



**Programma di  
Sviluppo Rurale  
dell'Emilia-Romagna  
2014 - 2020**



# **Innovation in Agriculture:**

## **The Experience of Operational Groups from Emilia-Romagna Region**

**in the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for Agriculture  
framework**

**Bruxelles, 11 April 2018**



**UNIONE EUROPEA**  
Fondo Europeo Agricolo  
per lo Sviluppo Rurale



**Regione Emilia-Romagna**

L'Europa investe nelle zone rurali

# Innovation in agriculture is strategic for Emilia Romagna Region Development

- The **EARDF** takes into consideration the opportunity to support under the **Rural Development Program 2014-2020** a specific innovation policy for the agricultural sector, according to the general strategy of Horizon 2020.
- The new approach is focused on developing partnership between Agriculture and Research and Innovation system
- The Emilia-Romagna Region has totally taken up this challenge, identifying **the Rural Development Programme Measure 16** as the ideal tool to interpret the innovation needs of any regional agriculture, and deciding – consequently – to dedicate a big budget to it: a definitely higher proportion if compared to other Regions' choices.

Fostering Innovation: a clear political choice

- **Emilia-Romagna Region has invested more than 50 Millions Euro on innovation:**  
an investment definitely higher than other Italian Regions

**Italian RDPs total resources for EIP and Innovation:**

- **318 Meuro,**
- **1.7% of the total public expenditure**

Regioni	Misure (€)	Totale spesa pubblica PSR (€)	a/b (%)
	<b>16.1 + 16.2 (a)</b>		
Abruzzo	7.000.000	432.795.833	1,6
Basilicata	6.375.000	680.160.331	0,9
Pr. Bolzano	1.800.000	366.405.380	0,5
Calabria	9.133.333	1.103.562.000	0,8
Campania	21.000.000	1.836.256.198	1,1
Emilia Romagna	50.022.602	1.189.679.963	4,2
Friuli Venezia Giulia	3.500.000	296.110.000	1,2
Lazio	11.700.000	780.120.594	1,5
Liguria	5.600.000	313.708.702	1,8
Lombardia	9.750.000	1.157.646.104	0,8
Marche	13.500.000	537.961.503	2,5
Molise	6.000.000	210.469.000	2,9
Piemonte	15.850.000	1.093.054.267	1,5
Puglia	33.000.000	1.632.880.992	2,0
Sardegna	13.500.000	1.308.406.250	1,0
Sicilia	31.160.000	2.212.747.107	1,4
Toscana	22.500.000	961.841.373	2,3
Provincia Trento	4.000.000	301.482.000	1,3
Umbria	32.300.000	876.651.206	3,7
Valle d'Aosta	350.023	136.835.088	0,3
Veneto	19.666.048	1.184.320.501	1,7
<b>TOTALE</b>	<b>317.707.006</b>	<b>18.613.094.392</b>	<b>1,7</b>

Fonte: elaborazioni Rete Rurale Nazionale - valori in euro

# The "knowledge system" of the Emilia-Romagna Region

- The "knowledge system" of the Emilia-Romagna Region was ready to take this opportunity and the different players involved, on both research and production side, have elaborated bottom-up processes to improve Companies' knowledge.



# The importance of the existing “Knowledge System”

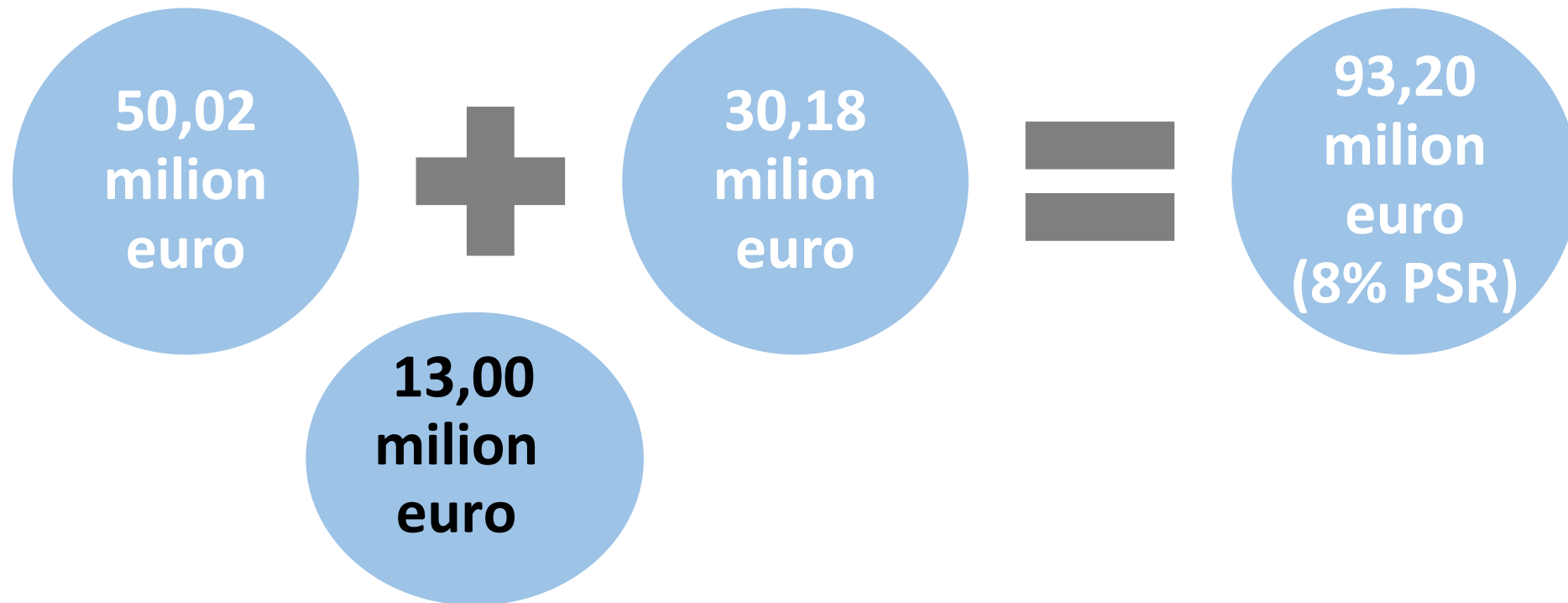
The already existing (and trusted) regional Research and Innovation platform, was crucial to guarantee:

- a specific coordination among the actors, including specific facilities specialized in bringing out needs of innovation of the agricultural firms
- an easy and constant dialogue between production and research, based on trust, built in years of fruitful collaboration
- an effective technological transfer to farmers
- an immediate focus on consumers' request concerning health, quality products and environmental protection.

- The OGs of **the European Innovation Partnership (EIP)** have been the beneficiaries. They are based on cooperation among different actors such as farmers, researchers, consultants, trainers and entrepreneurs in the agri-food sector, who have been involved according to a participatory approach.
- The innovation plans proposed by OGs have so far involved approximately 250 different players, in various territories, such as agriculture and agri-food companies, research teams, consulting, animation and dissemination corporations and other rural world operators.
- Thanks to their innovative purposes, OGs are eligible for contributions funding up to 100% of their charges

# “Innovation + Training and Consulting + other forms of cooperation” Package

- The 2014-2020 regional Rural Development Program (RDP) has allocated over 90 million euro to the knowledge system overall, during the seven years; 50 million of them were dedicated to fund OGs activities



Measure	Resources Euro	Indicator N° beneficiaries
<b>M01</b> Knowledge transfer and information actions	21.745.887	19.245
<b>M02</b> consulting services, relief and assistance to the management of Farms	8.436.808	9.618
Total	<b>30.182.695</b>	28.863



## Resources for Operation 16.1.01 and 16.2 by Focus Area

Focus area	Resources Euro	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
2A competitiveness (restructuring and modernization companies)	6.470.775	65%			35%		
3A competitiveness of productive chains and agro-industry companies	19.221.038			*55%	15%	25%	
4A protecting and improving biodiversity	1.337.000		100%				
4B improve water quality (fertilizers and pesticides)	11.678.920	50%				50%	
4C conservative cropping systems, soil quality	1.587.320	50%			50%		
5A more efficient use of water in agriculture	1.700.000	60%			40%		
5C valorisation of waste and by-products for food, agronomic; energy	2.583.265		60%		40%		
5D sustainable farming: reduction or capture of GHG emissions and ammonia	2.354.602		60%		40%		
5E Carbon sequestration in soil and fighting climate change	3.089.682	25%	40%		35%		
	<b>50.022.602</b>			* pilot projects 16.2			

- Innovation Plans main challenges are:
  - Sustainability of agricultural practices with a particular focus on Climate Smart Agriculture;
  - Support to Food Chains;
  - Enhancement of regional quality products' competitiveness;
  - Soil conservation and Water saving practices.

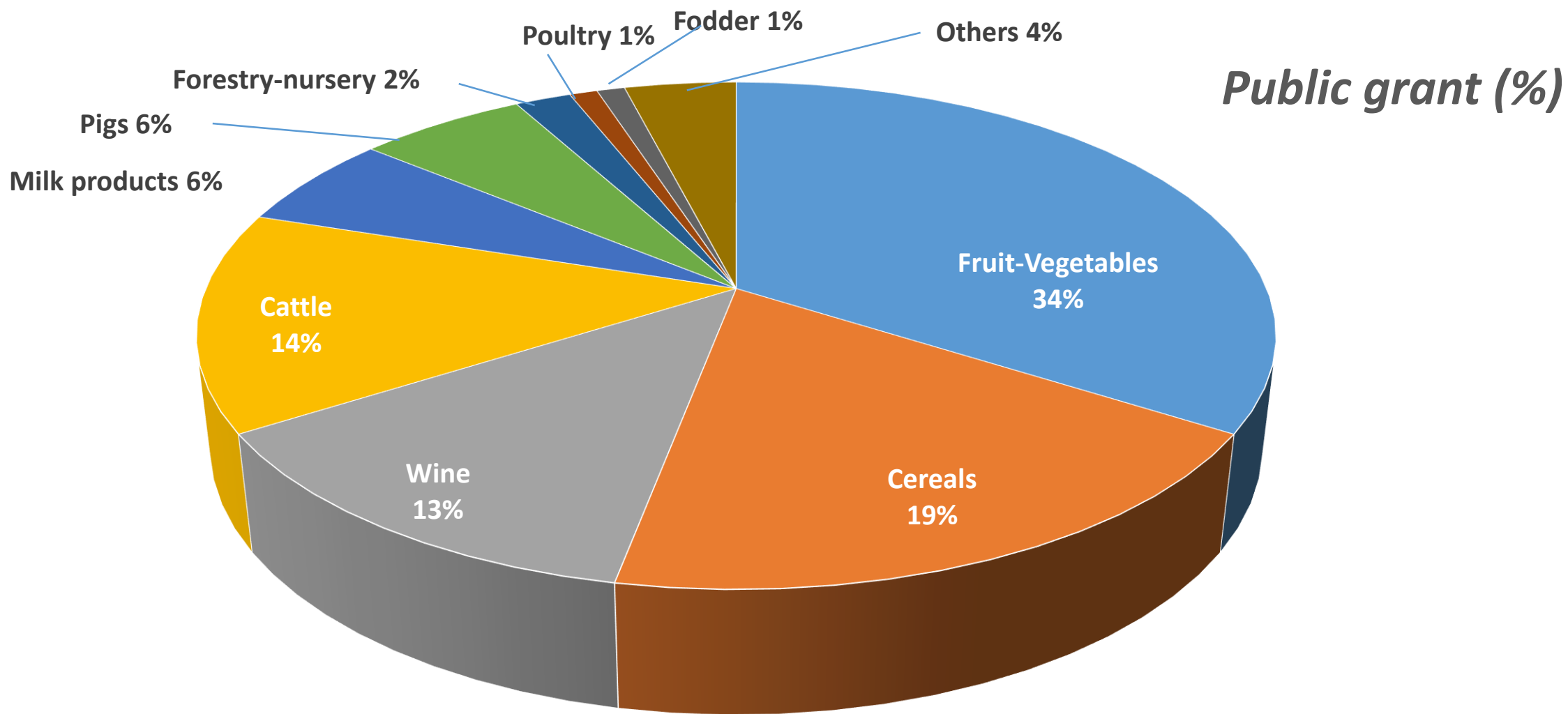
# First call Funds

FOCUS AREA	TOTAL INVESTMENT	PUBLIC GRANT	CONTRIBUTION BENEFICIARIES	%
<b>2A</b> competitiveness modernization	€ 5.915.754	€ 4.152.147	€ 1.763.607	70,19
<b>4B</b> water quality improvement	€ 6.465.137	€ 5.815.040	€ 650.097	89,94
<b>4C</b> Soil quality	€ 731.776	€ 657.780	€ 73.996	89,89
<b>5 A</b> - water efficiency	€ 966.879	€ 869.447	€ 97.432	89,92
<b>5 E</b> - carbon sequestration	€ 673.166	€ 671.460	€ 1.706	99,75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 14.752.711</b>	<b>€ 12.165.873</b>	<b>€ 2.586.839</b>	<b>82,47</b>

FOCUS AREA	TOTAL INVESTMENT	PUBLIC GRANT	CONTRIBUTION BENEFICIARIES	%
<b>4 A</b> Biodiversity	€ 1.549.920	€ 1.394,928,0	€ 139.493	90
<b>5C</b> Renewable energies by residues	€ 1.754.307	€ 1.578.876,0	€ 157.888	90
<b>5 D</b> Reduce gas emission	€ 1.617.350	€ 1.455.615,0	€ 145.562	90
<b>5 E - Carbon</b> sequestration	€ 1.107.889	€ 1.283.332,0	€ 0	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 6.0294.66</b>	<b>€ 5.712.751,0</b>	<b>€ 442.943</b>	<b>92,5</b>

- After the sliding of 2A ranking decided in 2017 (funded with regional additional resources), in Emilia Romagna there are at present **93** active OGs, supported by
  - **19.188.000** Euro of public funds
  - **3.712.000** Euro of private funds

# Sector distribution



## Measure 16

### Type Of Operation 16.1.01

- Abstracts of the **93** approved projects are available on the portal Agriculture of the Emilia-Romagna region at the link:

<http://agricoltura.regione.emilia-romagna.it/psr-2014-2020/doc/progetti-partenariato-europeo-per-innovazione-pei>

# Supporting innovation

- The beneficiaries of our support are **Operative Groups (OG)** according to the **EIP** and the European Regulation.
- The legal form of OGs are designed accordingly to the Italian legal framework for economic companies.
- OGs must include **at least one firm of the agricultural sector** which performs activities of production or marketing or primary processing of agricultural products. In addition to these people, the **OG must include, as an effective component, at least one research organization** or public or private trials in the agriculture and agri-food sector.



- **Some critical issues:**
  - RDP regulation is not completely suitable for managing innovation projects;
  - We are working to simplify procedures by adopting standard costs, overheads, etc.
- We need more flexibility about some issues we submit to your attention
  1. Possibility of granting payments during multi-year projects
  2. Maximum administrative simplification in order to facilitate participation of farmers and companies (for instance the possibility of remunerating the agricultural entrepreneur work)
  3. Avoid comparative estimates for consumables when the expense is not high, setting threshold values
  4. Possibility of VAT refund for companies for which it represents a cost

- Flexibility in the recognition as OG of entities formed by production and research actors (i.e. Producers Organizations, Interprofessional Bodies, etc...): aggregation is important for a competitive agriculture and PO and IP bodies are part of UE strategy and legislation!
- Ability to tackle complex issues through long-term projects and high economic commitment achieved through specific calls for organized production

## Going further ...

- Innovation is a priority for the rural development policies
  - Quality products
  - Climate Smart Agriculture
  - Competitiveness of European products
  - Food security and Food safety
  - Rural landscape management ...

***... All that needs innovation !!***

- The current experience needs to be enhanced under the next programming period
- The instruments supporting innovation must be improved at EU as well as Regional level in order to be more and more effective in supporting our farmers

THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION!

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