Safety Culture and Risk Management in Agriculture (SACURIMA) the COST ACTION and its activities – Working Group Meeting Minutes

Location: University of Agriculture in Krakow

Participants
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Jarkko Leppälä, Luke, Finland, Chair of the meeting

Monday 26.3.

Joanna and Jarkko welcomed everybody to the Working Group Meeting. Jarkko presented the meeting agenda, idea and goals of the meeting. We are aiming to tackle problems faced by young entrepreneurs in starting their farm enterprise and business. The second goal is to solve farmer’s aging problem in agriculture sector by giving management tools and skills to start up the business. It is typical that one farmer needs to manage many different kinds of farm sustainability and
business security risks and need skills and management tools to solve these problems during their farmer career.

We discussed about the potential farmer surveys. Older farmers – give experience to youth farmers (what is needed – in survey). Innovative risk management tools (Risk integrated tool) could a result for young farmers’ use. We should find out the existing trainings in different countries – survey, meetings. Strengthening young farmers’ competencies to start their business. New methodology of trainings can be used: eg. e-learning tool (connection tool eg. Moodle).

Relevance for this is also coming for that, this will give future tools for sustainable development in agriculture. Sustainability can be profitable is the idea is beneficial in selling products and production process stakeholder networking. It can also benefit safety management and the cultural tradition in rural areas. We discusses about different management approaches: sustainable farm management – to stress “management”, “farm management”. We can use these key words in our literature reviews.

We worked with the working Group 3 goals and discussed about young farmers risk management programs in other countries. We could apply funding to organize training for trainers, journalists and workshops for policy makers. We need input from different stakeholders. We can also do an expert list. We may design or develop a kind of study process for better safety culture and risk management on farms. We could collect and exchanging ideas between countries: every training in different partner countries. E.g. 5 case farmers in every country. The problem: language skills…? We discussed about the publications in WG 3.

The young farmer startup program could consist of:
- New holistic risk management tools for management of starting farmers.
- Developing systematic farmer development tools for young farmers.
- Testing the new risk management and development tools with young farm entrepreneurs.
- Developing materials and training content for farm startup and risk management training program.

We just started to work for Working group 4 issues and safety measures when we needed to close for the first day.
Tuesday 27.3.

We continued the planning and discussion about Working Group 4 safety measures and outputs. The safety and business measures in the farm startup material could include:

- Safety management added to the business planning.
- Defining the main farm processes and identifying the most important safety management risks and finding risk management tools to mitigate with the risks. Special emphasis is put on the content of farm development, people well-being and sustainability risk management during the farmer career and managing the most important risks in a holistic manner.
- Finding tools to monitor and develop the farm and the farmer skills during the farmer’s farm career.

These tools could be tested among the farmers in the pilot training program and used by the young farmers as a target group but also the agricultural school teachers, national policy makers, private food supply chain enterprises and NGO’s will benefit for the project results (training material and training program). We are about to do recommendations for policy makers. The recommendations include guidelines to reduce hazards and improve the work life balance of farmers but also policy recommendations for agriculture socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development and food security management in Europe.

The main problem is funding. In Europe there are only few sources which can fund these kind of projects. There not any calls focused for this subject alone. Calls are usually with very broad scope. We can collect potential partner information for later collaboration, which could be also a good result of our Sacurima Action and familiar partners would help when planning the new project applications. Eda have had some ideas for H2020 about stress management in farming. Jarkko have an idea for Baltic Sea Region and Nordig fundings. We may try those first but we decided to find new collaboration project funding possibilities.

Jarkko closed the meeting at 12.30 and we went to have light lunch.

Meeting minutes made by Barbara Kielbas, Poland