

Center of Knowledge Accumulation, Transfer, Development of Agricultural Technologies and their Demonstration “Gate of Innovations”

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Practical and Theoretical Background: Lithuanian Agricultural Advisory Service¹(LAAS) has had 20 years of practise working with farmers and providing agricultural services. LAAS actively participates in European Innovation Partnership (EIP) activities. LAAS acts in three and is a leader of one national EIP Operation Groups (OGs). It has also participated in four EIP-AGRI Focus Groups².

Questions and Purpose: LAAS is a leader of knowledge transfer and accumulation of agricultural technology and demonstration centre “Innovation Gate” (InnoGates) project. The purpose of the project is to ensure smooth operation of agricultural innovation, effective performance of the farm-advise-science chain and to create a network of experimental and demonstration farms.

Case Description: The idea of the project is to develop a comprehensive implementation of innovative processes that everyone can seamlessly join. Why is this idea innovative and needed? There is no stable network of farms where it would be possible to demonstrate agricultural innovations in the fields and no database of agricultural innovations. The idea will be implemented through the creation of an organizational type of innovation, which will clearly define the principles of cooperation. Moreover, it will implement inter-institutional working with farms and co-operation in science methodologies, tested and implemented innovative farming methods of evaluation and competency development programs, identification of existing production facilities, etc. The idea which is planned to implement is an organizational innovation. The organizational innovation is new and consists of a large number of partners (a total of 18 entities involved). The idea of this OG brings together the main institutions in Lithuania which operate in agricultural, forestry and food industries. A special attention is paid to ensuring the long-term technological and economic development of innovations in the agricultural sector. It is expected that the network of experimental and demonstration farms will be the basis for a place of innovation education of all agricultural holdings.

Analysis: Innovative research solutions have been tested on selected farms. The ideas were driven by researchers. The new knowledge use in practice was determined by applicability and usefulness. The project idea was farmer participation in an innovative system solving the problem from the start to the end faster, easier and clearer.

Conclusion: InnoGates will create an interactive system of cooperation between farmers, advisers, researchers and experimental farms. The system will make the optimization of human resources and time costs in implementing the innovation projects over the Innovation Support Service (ISS). It will provide an easier and faster flow of ideas from research testing to practical needs. The project will increase the added value of new knowledge over the Centre of Precision Farming Services and Competencies that will work as a training centre and pavilion of innovative technology demonstration with a special training program for practical purposes. During the project the data basis of research results will be created as a system of applied research results with practical abstracts. InnoGates will work as a general innovation generator collecting ideas, searching who can help with solutions, how to finance the work and finalize the project up to result achieving in the agricultural sector.

Structure of Centre for knowledge accumulation, transfer, development of agricultural technologies and their demonstration “Gate of Innovations” in Lithuania

