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EU agricultural research: from open science to open innovation. Contributions from Horizon Europe (FP9) and the future Common Agricultural Policy.

Under the EU programme Horizon 2020, funding for agricultural research is mainly channelled through Societal Challenge 2 (SC2: Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy). Calls for proposals under the two first Work Programmes covering the 2014/2015 and 2016/2017 periods have resulted in about 800m€ allocated to almost 150 projects related to agriculture. This includes research on crop and animal production, resource use, technologies, value chain organization, rural development and policy support.

The increased emphasis on innovation under Horizon 2020 as compared to its predecessors has resulted in increased attention given to Open Science and - in the area of agricultural research - to participatory research as vehicles for increasing the impact of research activities "on the ground". The multi-actor approach applied systematically under SC2 reflects this ambition.

The presentation will address the concept of Open Science from a broader perspective, i.e. go beyond open publications and open data to the notion of Open Innovation in the agricultural context. It will show how in-built links between Horizon 2020 agricultural research, the European Innovation Partnership EIP AGRI and the Common Agricultural Policy are used to effectively engage the agricultural sector in research and build a supportive framework for Open Innovation. Discussions on the forthcoming European Research and Agricultural Policies provide opportunities for strengthening the current agricultural innovation framework and for embedding Open Science and Open Innovation more firmly into the design and implementation of research activities.