

# SEED Webinar: Digitally Transforming Agriculture



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# Education for digitally transforming agriculture

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# How important is education, knowledge sharing and networking for agriculture?

- Affected by the COVID-19 situation, the countries around the EU announced the new visions of the agriculture strategy “self-sufficiency and sustainability”.
- It means to focus attention on an agriculture sector that can compete domestically and externally; and can effectively contribute to enhancing food security.
- Exclude the pandemic factors, the environmental challenges are the main factors threaten these aims.

# How important is education, knowledge sharing and networking for agriculture?

On the other hand, the industrial and/or digital technologies are expanding in global phenomenon with an emphasis on digitalisation, automation, control, and robotics in various operations, related to environmental protection, soil cultivation management, optimization of crops nutrition, crop tending etc.

The added value of automated robotic systems to agriculture is the enhancement of their flexibility, concerning farmer decision making to select the optimal technological arrangements during the production process of the field crops, which entails not only economic but also environmental and social aspects.

# How important is education, knowledge sharing and networking for agriculture?

“Precision agriculture”, also called “digital farming”, is an innovative concept that can help to find a solution for the mentioned problems.

We have say, that this is not specifically about the technologies, but about the overall concept putting accent on understanding how the technologies can make the farming more accurate and controlled.

As one of the main factors that had negative impact on (sustainable) agriculture development are weak technological skills, missing examples of good practices, but also lack of relevant study programs and, for a several countries very serious problems with the complicated process of accreditation of new VET study programs.

# How important is education, knowledge sharing and networking for agriculture?

As a possible solution of this problems the following two actions should be proposed:

**Working with the private sector** to keep abreast of new technologies and encouraging their entry into the local market, it means start with the networking...

and

**Continuous training of human resources** in the agricultural sector to keep abreast of digitalisation of agriculture in progress.

# What partnerships will be important in transforming digital agriculture?

Roughly speaking we need to improve networking between educational institutions, ICT, technological developments and farmers bodies, to innovate the content, but also the format of VET, make transfer innovation from academia to real life more simple and understandable for people from rural areas.

This can lead towards creating a global education and research framework for innovation and development regarding the integration of newest (digital) technologies into the agriculture and rural development.

# What partnerships will be important in transforming digital agriculture?

So, in conclusion, we can say that to reach this objective we must focus attention on the skills gap. Does not matter what do we actually mean by 'skills' in the context of digital farming. One might first think about the capacity to operate high-tech machinery. But this is only one possible aspect. It may even not be the most important one. VET sector, at all levels and stages of life: formal and informal education and training, basic and advanced, short-term or life-long learning, needs intensive discussion what are the right skills and how to develop these skills.

# What partnerships will be important in transforming digital agriculture?

All we very well know that investing in training and upskilling is a long-term effort, so there is also an important role of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), now and after 2020. So, there is right time to contribute to the process of development of CAP and establish, at least, the space for knowledge sharing, innovation and fostering digitalisation.



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# Thank You



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