

**4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Thematic Group on  
Resource Efficient Rural Economy**

# **Presentation of findings from Good Practice examples**

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# Mandate

*“...there are already many great examples of good practice out there that we could learn from...” TG2*

*“...even where good practice examples and case studies exist, they often do not contain the level of detail or specificity necessary to understand why and how initiatives developed and worked in practice.” TG2*

# Objective

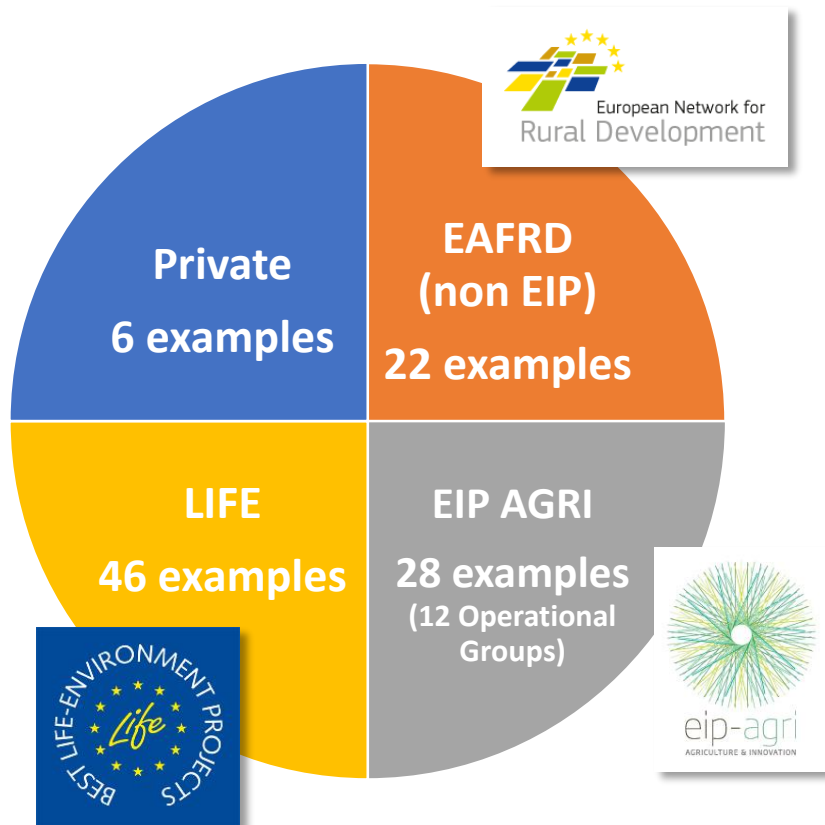
1. Collate relevant projects already available
2. Identify possible success factors or bottlenecks
3. Formulate possible recommendations for discussion

# Overview

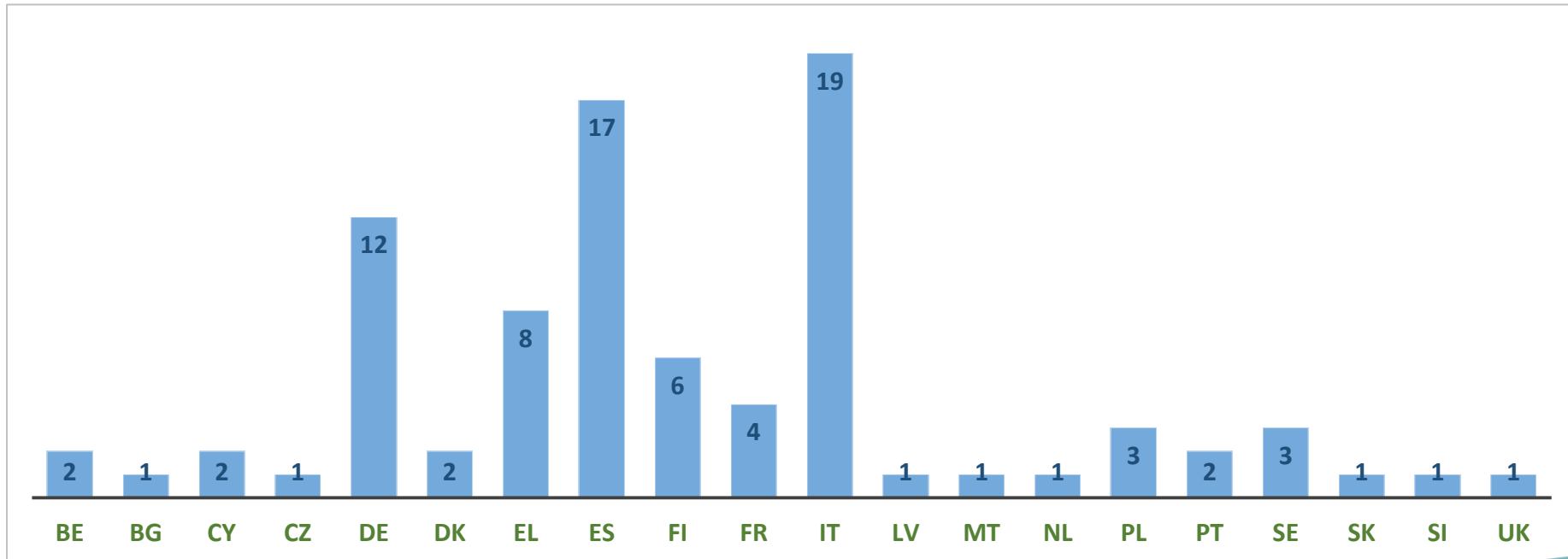
➤ *Over 100 projects from 3 EU databases*

➤ *Projects general info:*

- *LIFE projects / 2007-2013 from 14 Member States.*
- *EAFRD projects / 2007-2013 and (2 examples) 2014-2020, covering 13 Member States.*
- *EIP-AGRI, EU research projects & Operational Groups*



➤ *Geographical balance of examples*



# Focus of the examples

## Soil / Nutrients

41 examples / 12 Member States / 2006 – 2017 / 36000 EUR to 7 mil EUR

## Water availability

43 examples / 16 Member States / 2006 – 2016 / 23000 EUR to 23 mil EUR

## CO<sub>2</sub>

18 examples / 6 Member States / 2006 – 2015 / 460000 EUR to 3.5 mil EUR

## Activities

- Valorising wastes
- Managing wastes
- Reducing environmental impact of nutrients

- New infrastructure and reconstruction
- Modernisation of resource efficiency
- Adapting to WFD
- Managing aquifers

- Green tools for climate adaptation
- Preserving fragile ecosystems

## Multiple objectives

18 examples / 7 Member States  
2007 – 2012 / 38000 EUR to 3.5 mil EUR

- Advisory programmes
- Cooperation
- Capacity building

# Motivation gap

## Preference to easy and familiar solutions

- Discussions among farmers were not so much about innovative techniques, but about sharing practice that already exists locally. The main interest for the local stakeholders was to understand the soil erosion principles and get the confirmation that these farming techniques do not require additional manpower and can be implemented immediately. (FR – LESELAM)

## Insufficient knowledge and misconceptions

- Organic agriculture in Spain continues to be scarcely applied, especially in poor-soil areas mainly due to insufficient knowledge about optimal application techniques and the perception of low economic benefits unless supported by subsidies. (ES-CropsforBetterSoil)

## Complexity of tools

- The present generation of irrigation simulation tools is not adequate for the task. Some of them are too complex for use by farmers, or even for many technicians, whilst others are based on such simple models that the data produced can be used as no more than a reference. (ES-IES)

## Legislation, technology and cost limitations

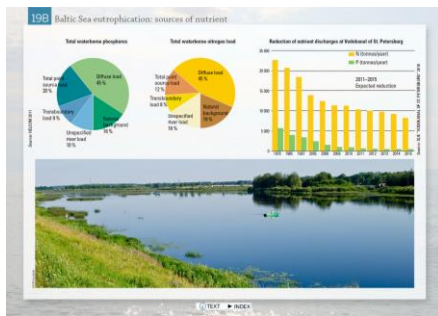
- the wood/fibre and raw vegetable oil chains (for biogas) produced interesting results, however, they were of less interest for several reasons (including legislation, available technology and cost of implementation). (IT-Sec-Cure)



# Knowledge gap

## Need to increase awareness among farmers...

- There is a need **to increase awareness** of the problems related with soil erosion and the need to use more suitable agricultural practices. (ES-Erosion prevention)



## ...the wider society...

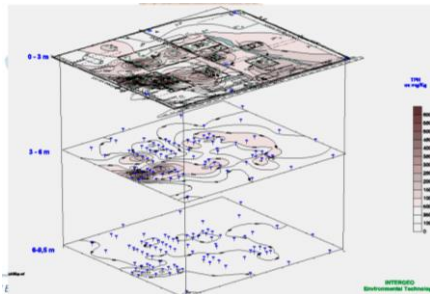
- Educational programmes for nurseries and primary schools (EL-So.S)

## ...and policy makers

- Raised awareness among policymakers of the principles and benefits of sustainable soil and nutrient management, which will help with the implementation of the Soil Framework Directive. (BE-DEMETER)

## Better understanding of casual linkages

- Need improved understanding of casual linkages between land use and ecological status of waters to increase the motivation, preparedness and ability of the public to participate in the planning and implementation of relevant measures. (FI-GISBLOOM)



## More environmental data

- Regional production potentials are incompletely exploited. The large variability of yields between years and plots would require a significant adaptation of inputs to the plot and year; However, large amounts of regional related data would be needed (EIP – OG Valoriser les Potentiels céréaliers en climat méditerranéen.)

# Policy / Implementation gap

## Delivery

- Improve monitoring, assessment and dissemination of resource efficiency results. (IT-Aquor, ES-ROEM-plus)
- Monitoring of changes requires time that exceeds projects duration. (SE - Aquabrava, ES – WAMAR,)
- Delineation of management zones and a spatially-variable application systems. (EL-HydroSense)
- Cost-effective solutions require integrated policies. (ES-MANEV)
- Protection of the environment is possible with any modernisation project in the rural sector, even if the main objective of the project is to improve competitiveness. (CY – Automated irrigation horticulture)

## Legislation

- Legislation is sufficiently flexible, but still useful to simplify the existing mechanisms and adhere to certification and control systems. (IT-ReWaste)
- Move from the constraints set by the Nitrates Directive to an "efficiency requisite of the entire farm cycle". (IT-AQUA)
- Although soil problems have been identified across Europe, a distinguishable soil framework has not been established for confronting them in an integrated management way. (EL-So.S)

## Engaging the private sector

- The private sector could implement solutions when public authorities can't deliver. (ES-ROEM-plus)
- Linking private entities with public administrations in the diffusion of technologies and methodologies. (ES-AQUAVAL)
- Industry representatives may enjoy a high level of trust among enterprises, allowing them to collect data on water consumption that was not previously available nationally. (MT-InvestinWater)

## Engaging stakeholders

- Brokers can facilitate the uptake and be part of a delivery system (CZ-Planting buffer strips)- project managers can coordinate at local level. (BE-Dommel and Warmbeek River Basin)
- Greater incentives for the adoption of the new technologies through subsidies and adoption of water pricing policies by local authorities. (EL-HydroSense)
- Establishing agreements with stakeholders for the provision of data for monitoring (IT-TRUST)