

EURAGRI Webinar

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Generational Renewal in European Farming

➤ Rethinking Generational Renewal in a changing world: Identifying Research gaps

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➤ INRAE's contribution to the Strategy for generational renewal in agriculture



6-page contribution to the [Call for Evidence](#) by DG Agri (July 2025)



Présentation of the main conclusions and associated research needs



➤ Scope of the Strategy

*Active population in Europe is ageing and shrinking, making workforce renewal a challenge **beyond the agricultural sector***

The Strategy should:

- Cover the **whole agricultural workforce** in attractiveness policies: not only young farmers, but also women, wage-earners, and migrants
- Also address **labour shortages in primary processing sectors**, such as slaughterhouses
- Include new entrants with diverse profiles as well as **soon-to-retire** farmers



➤ Opportunitites that should not be missed

*The challenge of generational renewal is also an **opportunity** :*

- A chance to **reshape** farming models toward resilience, diversification and agroecology
- New entrants can drive **innovation** (diversification activities, digital tools, new practices) and bring their own **aspirations**
- Can contribute to more vibrant rural areas and strenghtened **food sovereignty**



➤ Overcoming the barriers (1)

Access to land

Limited information on land availability creates major transaction cost for new entrants and retiring farmers.

- More transparency on land markets
- Incentivize stakeholders to share land-related information

Strengthen succession planning and support tools

Succession is not merely an economic transaction

- Promote a culture of forward-looking, **long-term succession planning**, encouraging collaboration between farm managers and successors
- Develop and finance **peer-to-peer networks or mentorship programs** for retiring farmers, successors and new entrants



Research can contribute by:

- improved mapping and **data infrastructures** (e.g. planned European land observatories),
- **evaluation of land policies** such as pre-emption rights and farm matching programmes
- understanding **behavioural barriers** to early succession planning
- Analyzing the role of **peer networks and mentoring**



➤ Overcoming the barriers (2)

Financial constraints and viability

Capital needs are high, and banks often perceive new entrants as risky.

Research is needed on:

- **financial engineering** and new credit models,
- **alternative business structures** that help to pool and share risks
- **long-term economic performance** of agroecological and diversified farms,
- **risk-management tools** tailored to new entrants and better understanding of the low uptake of existing ones



➤ Overcoming the barriers (3)

Working and Living Conditions

Attractiveness of agriculture also depends on the quality of life it offers.

- Less uncertainty on the future
- Access to services in rural area
- Improved work organization and reduced drudgery, for farm managers and wage earners

Further research is needed on:

- **comparative analysis** of working conditions across farming systems,
- **organisational innovation** for labour-sharing and reduced drudgery
- Increasing role of **agricultural contractors** (providing farm services such as soil preparation, spraying, harvesting)
- Impact of **digitalisation** and automation impacts on farm work



➤ Policy Coherence

Generational renewal intersects with CAP Pillars I and II, as well as with domestic policies on land, pensions, taxation, labour, and migration

More research is needed on:

- Assessing the **unintended effects of CAP** support on young farmers, including impacts on land prices, indebtedness, the definition of “active farmer,” and social equity.
- Modelling and **evaluating interactions across policy domains** (CAP, cohesion policy, and domestic policies).
- Identifying, evaluating, and sharing **national best practices**



➤ Conclusion on research priorities

New policy landscape: *National and regional partnerships, along with the proposed 2028 CAP, present both opportunities for more integrated local-level policy and potential risks to farm income*

- **Working conditions** and sustainability of different farm models, including climate resilience
- Business models and **financial viability**
- **Legal and administrative complexity** of farm transfers and succession
- **Social and human factors** influencing succession decisions
- **Policy coherence**, complementarities and inconsistencies across policy domains and levels of governance

Cross-cutting methodological needs include:

- **transdisciplinary** approaches and multi-actor research.
- **living labs** focused on designing and co-evaluating supporting measures

➤ Thanks for your attention

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