

ICT AGRI FOOD

KNOWLEDGE INCUBATOR

**BUILDING THE SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO INTEGRATE
ICT TECHNOLOGIES WITHIN THE AGRIFOOD SECTOR**

Making the knowledge developed by public funded
food and agricultural research available to
researchers from other disciplines and the IT sector.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no 862665 ICT-AGRI-FOOD.



WHY?

Europe's **digital decade policy program** aims to drive a human-centered, sustainable digital future.

The agri-food sector's digitalization is a priority within European agricultural policies, emphasizing the integration of digital technologies and promoting the **digital economy in rural areas**.

However, **fostering knowledge sharing among researchers and practitioners across sectors remains a challenge**.

The ERA-NET ICT-AGRI-FOOD is developing an online tool to facilitate collaboration and innovation, addressing the need for interaction among the agricultural, food, and ICT communities.

The goal is to stimulate mutual learning and technology matching, advancing the use of data and digital technologies in the agri-food system.

ICT AGRI FOOD KNOWLEDGE INCUBATOR

WHAT IT IS?

The ICT-AGRI-FOOD Knowledge Incubator is an innovative networking space designed to foster collaboration between **public research in agriculture and the private sector focused on ICT technologies for the agri-food sector.**

Through its online tool, this incubator facilitates interaction and knowledge sharing among stakeholders.

The online tool serves as a repository and exhibition of digital innovations for the agri-food sector, enabling users to showcase their innovative solutions and engage in discussions.

By promoting a multi-actor approach, the online tool connects researchers from agriculture, food, and ICT research fields with the private sector and other stakeholders. This connectivity encourages the development of new interdisciplinary partnerships, fostering innovation and problem-solving in the agri-food system.

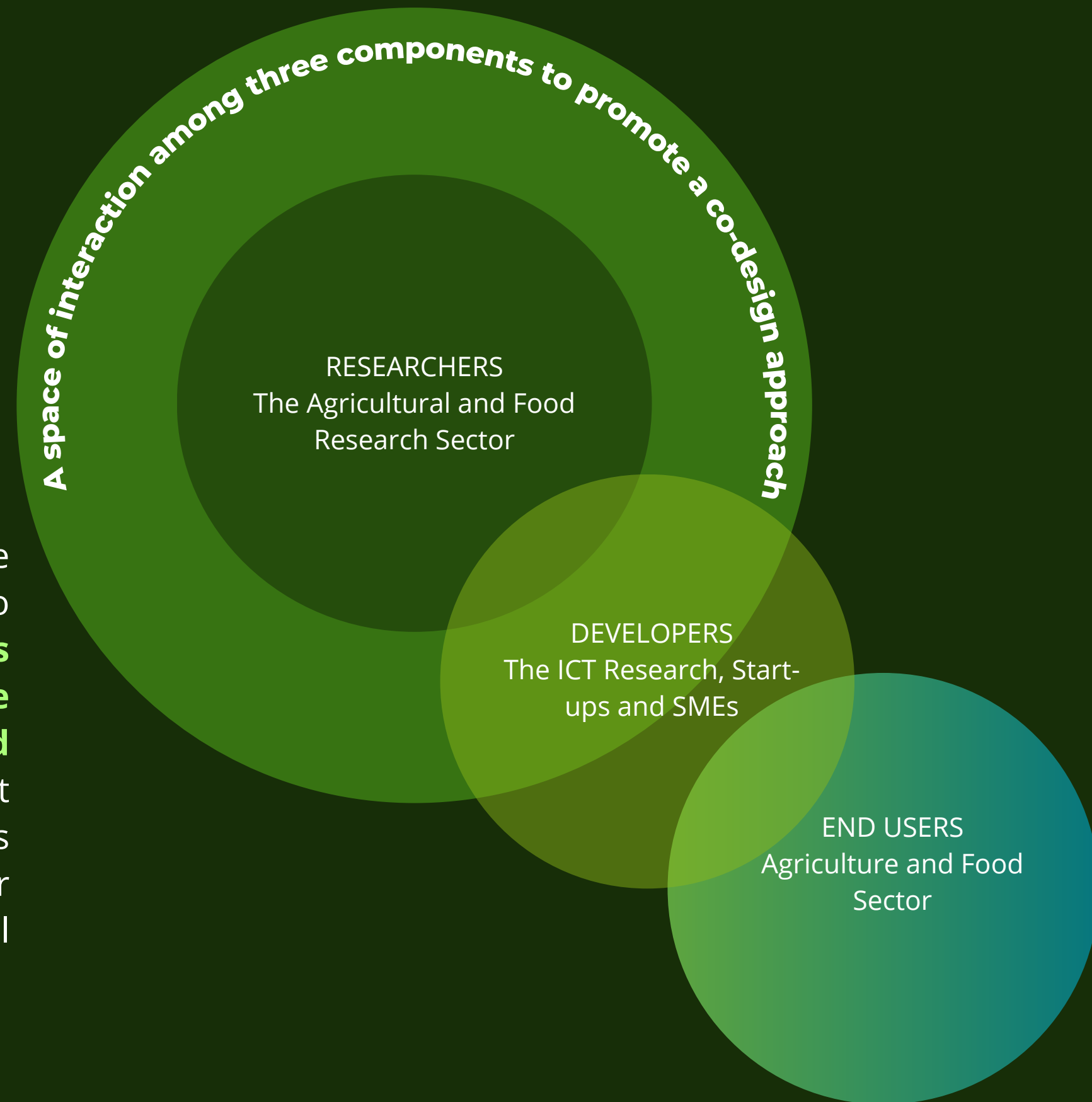


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MOVING FROM PROJECTS TO INNOVATIONS

To enhance collaboration between research and the private sector in the agri-food sector, sharing research output needs to be more accessible. Instead of using project acronyms, **focus on describing innovations and their development stage (TRL)**. To bridge the **gap between theoretical research and commercial product development**, especially in digital tools, it is important to engage ICT companies in co-designing solutions with end users. Prioritizing problem-solving within the sector and ensuring that public funding supports the practical implementation of research projects are key aspects.



MAIN QUESTION

How your innovation is contributing to a solve a specific problem of the agri-food sector?

Innovation description structure similar to the EIP AGRI Practice Abstract

Going to a broader vision, **how solving the specific problem of the agri-food sector identified with your innovation are you contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals?**

Encourage the researchers to have a broader vision and contextualise their research at global level, considering possible impacts.



THE CO-DESIGN PROCESS

The ICT AGRI-FOOD Knowledge Incubator's online tool was **co-designed through continuous interaction with the research community and funders**. It shifted from project-based to innovation-based, enabling collaboration among researchers, start-ups, SMEs, and funders. The tool's structure, IT framework, and innovation upload form were developed and tested by researchers involved in the ICT AGRI-FOOD network.

Challenges include describing projects as innovations and training researchers accordingly.

The next step is engaging a global stakeholder network to promote knowledge sharing and cooperation in digital agri-food research.

THE CO-DESIGN PROCESS

1. HOW TO IMPROVE THE MKB - FROM PROJECTS TO INNOVATION

2. SURVEY TO COLLECT INPUT ON THE IDEA FROM THE ICT AGRIFOOD PARTNERS

3. PRESENTATION OF THE REVISED IDEA TO THE RESEARCHERS

4. DEFINITION OF CATEGORIES FOR THE THREE DOMAINS ICT_AGRO_FOOD TO SEARCH FOR INNOVATIONS WITH RESEARCHERS

5. DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORM TO DESCRIBE THE INNOVATION AND TESTING WITH RESEARCHERS

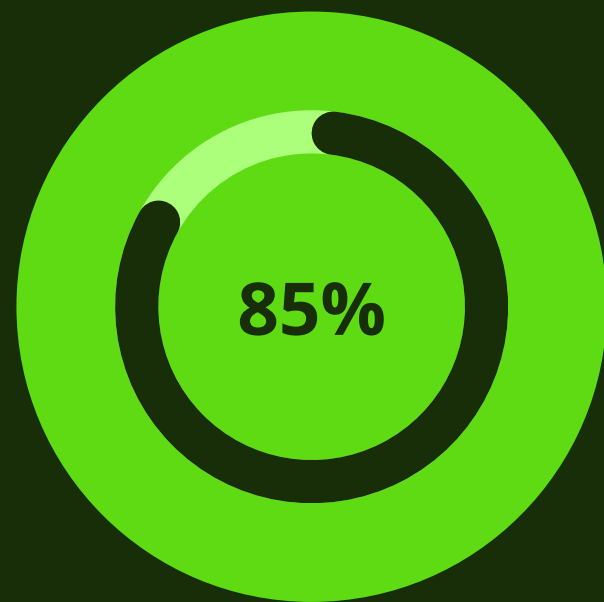
6. BUILDING THE IT STRUCTURE OF THE KNOWLEDGE INCUBATOR

7. UPLOAD OF THE 20 INNOVATION CURRENTLY APPROVED AND AVAILABLE ONLINE

8. DEFINITION OF THE VALIDATION PROCESS TO UPLOAD INNOVATION EXTERNAL TO THE ICT AGRIFOOD NETWORK

9. PROMOTION OF THE READY TO USE ONLINE TOOL

10. USE OF THE TOOL TO STRENGTHEN THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY WORKING ON ICT AGRIFOOD



ICT AGRI FOOD KNOWLEDGE INCUBATOR

20 INNOVATIONS

20 innovation from the following projects:

ADDFerti - 2 innovations

FarmSustainaBI - 1 innovation

Haly.id - 2 innovations

PLAN P - 2 innovations

GrASTech - 3 innovations

GrASTech - 3 innovations

SoCoRisk - 1 innovation

GOHydro - 5 innovations

MUSHNOMIC - 1 innovation

SHEET - 1 innovation

POSMHMyCO - 1 innovation

A VALIDATION PROCESS TO ADD INNOVATIONS FROM OUTSIDE THE ICT AGRIFOOD NETWORK HAS BEEN DEFINED

Roles and governance of the ICT-AGRI-FOOD Knowledge Incubator:

- Governing Board: Approves KI access, reviews its functioning, approves guidelines for validation, and proposes communication strategies.
- Applicant: Uploads innovation, makes revisions if necessary. (R&I project selected for funding in regional/national calls outside the Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe frameworks.)
- Editorial Board: Supports applicants in describing innovations, approves publication, coordinates evaluation process, and submits progress reports.
- Experts' Group: Consists of selected evaluators who assess innovations and provide validation reports to the Editorial Board.



GOALS FOR 2024

- To **increase the number of innovations**
- To **strengthen the research community**
- To maintain the **high quality of the information** provided
- To **promote the knowledge incubator** outside the ICT AGRIFOOD network
- To **contribute** in the updating of the ICT AGRIFOOD **Strategic Research Agenda** with the innovation developed by the funded projects



WHAT ARE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE ICT AGRIFOOD KNOWLEDGE INCUBATOR WITH RESPECT TO OTHER PLATFORMS?

After analyzing various platforms, we have realized that **the quality of the information provided is highlighted in our database.** However, we are currently facing issues with data entry and editing. We would like to improve this aspect.

THANK YOU

M A S A F T E A M