

Provisional conference programme

10h	The IN-SIGHT project: overview of a two-year international comparative study	<i>Karlheinz Knickel, IN-SIGHT</i>
10h30	Innovation in rural areas of Europe: policy perspectives	<i>Mark Cropper, DG Agri, European Commission</i>
11h	Walk, see and reflect <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IN-SIGHT project:<ul style="list-style-type: none">with posters and information about insights on innovation processes in<ul style="list-style-type: none">- direct marketing,- environmental technologies and- new rural services• RAPIDO-project: Rural Areas, People & Innovative Development – some key results	<i>Facilitation: Jet Proost, IN-SIGHT</i>
12h	Main findings and recommendations of the IN-SIGHT project	<i>Anne-Charlotte Dockès & Talis Tisenkopfs, IN-SIGHT</i>
12h30	Lunch	
14h	Strengthening innovation processes in rural areas, The point of view of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research• Foresight• Innovation brokerage• National policy• Extension services• IN-SIGHT project team	<i>Moderation: Gianluca Brunori, IN-SIGHT Sven Defrijn, ILVO, BE Egizio Valceschini, INRA, FR Mathieu Wagemans, Innovation network, NL Laimdota Straujuma, MRDLG, LV Valérie Weber Haddad, APCA, FR Dominique Barjolle, IN-SIGHT</i>
15h30	Future research on rural and agricultural innovation	<i>Dominique Barjolle, IN-SIGHT</i>
15h45	Concluding words	<i>Egizio Valceschini Standing Committee for Agricultural Research (SCAR)</i>

15 October 2008, European Commission, Brussels

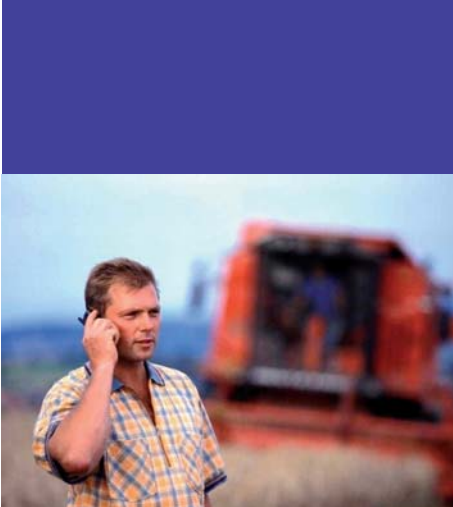
Final conference of the IN-SIGHT project Strengthening innovation processes in rural areas



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Context

Agriculture and rural areas are more and more seen in terms of their multiple functions and new societal demands. It seems obvious to expect that farmers and rural actors adapt themselves to these new conditions, by redefining their jobs in innovative ways. In many regions farmers can increase their income basis as rural entrepreneurs, developing new services and exploring new markets. Innovations represent an important potential to contribute effectively to economic competitiveness as well as the tackling of environmental challenges and quality of life demands. Often, however, there is a gap between the need for change and farmers' willingness to adjust, and the insufficient capacities of innovation agencies and advisory services to effectively support changes. In the IN-SIGHT project we studied the kind of gaps between present societal demands, the related farm-level adjustments, and the capacities of innovation agencies and advisory services. We sketch out ways and institutional arrangements that might effectively improve the capacities of innovation agencies and advisory services.



The IN-SIGHT project in brief

The IN-SIGHT project studied innovation processes and systems in Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Latvia, Italy and Switzerland. The general objective of the project was to build a conceptual framework and knowledge base for a more effective innovation policy in agriculture and rural areas. The project was organised in four steps:

- Analysis of the existing conceptual frameworks and theories on innovation
- Appraisal of the status-quo of innovation systems and processes in seven country studies
- Empirical in-depth studies in direct marketing, environmental technologies and new rural services
- Comparative analysis, conclusions and formulation of policy and practice recommendations

The project started December 2006 and will end November 2008. For more info see: www.insightproject.net/

The IN-SIGHT project is coordinated by Karlheinz Knickel, IfLS Frankfurt.

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Objectives of the conference

- Get a better understanding of innovation processes based on a systemic multidisciplinary analysis and international comparative studies
- Discuss possibilities for innovation policies that more effectively cope with complex changes in rural areas
- Exchange on how innovations systems can be better organised at policy level, institutional level, and the level of agencies and NGO's

Content

- Presentation of the vision of the Commission on innovation in agriculture and rural areas
- Presentation of the main findings of the IN-SIGHT project
- Illustration by empirical in-depth studies in direct marketing, environmental technologies and new rural services
- Comments from stakeholders of national innovation systems
- Discussions of the findings and recommendations with conference participants

Target group

- Policy and decision makers from European countries
- Key actors in innovation agencies and advisory organisations active in rural areas, researchers, practitioners and representatives of the Agricultural Knowledge and Information System
- Representatives of DG Agri, DG Environment, DG Regio, DG Research and DG Enterprise

Conference organization

The expected number of participants is 40-50. Attendance to the seminar is free of charge. A buffet lunch will be provided to all participants. Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation.

Registration

Contact david.bourdin@agridea.ch

Meeting venue

**European Commission
CDMA building, Room S1**

Rue du Champs de Mars 21, 1050 Brussels
(metro stations Trône/Troon and Porte de Namur/Naamsepoort).

