



# Synergy Days

BY SMARTAGRIHUBS | BARCELONA

## Workshops

The Synergy Days workshops are a focal point of the event, offering participating projects and EDIHs the space to share their expertise through interactive workshops, discussions and presentations.

There will be 4 blocks of workshops, with **10 workshops running in parallel in each**. Participants will have the choice of 1 workshop per block, with spaces being limited.

Explore the full list of workshops below:

**14 October - 11:00 - 12:30**

**1**

### **Digital transformation in food processing: the HIGHFIVE approach to support SME's**

**By: SS4AF, FoodScaleUp, HIGHFIVE**

The HIGHFIVE workshop at Synergy Days Barcelona will delve into HIGHFIVE's strategy to support SMEs in their digital and green transition, contributing to a sustainable and innovative agri-food system in Europe. By supporting SMEs with high-TRL innovation projects, HIGHFIVE facilitates overcoming implementation barriers of advanced technologies crucial to enhance food safety, quality and sustainability. The workshop will showcase how HIGHFIVE has optimized the different financial support systems, including cascade funding, for effective resource distribution. Attendees will hear real-life examples of SMEs benefiting from these initiatives, focusing on their digital transformation journey. Join us to discover our successful strategies and opportunities.

**2**

## **QuantiFarm Toolkit: An All-in-One Service for Digital Agriculture Technology Solutions**

**By: QuantiFarm**

The QuantiFarm Toolkit is a user-friendly decision support service for farmers, advisors and policy makers on Digital Agriculture Technology Solutions (DATSs). It provides real-world evidence from a wide range of DATSs as applied in commercial farming conditions, featuring 5 advisory tools designed to support data-driven decision-making regarding DATS across different contexts. By participating in the workshop, you will gain hands-on experience with the toolkit's intuitive interface, explore its functionalities and extensive knowledge base, and engage in practical use cases. Don't miss this chance to discover the toolkit's potential as an essential resource for farmers' journey to the digital era.

**3**

## **WeatherWize: bridging technological divide in rural communities**

**By: FUTURAL**

Presentation of an LLM-based chatbot designed to make sustainable agriculture-related data accessible to non-experts, particularly benefiting rural communities. Our chatbot uses a modular framework based on generative AI to aggregate and interpret information from diverse sources.

We will present our chatbot's capabilities to answer a large variety of user queries, provide recommendations, and offer insights on sustainable agriculture practices, and combine these with real-time weather data which can be correlated with crop calendars to provide optimal planting times and crop varieties based on the user's location and preferences.

**4**

## **Helping farmers and rural stakeholders navigate the world of digital technologies**

**By: COMNECT**

While numerous connectivity solutions are available nowadays, and can help overcoming the digital divide, their appropriateness varies widely in rural and remote areas, leaving end-users, and relevant stakeholders uncertain about the best solution option to choose. The Horizon Europe COMNECT project is addressing this issue, by developing the Decision-making Support Tool (DST), a user-friendly tool, designed to empower farmers, and other stakeholders in making informed decisions about the connectivity options, fitting better their needs, and meeting best the requirements of the target application. The DST is leveraging Large Language Model (LLM) technologies to provide rich information through a chat-based interface. DST not only answer questions, but also guides the conversation to collect all relevant information before providing suggestions and recommendations. The workshop will present the DST, its design principles, and the approach used for creating its knowledge base.

5

## **Validation Services for SMEs leveraging AI and Robotics in the agrifood sector**

**By: AgrifoodTEF**

The workshop is proposed for the benefit of all European SMEs working in the agrifood sector and using AI and / or Robotics in their solutions. It will present a number of concrete services that have been already successfully delivered to different SMEs/Startups in Europe, giving an opportunity to the audience to understand better and discuss how to exploit such an opportunity.

6

## **Advanced Analytics for Emerging Food Safety Risks**

**By: FoodDataQuest & EFRA**

This workshop is dedicated to addressing the increasingly critical issue of emerging food safety risks. The focus will be on advanced analytical techniques and state-of-the-art technologies that can predict, identify, and manage extreme risks in the food supply chain. Participants will explore topics such as real-time data analysis, predictive modeling, and the integration of AI and machine learning in food safety. The workshop will also cover the identification of novel hazards, risk assessment methodologies, and strategies for rapid response to food safety threats. By bringing together experts from diverse fields, this workshop aims to foster a comprehensive understanding of extreme risk food analytics and its application in ensuring a safe and resilient food supply.

7

## **Transforming Advisory Services: Embracing Digital Tools and Overcoming Challenges**

**By: ModernAKIS**

A recent event focused on the barriers and opportunities of digitalization in advisory services, highlighting how to select relevant digital tools for various activities. Discussions emphasized the importance the mindset-change viewing digital tools as complements rather than competitors. The event showcased project outcomes from their partners on better knowledge and implementation of digital tools. Key topics included data protection for advisors and addressing the accuracy and adaptability issues of some digital tools. The collaborative insights aimed to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of advisory services through digital transformation.

**8**

## **Onboarding and specialisation of African Digital Innovation Hubs - a playbook for African DIH**

**By: INCiTIS-FOOD**

Onboarding African Innovation hubs in digital ecosystems is a major aspect of the InCiTiS-FOOD project which is partly concluded digitally. Comparable to European Digital Agrihubs, there are many growing and prosperous innovation hubs in Africa, some are even financed by global development agencies. The African population is young and very tech savvy and looking for its own way to master the digital world. DIH are fluid structures looking for more structural development, government support or guidance for becoming sustainable. Many European digital hubs are also active in Africa. Unlike Europe, they are facing multiple challenges with weak digital infrastructure, using mostly phones and not computers and a more remote agricultural population with less access to technology and information. The workshop will focus on the importance of co-designing the African Innovation Ecosystems by establishing digital networking and partnership with Digital Innovation Hubs. During the session, we present the InCiTiS-FOOD DIH onboarding onboarding play book which was designed in collaboration with Wageningen Research, the GIZ funded Make-IT Africa initiative and the experiences on onboarding of Aglobe Development Centre in Nigeria.

**9**

## **How to improve official training using new technologies**

**By: Renovate**

Representatives from different stakeholders will provide ideas/suggestions about official training programs and proposals to improve quality engaging new generation.

**10**

## **Collaborative Innovation for European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs)**

**By: EDIH Bretagne & ENTIRE EDIH**

This workshop aims to create a dynamic space for European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) to come together, exchange ideas, and form innovative strategies that address the unique needs of each region's digital transformation goals. Collaboration is key to reinforcing the EDIH network, and by working together, we can leverage each other's strengths to create impactful digital services for our regions. The main outcome of this workshop will be the development of new, innovative digital services and inter-regional collaboration schemes. These initiatives will be promoted and implemented by the participating EDIHs, resulting in tangible benefits for our regions, enhanced opportunities for SMEs, and a stronger, more collaborative EDIH network.

**14 October - 15:40 - 16:55**

**11**

## **Exploring the potential of private data sharing: Identification of gain creators, needs and opportunities**

**By: FoodDataQuest**

Our aim is to identify the potential of private data sharing, including gain creators and needs: what information throughout the food supply chain is needed to foster sustainable dietary change and what are implications for the type of data that need to be collected and the technologies that are needed to transform the data (e.g., AI, robotics, IoT, etc.). Three stakeholder groups can be our target: i) behavioural/communication experts, ii) food chain actors, and (iii) data science/ AI specialists. In this workshop, we plan to collect information mainly from latter group of data and AI experts whose work focuses on the intersections between data science/AI and agri-food science, and who can help us identify the technologies that are needed to connect the different data sources and opportunities to transform the data into useful insights and comprehensible communication messages.

**12**

## **How can Agrifood TEF - a 60 million project - help EDIHs support SMEs?**

**By: AgrifoodTEF**

Agrifood TEFs and Agrifood EDIHs join this roundtable to explore and share opportunities and cooperations aiming to foster the synergy and leverage the network.

**13**

## **New multipurpose hub for managing and presentation of agriculture and rural related information**

**By: PoliRuralPlus, ALIANCE, COMUNIDAD, SmartAgriHubs, Plus Change, DALIA**

This workshop will demonstrate various methods for managing, presenting, and analyzing different types of agricultural and rural-related information, utilizing the examples of the PoliRuralPlus, Aliance, and COMUNIDAD hubs. These hubs employ the Hub4Everybody technology, which was initially developed as part of the SmartAgriHubs project. Attendees will explore how these hubs serve as multilevel solutions capable of handling diverse datasets, supporting complex analyses, and effectively presenting information. The session aims to showcase the technology's extensive applicability and potential across various sectors.

**14**

## **Assessing socio-economic impact of connectivity solutions for rural communities**

**By: COMMECT**

To understand the impact generated through the deployment of innovative connectivity solutions, assessing the socio-economic effect is equally important as assessing the technological performance. In this workshop COMMECT will present their approach to assess the socio-economic impact of innovative connectivity solutions, together with preliminary results. The assessment includes a mix of quantitative techno-economic models as well as qualitative assessment methods to understand how rural end-users (agricultural, forestry, viticulture) can benefit from access to connectivity solutions. In order to achieve these socio-economic impacts, it is necessary to design business models that support the deployment of such solutions in practice. The long-term survivability and adoption of such business models can greatly benefit from a collaborative perspective, in which win-win scenario (in terms of costs and benefits) for the community stakeholders is created. Therefore, complementing the socio-economic impact of connectivity solutions, the workshop will also present how such business models can be developed through collaborative efforts between rural and value chain stakeholders.

**15**

## **Extended reality as a catalyst for rural-urban synergies in the agri-food sector**

**By: RURBANIVE**

RURBANIVE develops innovations in domains, including the agri-food sector, known to favour bi-directional rural-urban synergies. The project leverages extended reality to promote innovation within local communities and enable interactions and experimentation, e.g. by explaining complex concepts in an intuitive manner and offering interactive visualisations for citizens to co-design solutions. This workshop will demonstrate how extended-reality technology can become a catalyst for rural-urban synergies and will seek ideas for more applications. A group of the participants will be invited to experience content, on mobile phones provided to them, that communicates the impact of actions towards shortening value chains and ecosystem restoration.

**16**

## **Technology, transparency, and trust: Addressing food fraud vulnerability in European agri-food supply chains**

**By: Watson**

This interactive workshop aims to explore the critical roles of technology, transparency, and trust in mitigating food fraud vulnerabilities within food supply chains. We will examine the relative importance of each factor in preventing food fraud and discuss strategies for their effective implementation in European food supply chains. We will discuss technical systems, institutional frameworks, and social dynamics required to support these efforts. The workshop will begin with short impulse talks on results of the WATSON project. This will be followed by a World Café session, where participants will share their experiences and insights.

17

## **Data Flows and Framework Conditions in Agriculture & Forestry**

**By: 4Growth**

In this workshop we will discuss how we can best understand data flows and framework conditions in agriculture & forestry. First, we will aim to understand what are the types of data used in agriculture & forestry, how they are generated, who has access, and what do they do with this data. Secondly, we will discuss how framework conditions affect the uptake of digital technologies in agriculture & forestry.

18

## **Digital transformation in agri-food industries**

**By: BBTWINS**

Sharing digital solutions and technologies of any kind applied to agri-food industries (farming and food processing) to boost their competitiveness (greener and more efficient). Then co-operatively defining future challenges and how triplet transition (green, digital & social) can make overcome them.

19

## **Realising data spaces for the future data economy – Managing organisational and technical challenges from interoperability to trust**

**By: Data4Food2030**

Data Intermediaries are essential for creating value networks between data owners and consumers, building on implementation of fair business models aligned with interests of all participants. They need to understand costs and benefits of data sharing solutions, asking for mechanisms to guarantee transparency and enabling trust. We will present (1) a design approach for data governance frameworks for agricultural data spaces jumpstarting the discussion about challenges and questions and (2) reuse of organisational frameworks, open-source technology and how to strategically cooperate in the scope of international initiatives like the Data Space Business Alliance or reporting directives like CSRD or CSDDD.

20

## **Mapping data requirements for effective and informed decision-making**

**By: Nostradamus**

This workshop seeks to engage stakeholders from industry, civil society, academia, and partners from Cluster 6 and EU Missions-funded projects, among others. Participants will collaboratively identify and prioritize the data requirements necessary for informed decision-making in daily agricultural operations. Through active engagement and stakeholder analysis, this workshop aims to ensure that all relevant parties are equipped with the critical data needed to drive effective and informed decisions in the agricultural sector.

**15 October - 11:00 - 12:30**

**21**

### **OpenAgri and Farmtopia Open Calls presentation**

**By: OpenAgri and Farmtopia**

The main idea of the workshop is to give potential applicants better overview of the open calls, specifics of both of them and on what aspects of the application process they should pay special attention to.

**22**

### **Beyond the Buzz: Practical Applications of Generative AI in Behavior Science**

**By: FoodDataQuest**

This session would complement our existing workshops and provide valuable insights into the transformative potential of AI in consumer behavior sciences. Key points of the proposed workshop include: Exploring generative AI technologies and their applications in behavior sciences | Proposing frameworks of working with new AI technology in the current datalandscape | Discussing dynamic interventions for behavior change and privacy considerations | Interactive sessions including a prompt engineering challenge

**23**

### **The future of knowledge and innovation platforms**

**By: FS4Africa**

The agri-food sector can serve as a powerful catalyst for a comprehensive societal transformation, encompassing the convergence of human health, planetary health, and inclusive prosperity. Innovation and knowledge platforms serve as a continuous project/ecosystem capacity building tool in feeding and being fed by on-going funded and applied-for initiatives. There are so many EU-AU platforms and projects to maintain even in this network.

AI and machine learning applied to a number of agri-food platforms (e.g. FS4Africa) will bridge and combine this knowledge with a multitude of other platforms. We will showcase the food safety 4Africa platform and the LLM application in a demo of 10 min as one example on how we can leverage even more knowledge in the advanced global eco-system and discuss how the use of digitalisation and data platforms can support open innovation processes. We would then want to discuss options for connecting various pockets of knowledge with the audience and here about the experiences of others.



**24**

## **How AI can improve earth monitoring for agriculture**

**By: ALIANCE, COMUNIDAD, PoliRuralPlus, EO-Informed Agent-Based Models for Digital Twins Applications**

This workshop will explore the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in enhancing Earth monitoring systems for agricultural applications. It will feature a blend of presentations and panel discussions, utilizing two case studies from the Aliance project. These examples will highlight AI methods that address challenges such as cloud coverage in satellite imagery and the enhancement of local weather forecasting using data fusion techniques. The panel discussion will include experts from the project managed by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the EuroGeo project, focusing on future trends and developments in Earth monitoring for agriculture including in situ.

**25**

## **Role-playing knowledge flows in the agri-sector: Navigating barriers and challenge**

**By: modernAKIS**

This interactive role-playing workshop explores and addresses barriers in knowledge flow and knowledge transfer within the agricultural sector. Participants will engage in dynamic role-play exercises that simulate challenges in knowledge transfer across different scenarios, providing a hands-on understanding of the complexities involved. The game also explores the role of IT in facilitating and hindering these knowledge flows processes in all the different steps. The workshop aims to identify gaps in Member States' capacity building, validate priorities, and define key indicators for effective knowledge flows. Collaboration with coordination bodies, policymakers, institutions, and other AKIS stakeholders will be emphasized to ensure actionable outcomes and effective follow-up.

**26**

## **Policy for food system transparency: priorities and pathways • closed workshop for policymakers**

**By: TITAN**

The workshop provides a forum for policymakers, and those aiming to influence policy, to deliberate over potential routes to a more transparent food system. What are the potential benefits of greater transparency? What are the key challenges in achieving transparency? How might digitisation affect the role of policy and regulation in enabling greater food system transparency? The session will involve both open discussion around these themes, and focused deliberation over a range of policy scenarios. Participants will refine these scenarios during the session. The discussion will contribute to future policy briefings from the TITAN project.

**Are you a policymaker interested in attending?** Contact the event organisers for more details.

**27**

## How fair is your smart solution

By: **BEATLES**

Within the EU, farmers face multiple challenges, including environmental regulations, volatile weather, and reduced profits due to unfair value distribution in the food chain. Smart solutions have potential to ease the farmers position, however, the fairness concerns demand co-design and co-creation among all stakeholders to ensure fairness, regardless of their market power. Collective business strategies, fostering dialogues and peer learning, are crucial for integrating fairness into the (digital) business models. This session will discuss:

1. Stakeholder engagement and fairness
2. Business models and fair distributions of values
3. Multi-stakeholder collaboration to ensure sustainable practices are fairly implemented

**28**

## Assessing Ethical, Legal and Social Aspects (ELSA) of digital technologies

By: **Data4Food2030 & AgrifoodTEF**

Digital technologies such as AI are enablers of circular and sustainable food systems and comes with challenges. AI also raises concerns regarding the Ethical, Legal and Social Aspects (ELSA) such as transparency, privacy and labor aspects. To test and develop responsible and trustworthy AI in agri-food, WUR presents the ELSA research method in current and future projects. The second part of this session is interactive to uncover ELSA for your project or research.

**29**

## Advancing equality for rural and farm women in Europe

By: **GRASS CEILING**

GRASS CEILING is an innovative project working to advance rural and farm women's role in leading socio-ecological transitions. It operates in nine countries and has 'living labs' in each country which brings together stakeholder organisations, women innovators and researchers. In this workshop we will discuss and debate the secret to the success of our living labs; our approach to gender benchmarking European and national documents; how we are advancing policy tools; and some of the specific challenges faced by rural women. In addition, we debate the value of specific projects focused on women and how we move to the mainstream.

**30**

## **European innovation ecosystems: Building stronger rural communities in a changing Europe**

**By: Dungarvan Enterprise Centre and ENTIRE EDIH**

Europe's rural communities are rapidly evolving due to population shifts, presenting both challenges and incredible opportunities for growth, innovation and inclusion. We invite you to join us in a collaborative workshop focused on empowering, engaging, and embracing our rural communities in this new era. Together, we will explore innovative approaches to integrate new populations into existing structures, leverage biases to create more inclusive communities, and design the rural regions of tomorrow. Topics include: Connecting New Programmes with Emerging Actors | Implementing Action Plans for Connected Regional Innovation Valleys | Learning from Mutual Support Schemes. This workshop also aims to lay the groundwork for forming a consortium that will explore upcoming European Commission calls for proposals.

**15 October - 15:00 - 16:15**

**31**

## **Autonomous robots, tomorrow's crop care friend**

**By: Robs4Crops**

Explore the future of agriculture with autonomous robots designed to revolutionize crop care. This panel discussion will feature insights from a guest speaker and experts representing leading EU projects in robotics and agriculture. Together, they will delve into the latest advancements, challenges, and opportunities in using autonomous systems for sustainable and efficient farming. Join us to discover how these cutting-edge technologies are transforming the agri-food sector and paving the way for tomorrow's crop care solutions.

**32**

## **Start-ups and scale-ups support in food processing**

**By: Food-scalEU, Smart Sensors 4 Agri Food (SS4AF) and HighFive**

The workshop will disseminate and discuss the results of the Food-scalEU project. The objective of the Food-scalEU project is to develop new acceleration services for SMEs and startups and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices between accelerators across European regions.

**33**

## **Building digital bridges: insights from COMMECT living labs**

**By: COMMECT**

There is a growing demand for connectivity in rural and remote areas to support the digital transition of rural communities. The Horizon Europe COMMECT project focuses on bridging the digital divide by integrating Non-Terrestrial Networks (satellites, drones) with terrestrial ones, spanning from cellular future generation (XG) networks to low-cost Internet of Things networks. Moreover, by utilizing Artificial Intelligence (AI), Edge computing and Network Automation, COMMECT aims to provide qualitative, reliable, and secure access for all in challenging and less commercially attractive areas.

The workshop will present the COMMECT Living Labs (LLs): Viticulture in Luxembourg, Forestry in Norway, Livestock Transport in Denmark, Olive Tree Farms in Türkiye, and Sustainable Agriculture in Serbia. For each of them, the workshop will introduce first the use cases defined based on the actual needs of end-users and stakeholders, and then the proposed connectivity solutions, enabling such use cases, and related digital applications. Connectivity challenges and gains will be discussed for each LL from different perspectives.

**34**

## **Is it possible to use generic AI and large language models in agriculture and rural development?**

**By: PoliRuralPlus, Aliance, COMUNIDAD, cooperation with ADRA and BDVE**

This workshop will commence with a brief demonstration of outcomes from the PoliRuralPlus project, showcasing the integration of Large Language Models (LLMs) with Spatial Data to generate textual and map-based outputs for stakeholders. Following the demonstration, a roundtable discussion will be convened with experts in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for agriculture. The session aims to identify key areas for future development and explore potential collaborations to advance the application of AI technologies in rural, agricultural and food settings.

**35**

## **Mindset is key to enabling healthy EDI practices**

**By: Gender Alliance for Innovation in Agriculture (GAIA)**

With good intentions, EDI priorities often fail and create even more polarisation rather than bring us closer which is their original intention. Mindset is often the missing ingredient to enabling healthy EDI practices.

Possible Learning Outcomes:

- Gain awareness of how we delete, distort and generalise information and in so doing form unconscious biases.
- The importance of a safe place for conversations to address real and perceived fears/threats without judgement.
- Uncover how we and others fall into advantaged/disadvantaged groups.
- Discover a proven process to go beyond conflict/difference to greater solutions.

**36**

## **Stakeholder-interviews with Catalyse project**

**By: TITAN**

Research and innovation for food safety must be developed to further explore and manage (new) risks. In a World Café setup, we will explore needs and priorities within the 6 critical Food Safety areas identified by Flanders' Food. Participation in the focus group will not only benefit stakeholder's professional development, but will also contribute to the collective effort to improve food safety across Europe.

Expected outcomes:

- Understanding the insights of varied stakeholders on the predefined set of topics
- Can highlight the needs in educational resources, training/courses on field
- Make CATALYSE consortium better understand the Stakeholder's accessibility to food safety innovations
- Discussions can bring out professional experiences that can lead to understanding stakeholder expectations in food safety?

**37**

## **Mapping data requirements for strategic policy shaping**

**By: Nostradamus**

This workshop will focus on identifying the data requirements essential for supporting EU-related strategies in the agricultural sector and monitoring the efficiency of these strategies. Stakeholders, including industry experts, policymakers, and academics, will collaborate to define the data needs that will inform and shape effective agricultural policies. The workshop will emphasize the importance of robust data in guiding strategic decisions and evaluating the impact of implemented strategies, ensuring that EU agricultural policies are both effective and responsive to emerging challenges.

**38**

## **Watson project solutions: Fraud detection and prevention in the fish value chain**

**By: Watson**

This workshop will start with an overview of the Watson project and digital technology reference architecture designed to enhance traceability and combat food fraud across various supply chains. This will be followed by individual discussions from Watson partners on the various novel technological solutions integrated within the architecture (blockchain, digital product passport etc.). The Watson fish use case leader will then present how the architecture links with Watson's 6 use cases, and particularly how it is being applied in the fish case. This will be followed by a presentation from the FishEUTrust project on their solutions and linkages with Watson.

39

## **Trends in data economy: what is the value of data**

**By: Data4Food2030**

Understanding the data economy remains a challenge for many actors in the food system. What is the value of data, for whom and how can that value be captured? This can be different for various stakeholders and under different circumstances. These circumstances will also change in the future. Several technological, social, legal, economic and environmental trends for the data economy for food systems were identified through a literature study and stakeholder consultations. The aim of the workshop is to share and validate the results of the trend analysis, and get a better understanding of how the value of data changes because of it. Join our discussion on what is the value of data, what are the trends, and how these trends change values.

40

## **Digital transformation of cloud seeding- Enhanced agricultural resilience**

**By: IAA Weather Modification**