

EN

E-001865/2024

Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.11.2024)

1. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) supports farmers, including small ones, to adopt artificial intelligence (AI) tools by providing financial support for the adoption of precision farming, skills development and access to advice, including through a Farm Sustainability Tool for nutrients management. It supports broadband expansion to rural areas ensuring the necessary infrastructure for the use of digital technologies. Horizon Europe¹ and Horizon 2020 research projects² also empower small farms to use AI and robotics. GenAI4EU initiative³ promotes generative AI in sectors like agrifood, while the DIGITAL Europe Programme supports the creation of the Common European Agricultural Data Space⁴.

The Commission's foresight report⁵, provides a vision framework for a fair digital transition for EU farmers and rural communities underlining the role of the public sector to this regard. In the final report of the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture⁶, EU agri-food stakeholders recognise digitalisation as an opportunity for the transition to more sustainable agri-food systems.

2. Support under CAP Strategic Plans⁷ focuses strongly on digitalisation acknowledging its benefits to strengthen environmental protection and climate action. In the Plans, Member States support precision farming under eco-schemes and agri-environment-climate commitments to reach these objectives. Several Horizon Europe research projects^{8,9} further explore the benefits of these technologies in addressing the climate crisis. Remote sensing, machine learning and AI can also reduce the costs of certifying climate and environmental benefits of farming practices under the EU Regulation on Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming¹⁰.

¹ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

² Farmtopia (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101083541>), Guardians (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101084468>), Phito (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101084332>), ROMI (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/773875>).

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_383

⁴ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/work-programmes-digital>

⁵ <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC134571>

⁶ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/agriculture-and-green-deal/strategic-dialogue-future-eu-agriculture_en

⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/oj>

⁸ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101086461/results>

⁹ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101084468>

¹⁰ https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/carbon-removals-and-carbon-farming_en