



D4.3 Portugal – National Stakeholder Meeting Report



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D4.3 Portugal – National Stakeholder Meeting

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Contents

1.	General Information	4
1.1	Date and Place.....	4
1.2	Participants	4
2.	Process of the meeting	4
3.	Results of the meeting	4
4.	Main conclusions and advice to national government and the EC.....	5
	Annex I	6
	Annex II	7
	Annex III	8

List of Tables

Table 1: National Stakeholder Meeting Program.....	6
Table 2: Bottlenecks and Opportunities.....	7

List of Figures

Figure 1: Place of the National Stakeholders Meeting.....	8
Figure 2: National Stakeholders Meeting Participants.....	8

1. General Information

1.1 Date and Place

Date: February 5, 201

Place: University of Évora, Colégio do Espírito Santo, Room 242

1.2 Participants

- Ana Isabel Antunes – GPP – Office of Planning and Policies - *Governmental*
- António Perdigão - *Farmer*
- Dina Murcho – Agriculture engineer - *Consultant*
- João Coimbra – CAP/ANPROMIS - *Farmers associations*
- Miguel Neto – Universidade Nova de Lisboa and AgriCiência – *Educational and R&D Institutions, and Consultant and Services Company.*
- Pedro Baptista – Fundação Eugénio de Almeida - *Agriculture and Food Industries*
- Fatima Baptista – *AGREE Project*
- Luis Silva – *AGREE Project*

It was decided that due to the format of the meeting it would be preferable to have a limited number of participants, which is why the invitations were made in order to have only 1 or 2 representatives of each stakeholders group or category.

The two representatives of the agriculture input suppliers that had confirmed their presence excused themselves at the last minute due to professional obligations.

2. Process of the meeting

The meeting followed the program in attachment. The reunion was conducted by the members of the AGREE Project, Fátima Baptista and Luis Silva.

3. Results of the meeting

As a result of the exercise to collect key-words that described agriculture in 2040, the stakeholders suggested the following key-words: 1) resource conservation (soil, water); 2) competitiveness; 3) technology; 4) efficiency; 5) proximity (farmers have to produce according to local demand); 6) functional food; 7) Sustainable; 8) Food safety; 9) Irrigated agriculture; 10) Valorisation (of agriculture by society); 11) Input productivity maximization; 12) Fair agriculture (the establishment of fair prices, as well as balanced social and environmental standards in the production chains).

After the collecting of these words, the stakeholders identified 25 bottlenecks and 25 opportunities, in a “pressure cooker” exercise. This exercise generated a discussion between all participants that allowed collecting the list of words presented in attachment.

There was an active participation of all stakeholders that intervened with comments and examples from their own activity to illustrate the words they proposed. In most cases they all agree in the suggested words.

The list produced was printed and given individually to all of the stakeholders. They were then asked to select, individually, 5 bottlenecks and 5 opportunities. The results of this exercise are presented in the 25 words list in attachment.

The priorities selected were, in order of importance:

Bottlenecks: 1) Agricultural land structure (mainly small size farms); 2) Absence of applied agricultural research; 3) weak capacity for associative activities; 4) Poor agricultural soils.

Opportunities: 1) Water availability (new irrigation schemes); 2) Food demand increase; 3) use of biotechnology.

4. Main conclusions and advice to national government and the EC

All stakeholders had an active participation, showing high interest in the project results. They all recognize the importance of having more information and data on energy efficiency in agriculture and are eager to participate in this type of studies.

One of the bottlenecks priorities identified is precisely the absence of enough applied agricultural research, and they showed availability to participate with Universities and Research Institutes in this type of research. One of the opportunities selected is the use of biotechnology, which requires more research in order to be implemented.

The new irrigation schemes recently implemented in Portugal can be an opportunity to develop irrigated agriculture and overcome some of the production limitations of our poor soils.

The stakeholders show also some concern that this type of project, although important, could only allow achieving very general conclusions and/or general diagnostics of the state of agriculture. They believe that it is also necessary to find more specific measures to improve agriculture energy efficiency, i.e., more specific and applied research in areas/crops of national interest.

Annex I

Table 1: National Stakeholder Meeting Program

Time	Action	Methodology	Results to achieve
9:30	Welcome and participants presentation	All participants are asked to present themselves briefly.	
10:00	Project goals and main results presentation	Presentation in PowerPoint by the organizers	Allowing to the participants to get a better knowledge of the project and the main results already achieved.
10:30	Discussion about the perspectives for Agriculture in 2040	Participants are asked to give their opinion about a more efficient agriculture in 2040.	3 key-words from each participant that could describe agriculture in 2040
11:00	Discussion about the bottlenecks and opportunities	Participants are asked to identify opportunities and bottlenecks that should be addressed to achieve a more energy efficient agriculture.	Collection of 25 bottlenecks and 25 opportunities.
11:30	Coffee-break		
12:00	Prioritization list	The list of the identified bottlenecks and opportunities is given to the participants that have to select individually 5 bottlenecks and 5 opportunities.	To obtain a list of priorities.
12:30	Next steps	Brief presentation of the project next steps and possibilities for future collaboration with the stakeholders.	To get the opinion of the stakeholders about the meeting and ideas for future collaborations.
13:00	Lunch		

Annex II

Table 2: Bottlenecks and Opportunities

Bottlenecks		Opportunities	
Agricultural Land structure	6	Water availability (new irrigation schemes)	4
Absence of applied agricultural research	3	Demand increase	3
Poor agricultural soils	3	Use of biotechnology	3
Weak capacity for associative activities	3	Energy micro-generation and co-generation by farmers	2
Difficult access to information	2	Increase of connection between research and production/companies	2
High level of bureaucracy	2	Associative activities increase	2
Low negotiation power of the production sector	2	Innovation development	2
Need to redefine agriculture policies	2	Development of new agriculture policies	2
Lack of technical agriculture information dissemination	1	Good climate conditions for some crops	1
Low knowledge level of farmers	1	Quality products	1
Farmers age (old)	1	Use of Universities as spin-offs for consultant and services companies	1
Difficulties in access financial support	1	Creation of companies able to provide advanced technological services	1
Low investment capacity	1	Exportation increase	1
Farms dimension (small farms)	1	Development of knowledge platforms	1
Bad use of technology	1	Increase on entrepreneurship	1
Lack of marketing channels	1	New irrigated crops	1
Dependence on market prices		Existence of agricultural warning services	1
Absence of market policies		Early crops	
Peripheral effect and lack of image of the country		Increase of young farmers	
Difficulties in getting agricultural land		Companies availability for partnerships with research and educational institutions	
Bad image of intensive farm production		Implementation of measures to combat desertification	
Lack of management skills		Governmental acknowledge of agriculture importance	
Lack of proper investment projects evaluation		Opportunity to export agricultural technical knowledge to PALOP countries	
Lack of specialized technical support		Knowledge transfer	
Agriculture activities to much dependent of input suppliers technical support		New available technologies	

Annex III

Figure 1: Place of the National Stakeholders Meeting



Figure 2: National Stakeholders Meeting Participants

