



# EU-FarmBook

## Farmers as guardians of water resources

Online Targeted Workshop



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## Concept

This webinar, part of the EU-FarmBook Targeted Workshop series, aims to address critical challenges and opportunities surrounding water resource management at the farm level, emphasizing the role of young farmers in sustainable practices. Water scarcity, increasing climatic variability, and evolving agricultural demands make it essential to foster innovative and collaborative approaches for efficient water management.

The workshop will leverage the EU-FarmBook platform to disseminate knowledge and encourage interaction among contributors, policymakers, and young farmers. The platform's resources will support participants in accessing practical approaches to nature-based solutions, retention infrastructure, and strategies to mitigate knowledge gaps. By connecting diverse stakeholders, the workshop seeks to highlight practical solutions, foster knowledge exchange, and empower young farmers with tools for sustainable water stewardship.

Structured around three thematic discussions, the event will explore:

1. **Knowledge gaps in water management:** How to integrate crop diversification, retention infrastructure, and nature-based solutions.
2. **Farmer involvement and governance:** The role of advisory services and local governance in empowering farmers as water resource managers.
3. **Future foresight exercise:** Identifying the water-related needs of 2050 and building farmer-centered solutions.

Complementing these discussions, stories from the field will showcase best practices and lessons from across Europe, offering relatable examples of successful water management. The workshop will also serve as a bridge between the needs and challenges of young farmers and new contributions to the EU-FarmBook platform, drawing from Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 projects. Participants will leave with actionable recommendations, new connections, and a better understanding of how to leverage the EU-FarmBook platform to address the water challenges young farmers face.

## Agenda

**Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> April | 16:00–18:00 CET**

**Moderated by Mario Béjar Fuentes, Senior Project Manager at CEJA**

Time	Session
16:00 – 16:10	<b>Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mario Béjar Fuentes, Senior Project Manager at CEJA</li> </ul>
16:10 – 16:20	<b>Story from the field 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Martina Dal Grande, Young Farmer from Italy</li> </ul>
16:20 – 16:45	<b>Discussion 1: Addressing knowledge gaps in water management</b>  Focus: Agricultural water management, Water retention infrastructure and nature-based solutions, Crop change. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kickstart by representative from DG Environment</li> <li>Poll among the audience and discussion – <b>As researchers/farmers, what do you find the most complex knowledge gap in water management?</b></li> </ul>
16:45 – 16:55	<b>Story from the field 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hanna Jarosławska, Young Farmer from Poland</li> </ul>
16:55 – 17:20	<b>Discussion 2: Farmer involvement and governance</b>  Focus: Role of advisory services and local governance in water stewardship. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kickstart by Mary Ryan, Researcher - Environmental Economics / Rural Development Programme Coordinator at Teagasc</li> <li>Poll among the audience and discussion – <b>On a scale from 1 to 10, how involved are farmers in water governance?</b></li> </ul>
17:20 – 17:30	<b>Story from the field 3</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young Farmer from Belgium</li> </ul>
17:30 – 18:00	<p><b>Discussion 3: Future water needs for 2050</b></p> <p>Focus: Insights from EU-funded projects and foresight exercise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kickstart by María Caldero Pascual, Technical coordinator in Governance for Sustainability Unit at BETA and Coordinator of the AQUAGRI-KNOW project</li> <li>• Reaction and priorities from young farmers by CEJA Presidency</li> <li>• Poll among the audience and discussion – <b>What do you see as top priority for the EU Water Resilience Strategy?</b></li> </ul>
18:00 – 18:05	<b>Closing remarks</b>