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Content

This NewsLetter is dedicated the European research on ICT and Robotics in Agriculture and related industries especially concerning the future European 7th research framework programme starting in 2007.

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ICT and Robotics in Agriculture in the EU

The European 7th research framework programme starts 1st of January 2007 and has 7 years duration. The total budget of the framework is at present €73,215,000,000. There are 4 specific programmes: Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities.

To increase the coordination within agricultural research in Europe by strengthening networking and collaboration as well as to influence the future FP7 to enhance future project possibilities several organisations and

SCAR – Standing Committee on Agricultural Research

The Standing Committee for Agricultural Research (SCAR) was established by the regulation (EEC) No. 1728/74 of the Council of 27 June 1974 on the coordination of agricultural research. SCAR advises the Commission in the field of the coordination of research in agriculture. SCAR management was in the middle of 2004 transferred to the European Commission DG (Directorate General) Research and a new more flexible SCAR was introduced to enable better cooperation and coordination in view of the European Research area within agricultural.

Collaborative Working Groups under SCAR

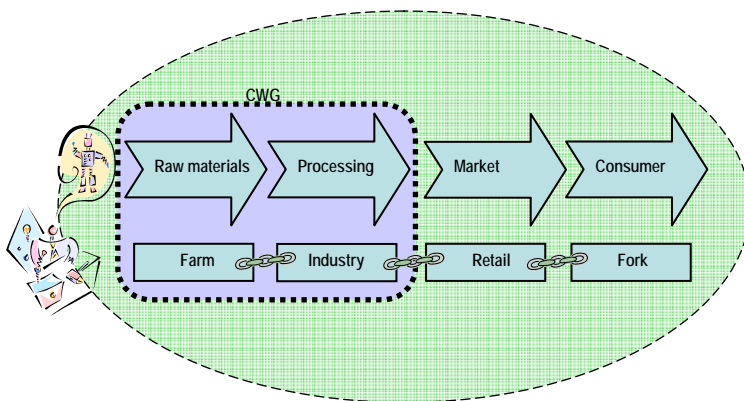
The working group of SCAR has from national priority areas for collaboration proposed 11 themes for collaborative working groups (CWGs). Denmark is represented in 9 of the collaborative working groups – and coordinator of one; the CWG for ICT and Robotics in Agriculture and related Industries. Below is a list of the proposed CWGs with the coordinator country in bracket, followed by the date for the first meeting if a such has taken place.

- ICT and robotics in agriculture (Denmark) Kick-off meeting on 1/09/2005
- Utilisation of renewable raw materials for industry (Germany) Kick-off meeting on 27/09/2005
- Sustainable livestock production from grasslands (Ireland) Kick-off meeting on 1/12/2005
- Mediterranean agriculture (Italy) Kick-off meeting on 2/12/2005
- Agricultural and sustainable development (France) Kick-off meeting on 6/12/2005
- Animal health (UK) Kick-off meeting on 8/12/2005
- Ecological networks and corridors (Netherlands)
- Ecology for ecosystems & natural resources (France)
- Development of sustainable agriculture in Baltic Sea Region (Poland)
- Advanced Technologies for Climatic Control of Greenhouses and Livestock Housing (Israel)
- Human alimentation & nutrition (France)

The aim of the CWGs is to implement a Common Research Agenda in Europe in the field of agricultural research – where the term agricultural research is understood in a broad sense

encompassing the so called ‘fork-to-farm’ concept, emphasising research for sustainable agriculture, and including biodiversity and rural development., thereby addressing topics within a concept of a “the knowledge based bio-economy”

The vision of the collaborative working group in ICT and Robotics is to shape and focus the research and development on ICT and robotics for the agriculture and related industries and provide a basis for member state collaboration. The working group brings together existing networks and the technological companies, achieve critical mass, and provide optimal conditions for the European work in ICT and robots for agriculture and related industries. The CWG has at present 19 members from 12 nationalities.



The area of the CWG is specified in the figure to the left. The work area comprises the areas of agriculture and food processing industry until the retail part of the food chain.

The group is at present in the state of mapping the national research programmes, generic knowledge and projects within the area, and outlining a matrix of the R&D topics on ICT and robotics in agriculture and related

industries within the next decade. The matrix will help the group to identify missing technology links in the chain from farm to fork.

For more information on SCAR take a look at their homepage

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/agriculture/scar/index_en.cfm

Or for more information on this specific collaborative working group – contact the chair research director [Svend Christensen](#).

Topics of coming newsletters

Portraits of PhD students in the area of agricultural engineering and technology

A Vietnamese-Danish science transfer project in sustainable, sanitary and efficient management of animal manure for plant nutrition

Navigation systems and IT in Denmark