



Online Workshops reports

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Type: Report, Deliverable Title: Online Workshops reports



Document Summary

Deliverable Title: **Online Workshops reports**

Version: **V1**

Deliverable Lead: **Iniciativas Innovadoras (INI)**

Related Work package: **WP3**

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Contributor(s): **All partners**

Communication level: **PU Public**

Project Number: **101000496**

Grant Agreement Number: **101000496**

Programme: **H2020**

Start date of Project: **October 2020**

Duration: **48 months**

Project coordinator: **Thanos Balafoutis (CERTH)**

Abstract

This deliverable contains the resume and content of the 3 online workshops organized throughout the project lifetime, with the aim of presenting the most important outcomes, as well as alternating them with each new batch of FEFTS registered on the AgEnergy Platform.

Table of contents

Abbreviations	4
List of figures	5
1 Introduction.....	6
2 Methodology	7
3 Workshops' description.....	11
3.1 First online workshop	11
3.2 Second online workshop	16
3.3 Third online workshop.....	20
4 Conclusions.....	25

Abbreviations

AFF: AgroFossilFree

EIP-AGRI: European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural productivity and Sustainability

EU: European Union

FEETS: Fossil Energy Free Technologies and Strategies

FIG: Figure

INI: Iniciativas Innovadoras

PV: Photovoltaic technology

PVT: Photovoltaic-thermal technology

List of figures

Fig. 1: Registration form for the 1 st Online Workshop	7
Fig. 2: News item announcing the 3rd Online Workshop	8
Fig. 3: News items of the website announcing the workshops.....	8
Fig. 4: First Online Workshop announcement on Twitter	9
Fig. 5: Second Online Workshop announcement.....	9
Fig. 6: Third Online Workshop announcement	9
Fig. 7: Newsletter invitation	10
Fig. 8: 1 st Workshop Attendants picture	11
Fig. 9: 1 st Workshop, Attendants characterization, origin.....	12
Fig. 10: 1 st Workshop, Attendants characterization, field of work	13
Fig. 11: 1 st Workshop, Question about AgEnergy feedback.....	13
Fig. 12: 1 st Workshop, Question about AgEnergy FEFTS upload	13
Fig. 13: 1 st Workshop, Question about energy needs in farming.....	14
Fig. 14: 1 st Workshop, Question about FEFTS adoption.....	14
Fig. 15: 1 st Workshop, Question about FEFTS interest.....	14
Fig. 16: 1 st Workshop, Question about energy efficiency strategies	14
Fig. 17: 1 st Workshop, Question about farming practices.....	15
Fig. 18: 1 st Workshop, Question about lessons learned.....	15
Fig. 19: 2 nd Workshop Attendants picture	16
Fig. 20: 2 nd Workshop, Attendants characterization, origin.....	17
Fig. 21: 2 nd Workshop, Attendants characterization, field of work.....	17
Fig. 22: 2 nd Workshop, Question about AFF knowledge	18
Fig. 23: 2 nd Workshop, Question about AgEnergy expectations	18
Fig. 24: 2 nd Workshop, Question about Technologies interest	18
Fig. 25: 2 nd Workshop, Question about energy efficiency strategies.....	18
Fig. 26: 2 nd Workshop, Question about transition to FEFTS.....	19
Fig. 27: 2 nd Workshop, Question about FEFTS needs	19
Fig. 28: 2 nd Workshop, Question about Biogas and biomethane.....	19
Fig. 29: 3 rd Workshop Attendants picture	20
Fig. 30: 3 rd Workshop, Attendants characterization, origin	21
Fig. 31: 3 rd Workshop, Attendants characterization, field of work	22
Fig. 32: 3 rd Workshop, AFF knowledge	22
Fig. 33: 3 rd Workshop, Questions about AFF knowledge	23
Fig. 34: 3 rd Workshop, Question about technologies interest	24
Fig. 35: 3 rd Workshop, Question about recommendations to policy makers	24

1 Introduction

Throughout AgroFossilFree project, **several workshops and events have been organised by project partners** for a **two-way and interpersonal communication**, acquire inputs in an interactive way, as well as for broad dissemination of project results. The different project's events have been:

- Online Workshops
- Interactive Regional Innovation Multi Actor Workshops
- Transnational Workshops
- Consultation Workshop
- Brokerage Event

INI have been supporting the dissemination efforts during those events and communicating their results, taking into consideration the reporting of the findings of the events made by partners. AgroFossilFree partners have informed the Dissemination Manager about the organisation of workshops and events throughout the project's lifetime.

Throughout the project's lifetime, AgroFossilFree has organized a total of **three online workshops** with participants from all over Europe (farmers, industry, advisors, technicians, researchers, innovation brokers, and policy makers). These stakeholders provided their insight on how FEFTS could be adopted in EU agriculture. Each workshop has been held after important outcomes, such as:

1. The launch of the AgEnergy Platform.
2. The Regional Workshops' results.
3. The Transnational Innovation Workshop' results and the presentation of the study cases videos.

The workshops also have been organized coinciding with a new **batch FEFTS** reached the Platform with extra topics to be discussed among the community in order to evaluate the interest of the members in the content of the platform, their ideas on how to optimise it and their ability to assess the FEFTS available. The three workshops have been held in a **webinar format**.

The leader of this task is INI. All partners have been participating during the three workshops. AGENSO, as developer of the AgEnergy Platform, has assisted on preparing the Platform for the workshops and all partners have supported increasing the live community of the Platform.

2 Methodology

Content preparation

The content of the three online workshops has been developed by INI with supported by the Coordinator CERTH and partners involved. Several internal meetings celebrated some months in advance for each workshop. A **draft of the agenda proposed by INI** and discussed with the coordinator is distributed to the involved partners. After selecting the candidates' speakers, INI or the partners that have direct contact contacted them. Once the speakers confirmed their participation, INI arranged personal meetings with them to ensure the organisation and the correct functioning of the online tool trying to fix any problem before.

Registration form

AgroFossilFree - 1st Online workshop

This is the registration form for the first online workshop of AgroFossilFree, a European project funded under the Horizon 2020 programme. During the workshop you will have the opportunity to learn about the project and will present the AgEnergy Platform.

DATE : 28th of February 2022
TIME : 10:00h - 11:30h CET
LINK : You'll receive it after the registration

We may use your information to send you a monthly newsletter which you have requested, including information that has a direct link with our network's activities, send you an invitation for one of our on- or off-line events. In case you requested this information (contact form), share specific information with you about the project. In case you requested this information (contact form), we will never sell or lease your information to third parties. Furthermore, we will not share your information with third parties for marketing purposes. As part of our work, however, we might carefully share personal information between different parties within the AgroFossilFree network, in order to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience. You have a choice about whether or not you wish to receive information from us. At any time, you are entitled to check and correct your personal data that is stored by our organization.

Correo *
Correo válido
Este formulario registra los correos. [Cambiar configuración](#)

Agenda

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTING
10:00 - 10:10	AFF Presentation	CERTH
10:10 - 10:15	Presentation of the Regional Workshops	Iniciativas Innovadoras SAI
10:15 - 10:30	AgEnergy Platform presentation	CERTH
10:30 - 10:55	Farmers' needs, innovative ideas and interests	Agricultural University of Athens
10:55 - 11:20	Round table with three relevant technology providers	Brite Solar SA, ThermoDraft, AGCO Corporation
11:20 - 11:30	Open discussion	All attendants

Please provide your name (First name and Surname) *
Texto de respuesta corta

Please provide the name of your entity / company *
Texto de respuesta corta

The communication team has prepared a registration form in **Google Forms** for each of the online workshops. This link has been included in the different publications made on social media, in the news item published on the AFF website, it has been shared through the invitation E-mail that has been sent to all consortium partners. A specific newsletter for each event has been distributed.

The forms reported basic information of the event and also included a description of the project, in case someone who did not know AFF could find out more about it.

The **mandatory questions** in the form were concerning the company / entity name, the field of expertise, the consent to subscribe to the project's newsletter, the willingness to register on the AgEnergy Platform, as well as the consent to disseminate the images of the event through the project's media.

[Access to the first registration form](#)

[Access to the second registration form](#)

[Access to the third registration form](#)

Fig. 1: Registration form for the 1st Online Workshop

Dissemination on AgroFossilFree website

In order to help with the dissemination of the events through the different channels, AFF has created a news item for each of the workshops. The article has always included the banner created for social media, and the main information about the event, such as the date, time,

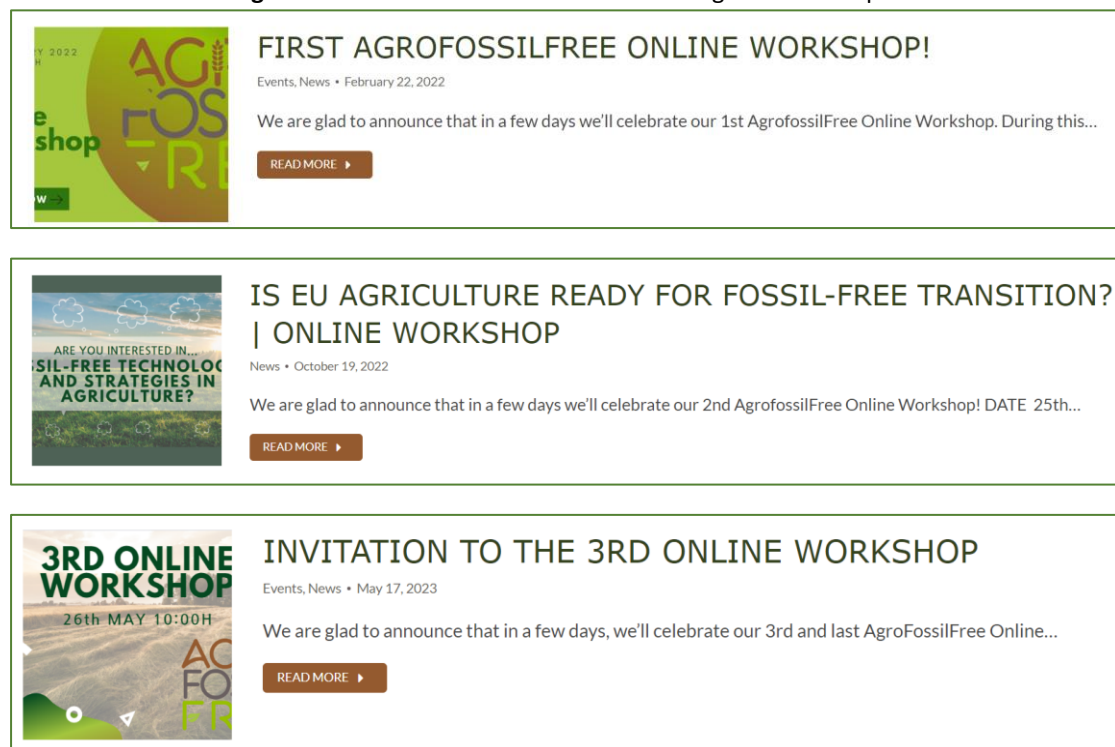
and a short description, including the agenda. At the end of each news item, the link to the registration form was included.

Fig. 2: News item announcing the 3rd Online Workshop



In the following images, there are links to the workshops' announcements on the website.

Fig. 3: News items of the website announcing the workshops



Dissemination on social media

Two weeks before each workshop, [several posts](#) were published on social media to announce the event and share the registration link with the community that follows AFF. These posts

were also shared with the consortium partners, encouraging them to share it through their social media to reach a wider audience.

Following some examples of the infographics and post designed:



Fig. 4: First Online Workshop announcement on Twitter

[Link to the tweet](#)



Fig. 5: Second Online Workshop announcement

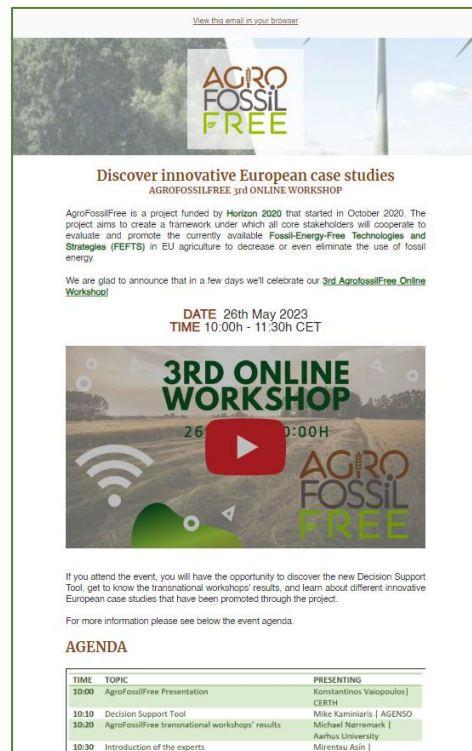
[Link to the tweet](#)



Fig. 6: Third Online Workshop announcement

[Link to the tweet](#)

Newsletter invitation



Using the results of the regional and the transnational innovation workshops, AgroFossilFree has obtained a list of more than 300 subscribers to the newsletter. INI has been using Mailchimp as a tool **to announce the best results and inputs**, such as the launch of the AgEnergy Platform or the invitation to online workshops and other project events. Furthermore, every time there has been a newsletter campaign, there is an analyse of the results of this campaign. In total, the **open rate has been 48%** which is a positive number. This means that the community that the project has grown in Mailchimp corresponds to the target audience.

[Newsletter invitation: 1st Online Workshop](#)

[Newsletter invitation: 2nd Online Workshop](#)

[Newsletter invitation: 3rd Online Workshop](#)

Fig. 7: Newsletter invitation

Engagement

After the workshop has been already performed, with the speaker's permission, the communication team contacted all the participants who had given permission to do it and sent them the documents.

The project database is completed with the participant contacts to include them in future communications or event invitations.

3 Workshops' description

3.1 First online workshop

The **first online workshop** was organized the 25th of February 2022. There were 103 registered persons and finally a total of 70 connected. The [webinar video](#) is available in the AFF YouTube channel.

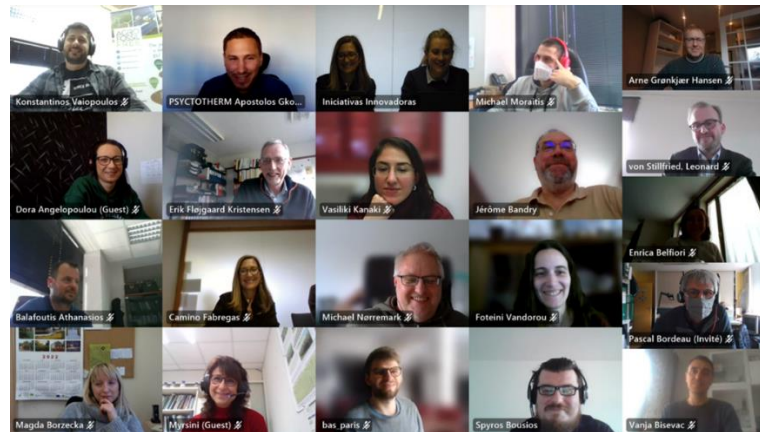


Fig. 8: 1st Workshop Attendants picture

The event was focused on the presentation of the project and the launch of the **AgEnergy Platform**. The following regional workshops were also announced and afterwards, there was a short summary of the main research results from **Deliverable 1.3 Report on farmers' needs, innovative ideas and interests** regarding technologies and strategies for agriculture defossilisation. In the last part of the workshop, there was the participation of three companies that explained their successful experiences using FEFTS for agriculture. These companies were:

- **BRITE SOLAR:** dedicated to the deployment of advanced nanotechnology materials to create new types of architectural glass that can reduce the energy footprint.
- **THERMODRAFT:** a spin-off company aiming in research, development and manufacturing of innovative green products and complete solutions.
- **AGCO Corporation:** presenting FENDT's e100 electric tractor dedicated to open-field agriculture.

Agenda

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTING
10:00 – 10:10	AFF Presentation	CERTH
10:10 – 10:15	Presentation of the Regional Workshops	Iniciativas Innovadoras SAL
10:15 – 10:30	AgEnergy Platform presentation	CERTH
10:30 – 10:55	Farmers' needs, innovative ideas and interests	Agricultural University of Athens
10:55 – 11:20	Round table with three relevant technology providers	Brite Solar SA ThermoDraft AGCO Corporation
11:20 – 11:30	Open discussion	All attendants

Interactive event

During the event, the online polling tool **Mentimeter** was used, which adds an interactive element to the presentation and includes question types such as multiple choice, ranking, word cloud and open ended, among others. AFF used this application as an icebreaker, making the event more dynamic, letting the people present each other, gauging opinion and prompting debate about FEFTS and AgEnergy Platform. The initial questions were launched to know about the attendance, their country of origin and the field where they worked in.

From which country are you from?



Fig. 9: 1st Workshop, Attendants characterization, origin
Q: From which country are you from?

In which field do you work?

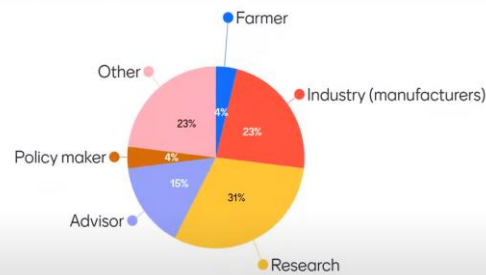


Fig. 10: 1st Workshop, Attendants characterization, field of work
Q: In which field do you work?

As it's shown, the majority of participants were from Greece and Germany, followed by Spain, Finland, France and Denmark. It is interesting to highlight the participation of people from countries different from the partners origin as France or Finland.

One third of the attendants came from the research and 27% from the industry. On the opposite the workshop had a low participation of farmers and policy makers.

The AgEnergy Platform was launched just before the workshop, and it was presented on it for the first time. The feeling of the attendance about it was good considering the majority of them that the Platform would be useful for them. Also they were willing to register or assess FEFTS.

Do you consider that the use of the AgEnergy Platform will be useful for your work/life?

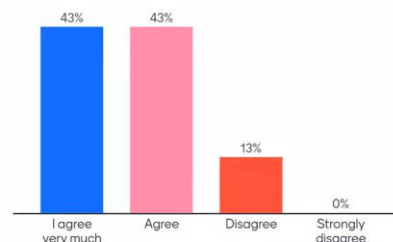


Fig. 11: 1st Workshop, Question about AgEnergy feedback
Q: Do you consider that the use of the AgEnergy Platform will be useful for your work/life?

Would you register in our platform to upload a FEFTS or assess existing FEFTS?

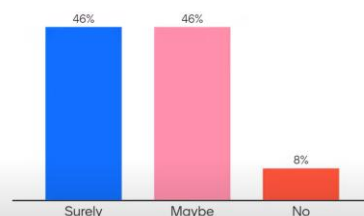


Fig. 12: 1st Workshop, Question about AgEnergy FEFTS upload
Q: Would you register in our platform to upload a FEFTS or assess existing FEFTS?

The workshop also allowed us to check some information about the needs, FEFTS and strategies. For this purpose, some additional questions were conducted.

Please rank the following need to be addressed regarding energy in farming.



Fig. 13: 1st Workshop, Question about energy needs in farming
Q: Please rank the following need to be addressed regarding energy in farming.

What would be your reasons for adopting FEFTS? (Select up to 3)

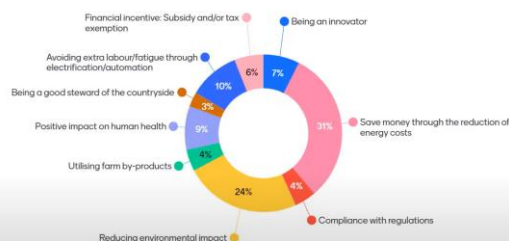


Fig. 14: 1st Workshop, Question about FEFTS adoption
Q: What would be your reasons for adopting FEFTS?

For which of the following on-farm energy production technologies are you more interested about? (Select one)

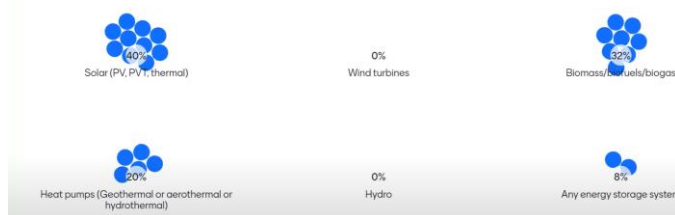


Fig. 15: 1st Workshop, Question about FEFTS interest
Q: For which of the following on-farm energy production technologies are you more interested about?

For which of the following on-farm energy efficiency strategies are you more interested about? (Select one)

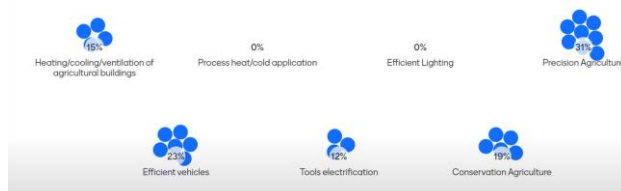


Fig. 16: 1st Workshop, Question about energy efficiency strategies
Q: For which of the following on-farm efficiency strategies are you more interested about?

Please rank the following farming practices according to your preferences

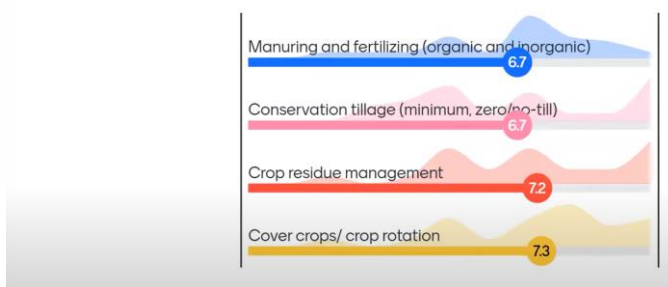


Fig. 17: 1st Workshop, Question about farming practices

Q: Rank the following farming practices according to your preferences.

What is the main source through which you learned about AgroFossilFree? (Select one)

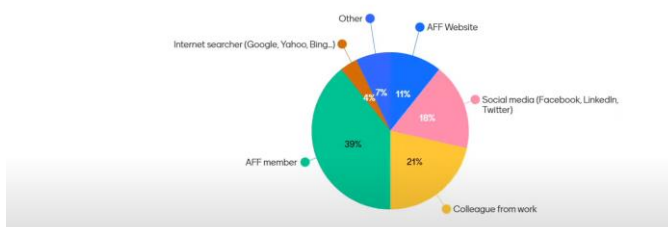


Fig. 18: 1st Workshop, Question about lessons learned

Q: What is the main source through which you learned about the project?

Main results from the poll by issues:

- Needs to be addressed regarding the energy in farming.

The financial support was revealed the most important followed by the need to better access to information and training and to have policies reliable in the long term and adequate to end users. Less bureaucracy and the reduction of the gap between research and end-users were also highlighted.

- Reasons for adopting FEFTs.

The opinion was divided, one third of attendants manifested that saving money is the main reason for the FEFTs adoption but closely followed by environmental questions. Other questions as the automatization, the impact on the human health, to be an innovator or receive incentives are secondaries.

- Interest on Energy Production Technologies.

The technologies most interesting for the participant were the Solar ones (PV, PVT and Thermal), the biomass / biofuels / biogas and the heat pumps. Nobody showed interest by the turbines or hydro technologies.

- Interest on Farm Efficiency Strategies.

The strategy most voted was precision agriculture, followed by efficient vehicles. In the third and fourth position, they answered building ventilation and conservation agriculture. No votes were obtained for efficient lighting and process heat/cold application.

- Interest on farming practices.

There was practically a tie between all the answers, but the most voted farming practice was cover crops and crop rotation, followed by the crop residue management.

- Knowledge of the project.

The majority of the attendants concluded that they knew about the project directly from a partner working in the consortium, but also some did it through a colleague from work or social media.

3.2 Second online workshop

The **second online workshop** took place the 25th of October 2022. A total of 71 people were registered and 69 participated actively. The [video](#) was also published on YouTube.

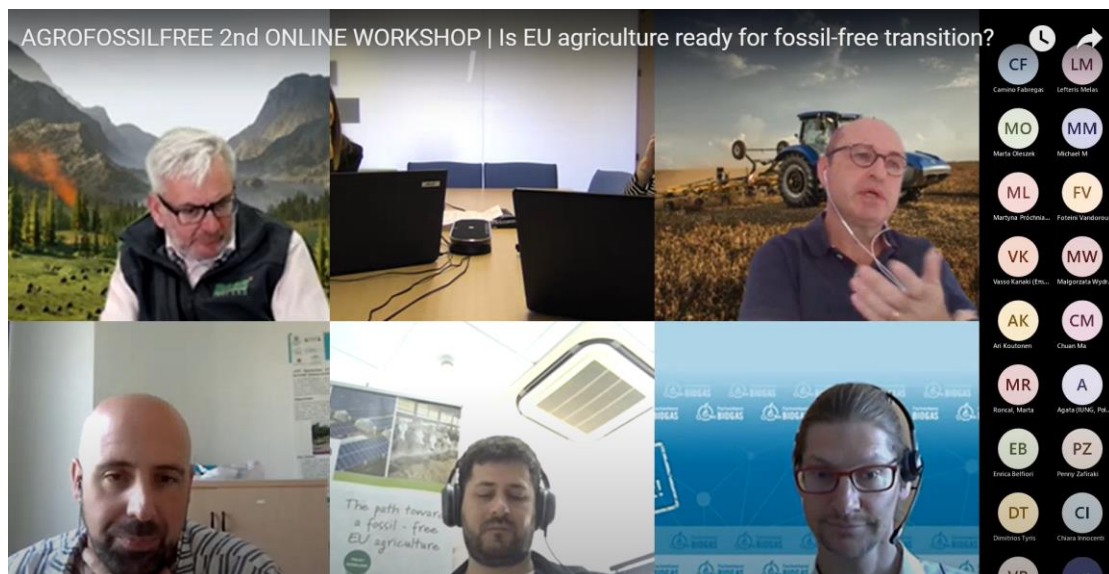


Fig. 19: 2nd Workshop Attendants picture

During this workshop, a brief presentation of **AgroFossilFree** and the **AgEnergy Platform** was performed. After that, the **Regional Workshops' main results** were presented and then attendants listened to three different success stories of experts using FEFTS:

- **Fachverband Biogas – German Biogas Association:** explaining the different advantages of the biogas.
- **New Holland:** presenting the New Holland T6 Methane Power, the world's first 100% methane powered production tractor, as a key to completing the virtuous cycle of the Energy Independent Farm system.
- **Irish agricultural consultant:** a guide through the three principles of the Conservation Agriculture and the benefits that these bring to the farmers, environment, and to the civil society.

Agenda

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTING
10:00	AFF Presentation	Thanos Balafoutis CERTH
10:10	AgEnergy Platform presentation	Mike Kaminariis AGENSO
10:20	AgroFossilFree regional workshops' results	Michael Nørremark Aarhus University
10:30	Introduction of the experts	Mirentxu Asín Iniciativas Innovadoras
10:35	Biogas for a Renewable and Sustainable Agriculture	Marc Reinhard German Biogas Association (Fachverband Biogas – FvB)
10:50	The energy independent farm	Gilles Mayer New Holland
11:05	Conservation Agriculture	John Geraghty Consultant specialising in conservation agriculture
11:20	Open discussion	All attendants

Interactive event

From which country are you from?



Fig. 20: 2nd Workshop, Attendants characterization, origin

Q: From which country are you from?

In which field do you work?

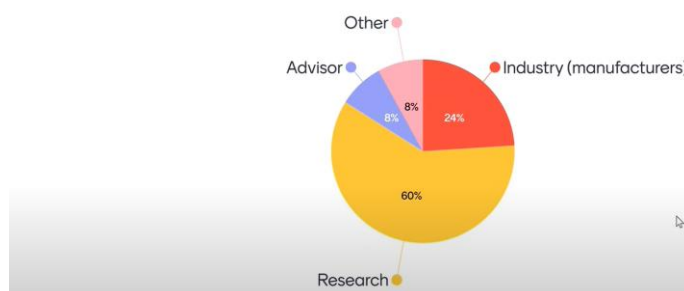


Fig. 21: 2nd Workshop, Attendants characterization, field of work

Q: In which field do you work?

During the second online workshop, most of the participants were connecting from Greece, Germany and Spain, followed by Poland and France, that is remarkable since there are no French partners.

More than half (60%) of the participants were researchers, followed by industry. On the other hand, the workshop had no participation of farmers and policy makers.

What is the main source through which you learned about AgroFossilFree? (Select one)

Source	Percentage
Colleague from work	32%
AFF member	48%
Social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter)	10%
AFF Website	5%
Internet searcher (Google, Yahoo, Bing...)	3%
Client	2%

Q: What is the main source through which you learned about AFF?

commercial technology

training material

commercial technologies

sustainable energy

agripv

infrastructure

training materials

energy renewables

efficient solutions

regenerative technologies

energy efficiency

papers

biochar

machine learning

fuel saving

pv thermal

conservation agriculture

financing mechanisms

transportation

renewable energy

farm technologies

simple but smart solution

wireless charging

batteries

commercial

commercial technologies

Q: What kind of FEFTS would you like to find in the AgEnergy Platform?

Rank	Energy Source
1st	Solar (PV, PVT, thermal)
2nd	Biomass/biofuels/biogas
3rd	Any energy storage system
4th	Heat pumps (Geothermal or aérothermal or hydrothermal)
5th	Hydro
6th	Wind turbines

Q: For which of the following energy production technologies are you more interested about?

Rank	Measure
1st	Efficient vehicles
2nd	Conservation Agriculture
3rd	Precision Agriculture
4th	Tools electrification
5th	Efficient Lighting
6th	Heating/cooling/ventilation of agricultural buildings
7th	Process heat/cold application

Q: For which of the following on-farm energy efficiency strategies are you more interested about?

Which barriers do you consider the most important for a transition to FEFTS in your country? (Ranking)

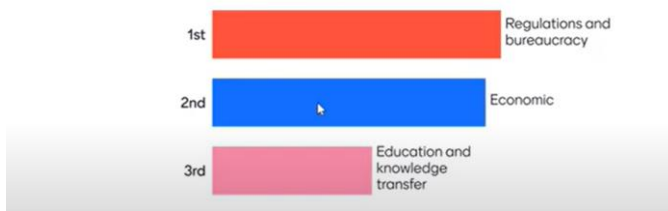


Fig. 26: 2nd Workshop, Question about transition to FEFTS

Q: Which barriers do you consider the most important for a transition to FEFTS in your country?

And what about the presented FEFTS needs? Please rank them according to your country.

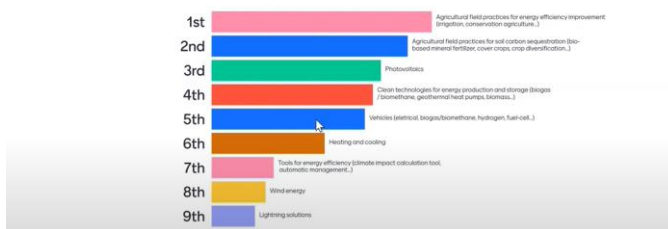


Fig. 27: 2nd Workshop, Question about FEFTS needs

Q: Rank the FEFTS needs according to your country.

Do you know the difference between biogas and biomethane?

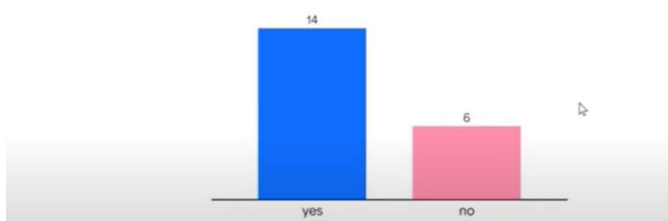


Fig. 28: 2nd Workshop, Question about Biogas and biomethane.

Q: Do you know the difference between biogas and biomethane?

Main results from the poll by issues:

- Knowledge of the project.

The majority concluded that they knew about the project directly from a partner working in the consortium.

- Interest on FEFTS available in the AgEnergy Platform.

The most voted FEFTS were the commercial technologies and training materials.

- Interest on Energy Production Technologies.

The technologies most interesting for the participants were ones (PV, PVT and Thermal), the biomass / biofuels / biogas and the heat pumps. The less interesting was wind turbines.

- Interest on Farm Efficiency Strategies.

The strategy most interesting to the attendance was efficient vehicles, followed by conservation agriculture and precision agriculture. The strategy that received less votes was the process with hot/cold application.

- Most important barriers for an application of FEFTS.

Concerning the important barriers for an application of FEFTS in the participants' country, there was almost a tie between the bureaucracy and the economic barriers.

- Ranking of the most interesting FEFTS.

The most interesting FEFTS voted by participants was agricultural field practices for energy efficiency improvement, followed by practices for soil carbon sequestration. However, the FEFTS with less votes were lighting solutions.

- Difference between biogas and biomethane.

After the poll of questions, the first speaker was going to talk about biogas, so we launched the question if the participants knew the difference between this source of energy and biomethane. The conclusion was that most of the people knew about it.

3.3 Third online workshop

The **third online workshop** was celebrated on May 26th, 2023. There was a total of 37 persons registered and all of them connected to the event. The organization of the workshop was similar to the other two, with the difference that another application for the interactive part was used. The [video is also available online](#).



Fig. 29: 3rd Workshop Attendants picture

During this occasion, the **Decision Support Tool** was presented, together with the **Transnational Workshops' results** to check with attendants their opinion about it. At the end of the event, three examples of the cases that were disseminated throughout the project to promote different **innovative European case studies**.

- **Spanish case study:** presenting the Conservation Agriculture in Spain, a farming system that can prevent losses of arable land while regenerating degraded lands.

- **Dutch case study:** A sustainable storage barn, which makes optimal use of solar panels. The building is isolated in an innovative way and rainfall is stored and used in the climate management of the storage barn.
- **Irish case study:** Biomass Heating Solution for Poultry. BHSL has pioneered a unique method for using poultry manure as an energy source, and they have focused on the energy value of agricultural residues.

Agenda

TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTING
10:00	AgroFossilFree Presentation	Konstantinos Vaiopoulos CERTH
10:10	Decision Support Tool	Mike Kaminariaris AGENSO
10:20	AgroFossilFree transnational workshops' results	Michael Nørremark Aarhus University
10:30	Introduction of the experts	Mirentxu Asín Iniciativas Innovadoras
10:35	Spanish case study: Conservation Agriculture	Julio Román ECAF
10:50	Dutch case study: Sustainable storage barn	Cor Van Oers DELPHY
11:05	Irish case study: Biomass Heating Solution for Poultry	Jack O'Connor BHSL
11:20	Open discussion	All attendants

Interactive event

During the preparation of the third online workshop, the project decided to use another online application called **Slido** due to the type of questions that were planned for this occasion.

From which country are you from?
Wordcloud Poll 20 responses 19 participants

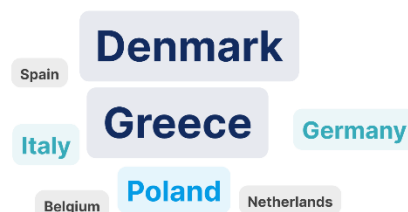


Fig. 30: 3rd Workshop, Attendants characterization, origin
Q: From which country are you from?

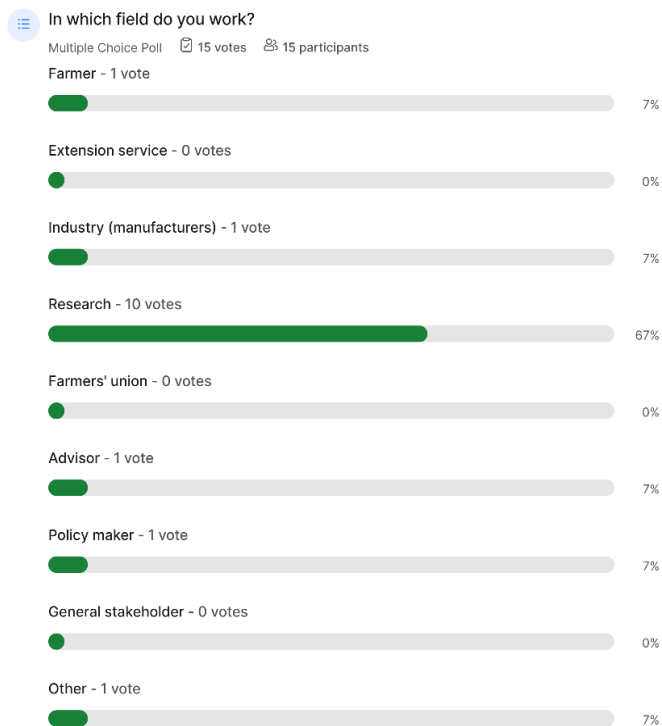


Fig. 31: 3rd Workshop, Attendants characterization, field of work
Q: In which field do you work?

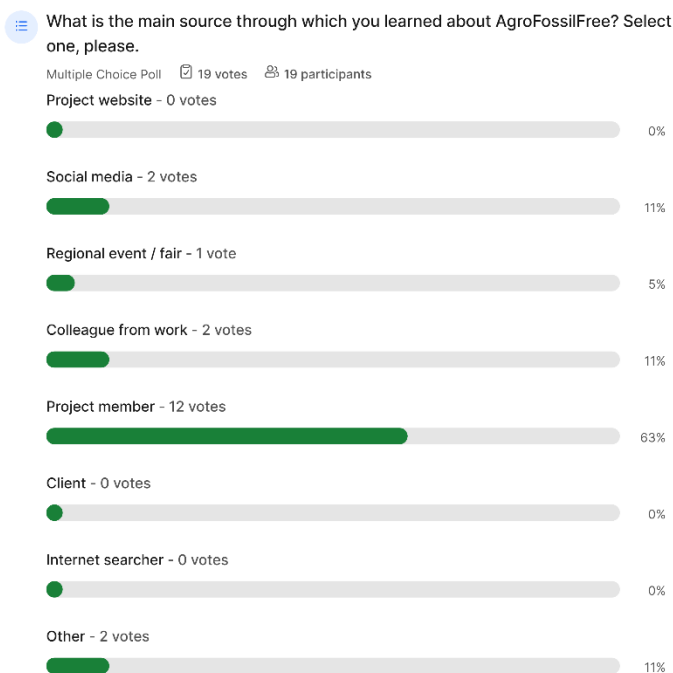


Fig. 32: 3rd Workshop, AFF knowledge
Q: What is the main source through which you learned about AFF?

Most of the participants of the third online workshop were from Denmark and Greece, but there were also coming from Poland, Italy Germany and a few from Spain, the Netherlands and Belgium. As in the other workshops, the majority were researchers, but in this event, there was a representation of a farmer and a policy maker.

The participants also answered that they have known about the project directly from a project member and some of them by a colleague from work or through the project social media.

During this event, the second batch of questions was launched after all the speakers presented, since the intention was to create discussion in relation to the FEFTS presented that day.

What are the main barriers or disadvantages in your country to building a farm like the one in the Dutch case?

Open text poll 13 responses 11 participants

- Anonymous
Cost
- Anonymous
lider = older
- Anonymous
Financing
- Anonymous
Financial and knowledge barrier
- Anonymous
Financing mechanisms are not suitable right now in Italy
- Anonymous
Financial support
- Anonymous
Lack of information
- Anonymous
New buildings okay, but lider buildings not
- Anonymous
Burocracy, facilities very old
- Anonymous
The cost
- Anonymous
Finance
- Anonymous
Bureaucracy and lack of legislation
- Anonymous
Financial support framework

Fig. 33: 3rd Workshop,
Questions about AFF
knowledge

Q: What are the main barriers or disadvantages in your country to building a farm like the one in the Dutch case?

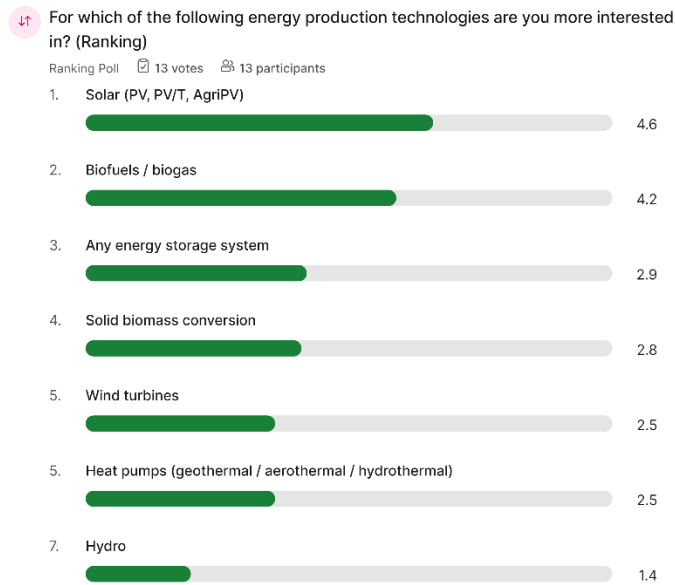


Fig. 34: 3rd Workshop,
Question about technologies
interest

Q: For which of the following
energy production technologies
are you more interested in?

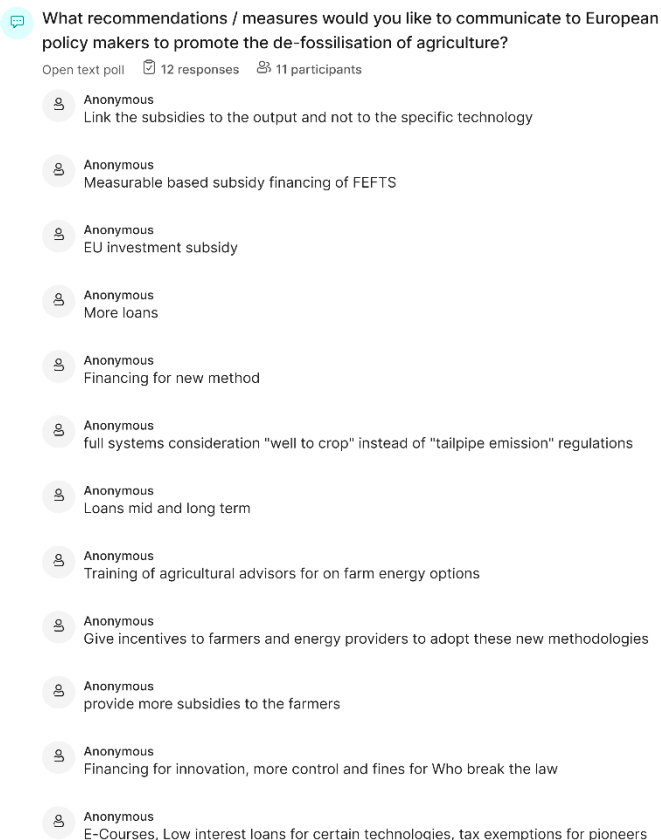


Fig. 35: 3rd Workshop,
Question about
recommendations to policy
makers

Q: What recommendations /
measures would you like to
communicate to European
policy makers to promote the
de-fossilisation of agriculture?

Main results from the poll by issues:

- Main barriers to install the energy technologies in a farm presented in the Dutch case.

Here there was consensus among the participants about the reason is the financial and bureaucratic.

- Most interesting energy production technology

As in the previous workshops, the participants selected the solar energy and biofuels/biogas as the most interesting energy production technologies. The energy with less interest was the hydropower.

- Recommendations to communicate to the European policy makers in order to promote the de-fossilisation of agriculture.

Most of the attendants agree on demanding financial support to European farmers, provide more incentives for access to FEFTS and offer low-interest loans. There was also one person who mentioned the training of farm advisors.

4 Conclusions

After having performed the three workshops, and comparing the results given, it is shown that the vast majority of the 170 participants were from the field of research and industry.

The announcement of the online workshops has made at international and national level via project communication tools and partners efforts. The workshop signed more interest in Greece and Germany, Spain, Denmark or Poland and lower interest in other partners countries like Italy.

Table 1. Online Workshops summary. Number of registered persons and attendants per workshop

Nº	Title	Date	Registered	Participation	Link for info
1	1 ST Online Workshop	25/2/22	103	70	https://bit.ly/3PBXcaC
2	2 ND Online Workshop	25/10/22	71	69	https://bit.ly/3BIIRnm
3	3 RD Online Workshop	26/05/23	37	37	https://bit.ly/3ZqSNw7

Attendants have shown interest about the outcomes of the project, the AgEnergy Platform and the Decision Support Tool have received a good welcome. Concerning the platform, the commercial technologies and the training is the content have been found more interesting than the research articles or financial mechanisms.

The results of the transnational workshops presented have been checked and no discrepancies were found by the attendance.

The technologies most preferred by the audience were the solar followed by biogas / biofuels / biomass technologies. According to the barriers, in general, most of the participants concluded that there is a financial and bureaucracy problem when try to access to FEFTS.

The presentations about the FEFTS from industry speakers and good practices have provoked interesting discussions in the final part of the workshops. Inputs from those discussions are not described on this report but there have feed the ideas and content to the 19 [policy briefs](#) produced by the project partners and discussed during the consultation workshop.