:**
- **Character:** Investment ICT related infrastructure
- **Targeted to:** Provinces and partnerships, large and SME companies, Research Centers

**European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD):**
- **Character:** Applied ICT
- **Targeted to:** Mainly farmers, agricultural enterprises, rural actors
Focus on applied ICT allowing for innovation and cost-savings thus contributing to a competitive European farming sector

Objectives: Improve farm performance / competitiveness of European farming
Enhance agro food chains
Reduce negative environmental impacts / optimisation of farm – nature - environment performance
Diversification
Improving the infrastructure and quality of life in rural areas

Targeted to: Farmer(s) and agri-cooperatives, farmers’ associations and/or Agro - ICT related companies, SMEs, LAG, the supply-sector, extension, (adult)education institutes, advisory services, local authorities.
Code 111 Vocational training and information actions
Applicants: Farmers associations, farmers, agricultural colleges, extension services
Eligible costs: eg. ICT investments in support of e.g. development of websites, portals, online info exchange

Code 121 Modernisation of agricultural holdings
Investment support for farmers
Applicants: farm holdings
Eligible costs: eg. investment in ICT equipment related to precision and satellite farming

Code 123 Adding value to agriculture and forestry products
Investment support for Trade and Industry
Applicants: agro food related companies
Eligible costs: eg. investment in chain: production, logistics, quality T&T systems
Current EAFRD at least 6 measures seem applicable (2)

**Code 124 Cooperation in R&D of new products, process and technology**
**Applicants:** Agro food industry, SME’s, farmers/farmer coops.
**Eligible cost:** R&D costs: development of processes ICT structures, networks, Tracking and tracing.

**Code 321 Basic services for rural economy and population**
**Applicants:** Municipalities, Public companies for collective goods
**Eligible costs:** Investment in broadband and related infrastructure

**Code 331 Training and information**
**Applicants:** Farmers associations, extensions services, agricultural colleges
**Eligible costs:** ICT investments in support of training plus labour costs etc.

**Codes 421 a.o** LEADER measures involving rural cooperation
**Applicants:** Rural partnerships
**Eligible costs:** ao investment in ICT means
ICT needs in future 2nd pillar of the CAP (2014-2020)

ICT funds essential and to be made available at reasonable costs:

1. Customized information tools for farmers developed by:
   ICT companies in cooperation with farmers’ representatives, agro trade and industry, R&D, pilots, prototype testing and demonstration. R&D measures (eg 124)!

2. ICT systems and networks to improve and include
   - crop production in MIS
   - animal health management vis-à-vis production cost
   - user friendly concepts!
   R&D (eg 124) and investment costs (eg 121, 123)

3. Better use of ICT solutions in support of vocational training, knowledge transfer by farmers, students, trade and industry.
   R&D (eg 124) ICT (online) devices and investments (eg 111, 331)

4. Broadband internet at competitive / low price (eg 321)
ICT positioning in the future 2nd pillar of the CAP (2014-2020)

ICT indispensable in EAFRD!

Simplification requires integration:
No extra measures please!

Targeting:
Better measures!
Thank you for your attention!

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