



## FiBL – “Tradition” in participatory on-farm research

Bernadette Oehen [bernadette.oehen@fibl.org](mailto:bernadette.oehen@fibl.org)

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# FiBL Switzerland at a glance



- Founded in 1973 by organic farmers
- 200 employees
- 80 interns, B.A./Master/PhD students, apprentices
- Research on over 200 Swiss organic farms







# Field-Labs



**Developing reduced tillage systems on-farm**



# Participatory plant breeding of organic cotton



**FiBL has been assisting organic farming organisations since 2011 with breeding, variety testing and seed propagation.**

# Stable Schools



**Advisory project «Provieh»Peer to Peer learning**



# Action Groups



Urban gardener networks



# Experience exchange groups



**The SysCom long-term trials in the tropics: Research infrastructure and on-farm research co-designed between farmers and researchers.**



# CSA ALL-Ready

## Towards an European network on Agroecology Living Labs & Research Infrastructures

[www.all-ready-project.eu](http://www.all-ready-project.eu)

March 2021

**ALL-Ready**





The project aims *to improve the capacity of society and political bodies to respond to the challenges that digitalisation generates in agriculture, forestry and rural areas.*





# 20 FiBL Living Labs established

## Robotics in Swiss organic farming



Source: Naïo Technologies



Source: www.a

How to efficiently and effectively control weeds in organic farming

- Organic farmers
- Farmers' organisations
- Digital technology companies
- Research and education institutions
- Value chain actors (retailers, sellers)
- Policy bodies





# ROADMAP

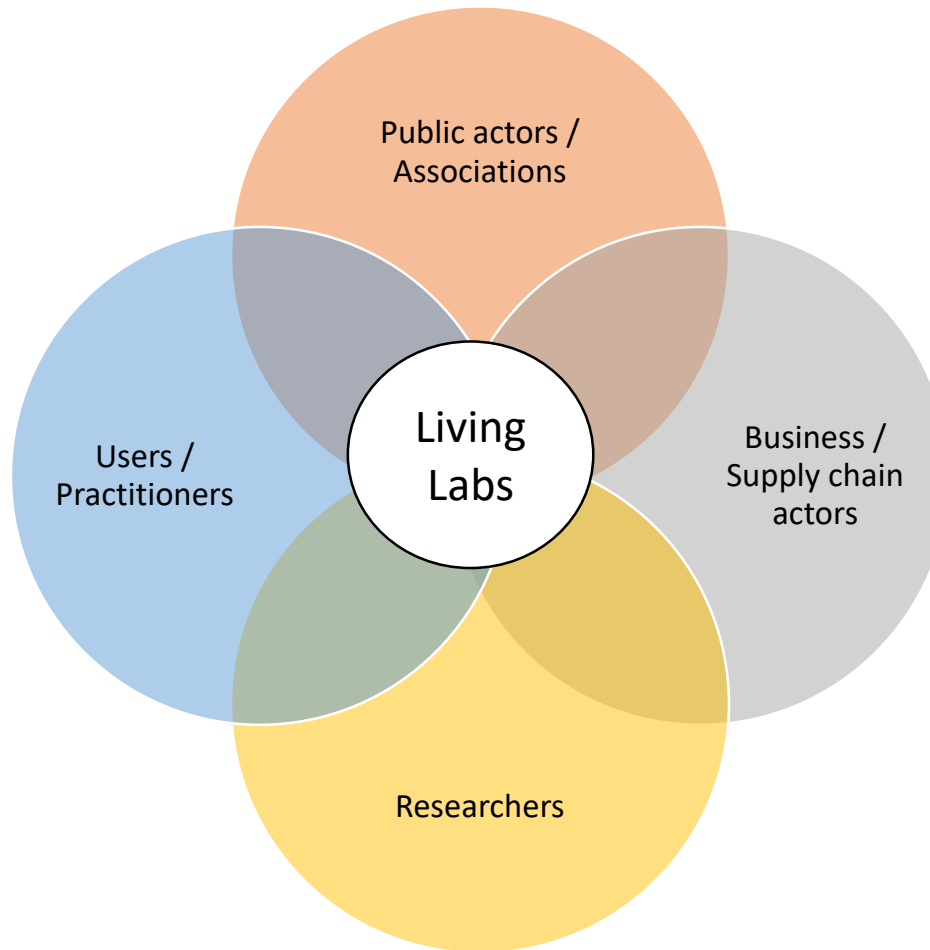
Foster transitions towards a prudent use of antibiotics in livestock production

- Understanding the drivers of AMU in various contexts
- Behaviours of stakeholders
- Knowledge, practices and motivations of animal health professionals
- **Co-developing strategies to encourage prudent AMU**
- Socioeconomic and policy instruments
- **Technical tools**
- Assessment and impact
- **Evaluation of the strategies**
- Transition pathways/scenarios
- Communication and engagement

Learning and reflection about the  
living lab approach



# Multistakeholder Living Labs





# LL-Concept used in Roadmap

*Table 1: Process of a Living Lab according to Gutzmann et al., 2013 and TRAGSA, 2008*

Steps	Comment	Content
1	<b>Setting the scene and networking</b>	In a first step, it is crucial to establish a network with the farmers, organization, decision makers and other stakeholders that influence the system. Commonly the work plan and priorities should be defined. Feasibility of such must be considered.
2	<b>Diagnosing</b>	Identify key challenges or weaknesses of the current practice. Develop hypotheses for improvement.
3	<b>Action planning</b>	Set the strategy and detailed plans for implementation, e.g. physical infrastructure, material, data collection plan, assessment techniques, social change, new practices.
4	<b>Implementation</b>	Design, introduce, apply, prototype, validate, collect data about and monitor decision-making throughout the process.
5	<b>Evaluation of practice</b>	Evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the lab and assess to what extent the implication has relieved the key challenges or weaknesses.
6	<b>Specify and further planning</b>	Use feedback to continue adapting, specifying or expanding practices as appropriate.

# Living Labs established



Living Lab	Country	Status
The Netherlands,	Turkey	Established and reseted
Denmark, Pig	Pig	Established and running
Denmark,	Cattle and calves	Established and running
Belgium,	Pigs and veal	Established and running
Switzerland,	Organic pig	Established and running
Switzerland,	Organic cattle and calves	Established and running
UK,	Calves	Established and running
Italy,	Pig	Not established yet
Italy,	Pig	Not established yet
France,	Pig and poultry	Under establishment
France,	Cattle / Dairy	Under establishment



# First lessons learned

- What is a Living lab?
- Successful in establishing LL in different contexts and countries;
- Time needed to steer the processes.
- Trust in the process needed!
- High motivation of involved actors and researches
- European wide production v.s. local living labs e.g. turkey;
- Lack of experiences, lack of skilled moderators, lack in trust in the process;
- Options to act, power distribution and marginalised people e.g. pig and poultry in Italy, veal in the UK

# Living Labs in the agri-food context

- Diverse contexts, situations and aims
- Different concepts in the agri-food context: e.g. on-farm research, participatory research, co-design of production systems and technologies;
- Involvement allows mutual learning, increases innovation adoption
- Living labs offer a structured process e.g.
  - Co-design
  - Implementing / Testing
  - Evaluation / Reflection
  - Co-design / Improvement
- Organic farming – and other new approaches - provide a joint vision, aim and intrinsic motivation to participate



# Contact

Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL

Ackerstrasse 113 / Postfach 219

5070 Frick

Switzerland

Phone +41 62 8657-272

Fax +41 62 8657-273

[info.suisse@fibl.org](mailto:info.suisse@fibl.org)

[www.fibl.org](http://www.fibl.org)