



Introduction and Overview of the Thematic Network Project Grazing4AgroEcology

Dr. Arno Krause,
Centre for Grasslands, Germany

Carrefours de l'innovation agronomique
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Institut Agro Rennes

Website

www.grazing4agroecology.eu

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Background: Thematic Networks as a core element of the EIP-Agri

Grazing4Agroecology (G4AE) is

a project in the frame (-work) of the EIP-Agri

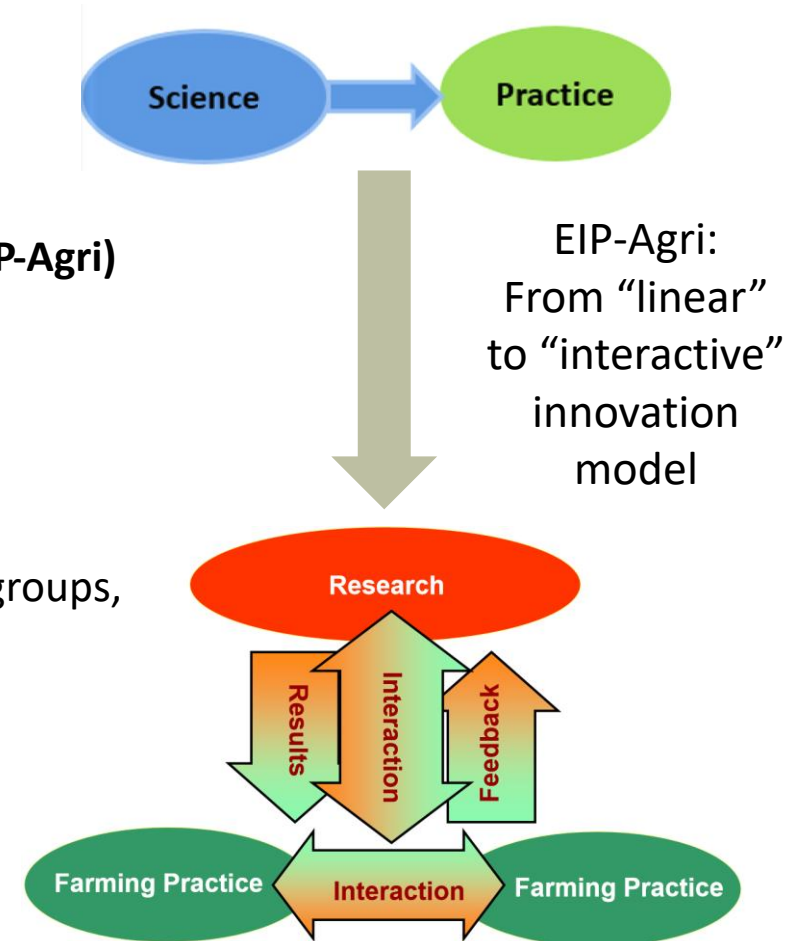
- European Innovation Partnership on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-Agri) launched in 2012
- Boosting innovation by knowledge exchange („More with less“)

based on the methodology of a “Multi-Actor approach”

- End users, researchers and multipliers of research results (e.g. farmers and farmers’ groups, advisers, researchers, ...) are closely cooperating on equal terms throughout the entire project period – Strong focus on end-users

implemented as a “Thematic Network”

- Collecting existing knowledge and best practices & spreading applicable knowledge ready for end users



Project Overview: Coverage, Partners and Project Term

No	Participant Organisation Name	Short Name	Country
1	Grünlandzentrum e.V. (Coordinator)	GLZ	Germany
2	Georg-August-Universität Göttingen	UGOE	Germany
3	TEAGASC – Agriculture and Food Development Authority	Teagasc	Ireland
4	Goldcrop Limited	Goldcrop	Ireland
5	Centro di Sperimentazione Laimburg	Laimburg	Italy
6	Genossenschaft Bioland Südtirol landw. Ges.	Bioland ST	Italy
7	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche	CNR	Italy
8	Chambre régionale d'Agriculture de Bretagne	CRAB	France
9	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique	INRAE	France
10	Institut de L'Elevage	IDELE	France
11	Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet	SLU	Sweden
12	Svenska Vallföreningen	SVall	Sweden
13	Consulai	Consulai	Portugal
14	Universidade de Evora	UEVORA	Portugal
15	Stichting Aeres Groep	Aeres	The Netherlands
16	Zuidelijke land- en tuinbouworganisatie Vereniging	ZLTO	The Netherlands
17	Universitatea de Stiinte Agricole si Medicina Veterinara Cluj	USAMV	Romania
18	Asociația Clusterul Agro-Food-Ind Napoca	ATC	Romania

- **Balanced between practice (incl. farmers, advisory, industry) & science**
- **Coverage of main grassland-regions and agroclimatic zones in EU**



Source: Iglesias, A., Garrote, L., Quiroga, S., Moneo, M.: Impacts of climate change in agriculture in Europe. PESETA-Agriculture study. EUR 24107 EN; DOI 10.2791/33218;EC

Project Term: Sept. 2022 – Feb 2026 (42 M) (currently M 28/42)

Funding: Horizon Europe, CSA, 3 Mio €



Motivation

Grazing-based production systems can have positive effects

Example: The importance of grazing for biodiversity

A cow pat on the pasture can provide 200-300g of insect mass



Grazing of a herd of 100 cows can provide

- 63 kg insect mass per day
- Depending on way of grazing
 - >1000 kg of insect mass per year

Important source of food for (meadow-) birds

- Pie-grièche à tête rousse
- Pie-grièche grise
- Courlis cendré
- Barge à queue noire
- Vanneau huppé

Societal acceptance
Preference for grazing

Support Carbon sequestration

positive

ways to be better*

imagine cows*

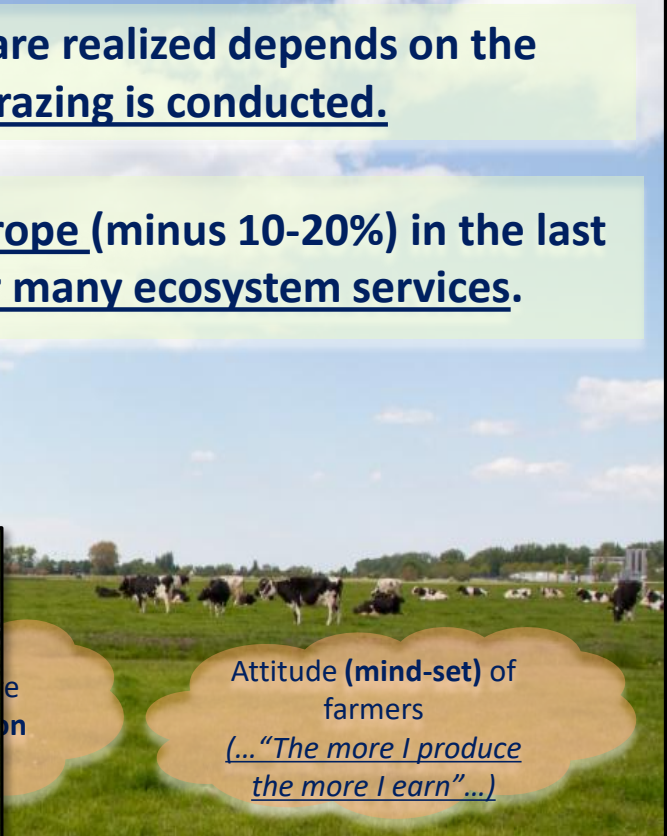


Motivation



How successfully these positive effects are realized depends on the magnitude of grazing and how grazing is conducted.

Grazing has generally been declining in Europe (minus 10-20%) in the last decade - and still is - being a threat for many ecosystem services.

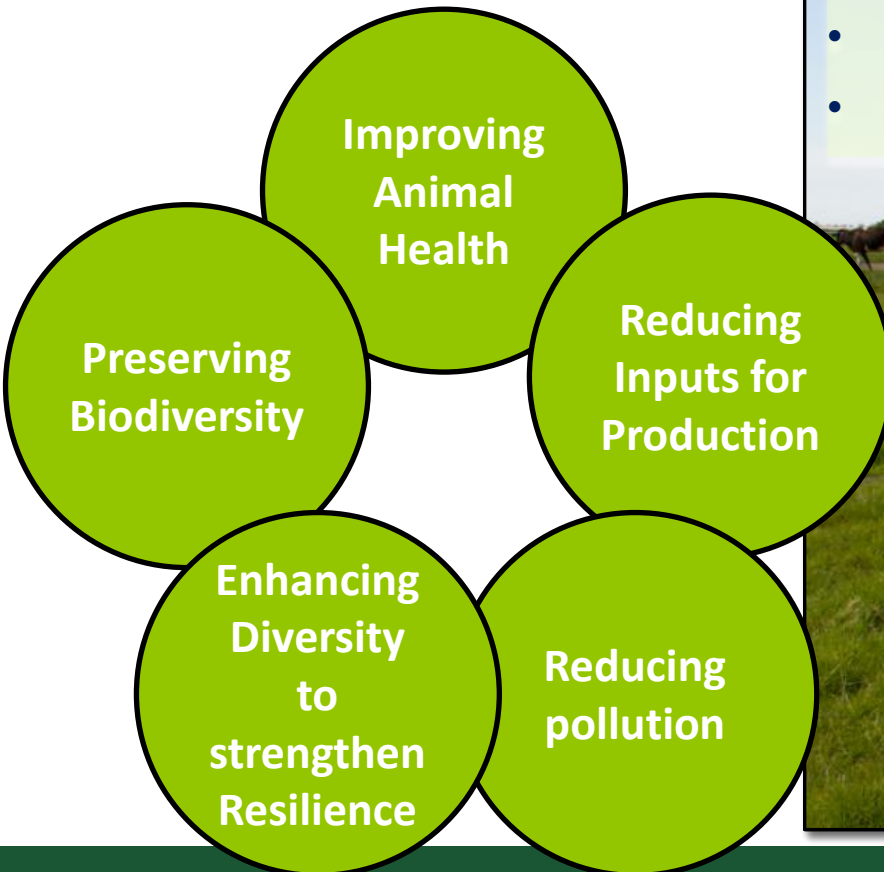


Attitude (mind-set) of farmers
(...“The more I produce the more I earn”...)



Our objectives

Based on 5 principles (“Pillars”) of AgroEcology for livestock farming to improve grazing systems



The objectives of Grazing4Agroecology

- Strengthen the farmers' capacities in optimising and promotion of grazing
- Improving the economic, ecological, cultural & societal value, including animal welfare
- Foster multi-actor collaboration, co-creation and knowledge sharing
- Reinforce National Grazing AKISs (“Knowledge & Innovation Systems”)



The components and some selected results of the G4AE Project



Components of the G4AE Network: The Partner Farm Network



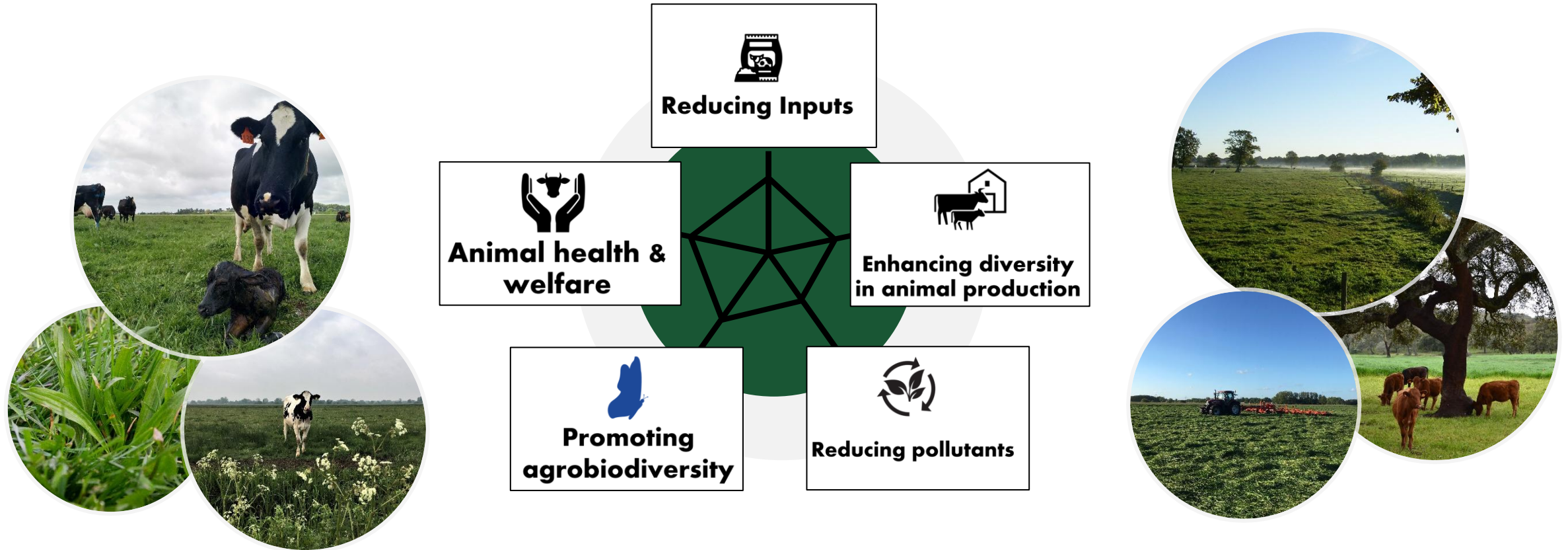
Partner Farm Network (PFN)

- 15 farms in each project MS (120 in total)
- Foundation of G4AE project into practice
 - 72 farm-walks for peer-2-peer learning
- Source of best-practices and innovative ideas to be widely spread
 - 120 Practice Abstracts for innovative practices
 - 120 Videos (One per Farm)
- Self-assessment based on agroecology for benchmarking progress
 - G4AE Self-Assessment Tool
- Surveyed throughout the project term



Output of the Partner Farm Network

Self-Assessment tool based on 5-pillar-concept for agroecology for livestock farming



Output of the Partner Farm Network

Self-Assessment tool based on 5-pillar-concept for agroecology for livestock farming

Pillar	Sub-pillar	No. of questions	Score Sub-pillar	Score Pillar
Réduction des intrants	Maximiser l'utilisation des fourrages	14	87,4	77,9
Réduction des intrants	Réduction des achats d'aliment	5	75,0	

Parameter	Value	Languages	
Language	FR	DE	Deutsch
	DE	EN	English
	EN	FR	Français
	FR	IT	Italiano
	IT	NL	Nederlands
	NL	PT	Português
	PT	RO	Română
	RO	SV	Svenska
	SV		

Réduire la pollution	Fertilisation	3	100,0	
Réduire la pollution	Gestion des sols	6	66,4	
Réduire la pollution	Réglementation des nuisibles	3	40,0	
Réduire la pollution	Protection des cours d'eau	3	60,0	
Biodiversité	Gestion de l'habitat	28	53,4	53,4

- Based on MS Excel
- Multi-language
- 20-30 questions per pillar to be answered
- Results calculated as scores for each pillar

Output of the Partner Farm Network

G4AE SA-tool: Average results by participating Member State Partner Farm survey



Components of the G4AE Network: The Young Farmers Groups

Irish Young Farmers Tour

28th – 30th April, 2025

Grazing 4 AgroEcology

Promote grazing and support grazing-based farms on their economic and ecologic performances

Young farmers groups

- National groups of young farmers per project MS
- Groups (10-15 each) meet twice a year
- Discussion of project results
- Interaction with project team in terms of applicability of project output
- Working on mind-set of future generation
- International networking and knowledge exchange
 - *Several national meetings conducted*
 - *2 (out of 3) international meetings ("Young farmers tours")*
 - *Germany, June 2023*
 - *Netherlands, June 2024*
 - *Ireland (planned) April 2025*



Components of the G4AE Network: The STWG



Scientific and Technical Working Group (STWG)

- Composed of scientists and national experts
- 1 expert per project-partner (=18)
- Supported in determining indicators for self-assessment (-tools)
- Synthesise, validate, and enrich the tapped capital with know-how
- Improve transferability of best practices and innovation in EU



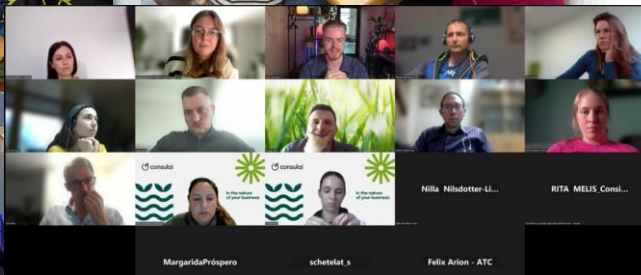
Project Results: STWG for validated & qualified project output



Components of the G4AE Network: Facilitator Agent Network



- ## The Facilitator Agents (FAs)
- 16 FAs (2 per project MS)
 - Moderators
 - *Facilitation of knowledge exchange processes (“Co-creation”) within MS*
 - Integrators
 - *Important role in cross-border linking the national Multi-Actor Grazing Networks (“AKISs”)*
 - Communicators & knowledge spreader
 - *Trained in the G4AE project to train users for video-creation and story-telling*



Custom AI Assistants

Get the most out of Chat GPT
How to let AI do 80% of the work.

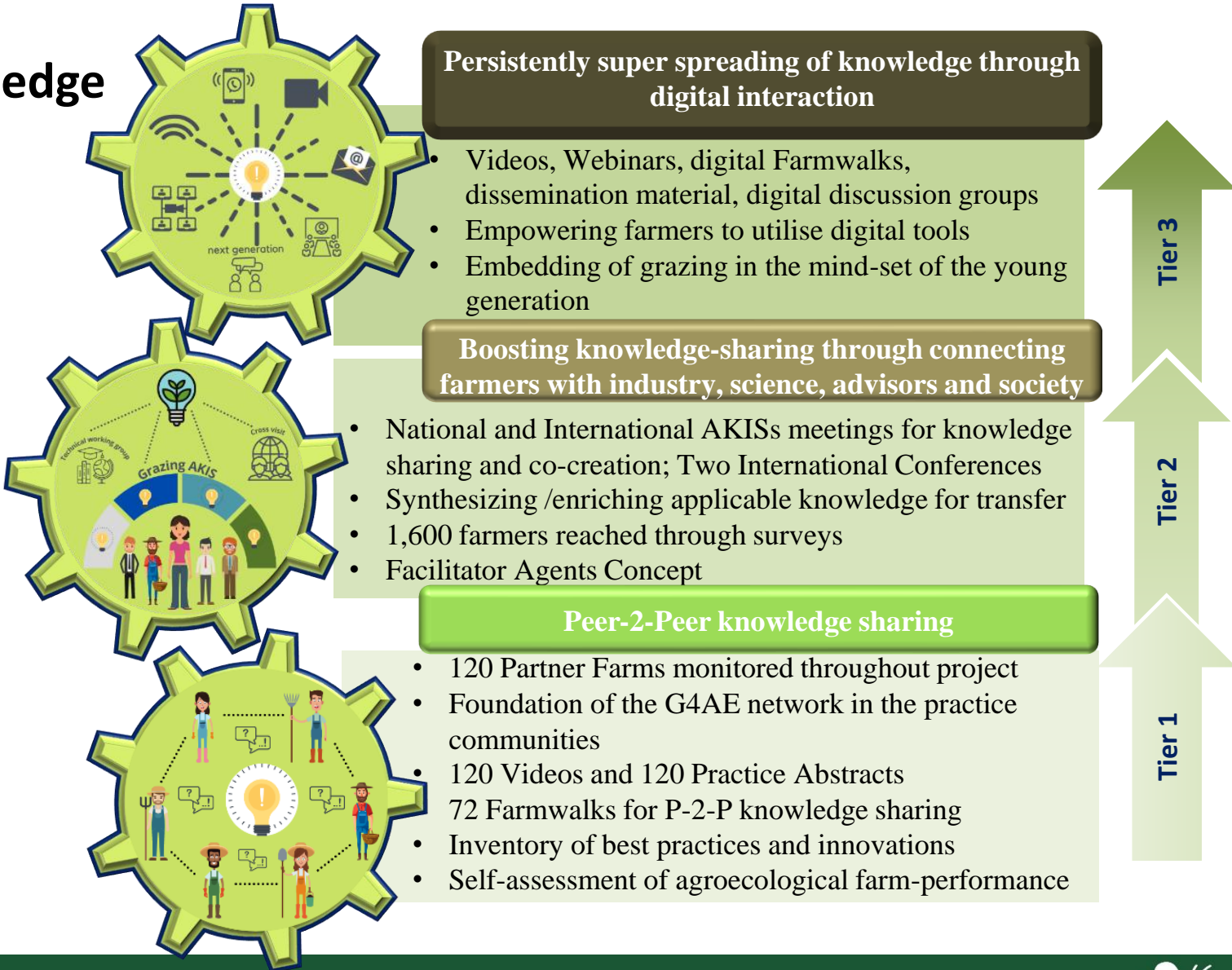


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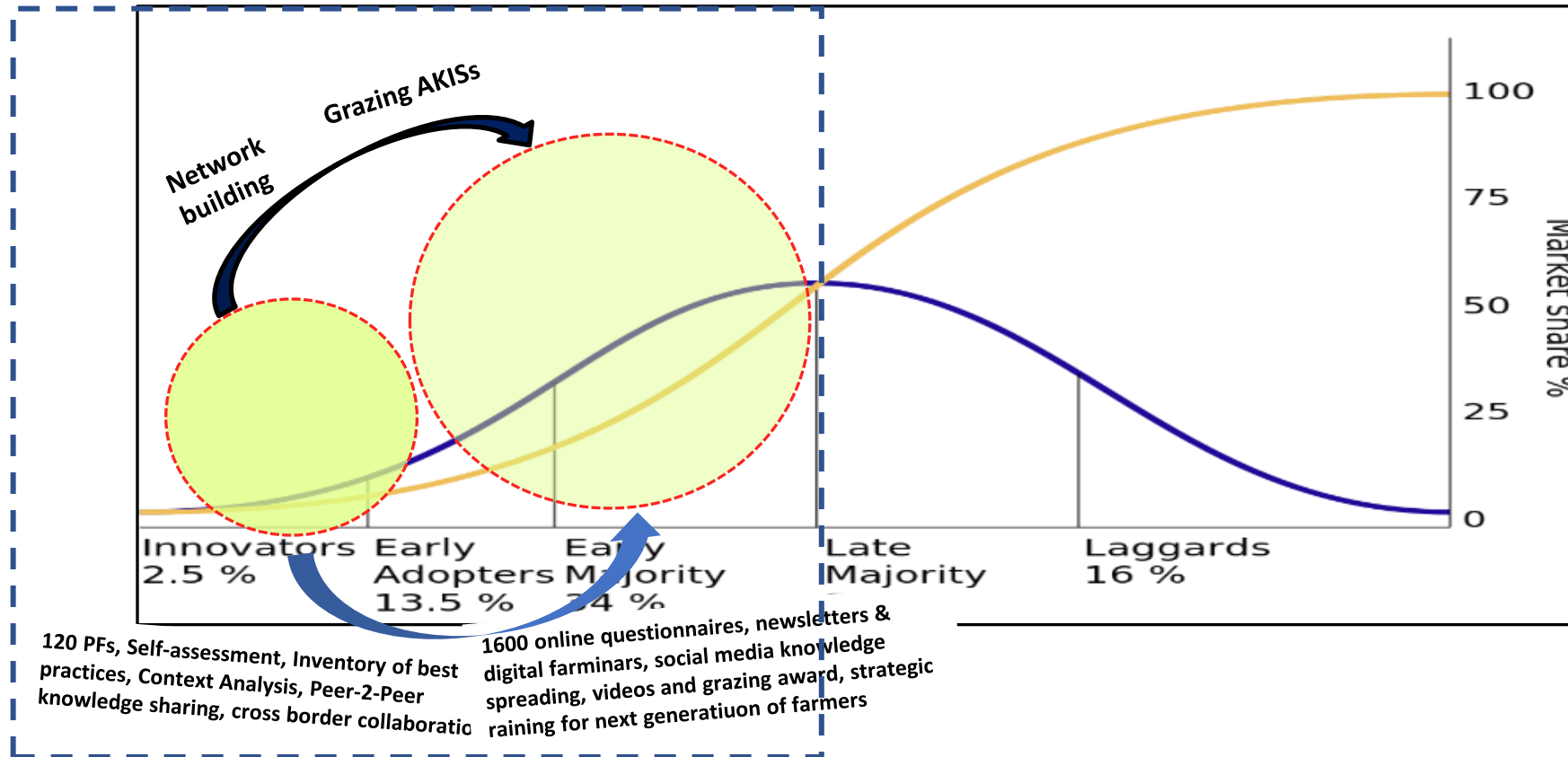


G4AE 3- tier approach for effective sharing of knowledge



Tapping and spreading knowledge capital

By tapping and enriching the Innovation Capital from the group of Innovators & Early Adopters G4AE will expand the network to the group of the Early Majority.





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