



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



Innovative land practices at the European level:

Finding targeted and effective new ways to support new entrants into farming

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What current research is telling us

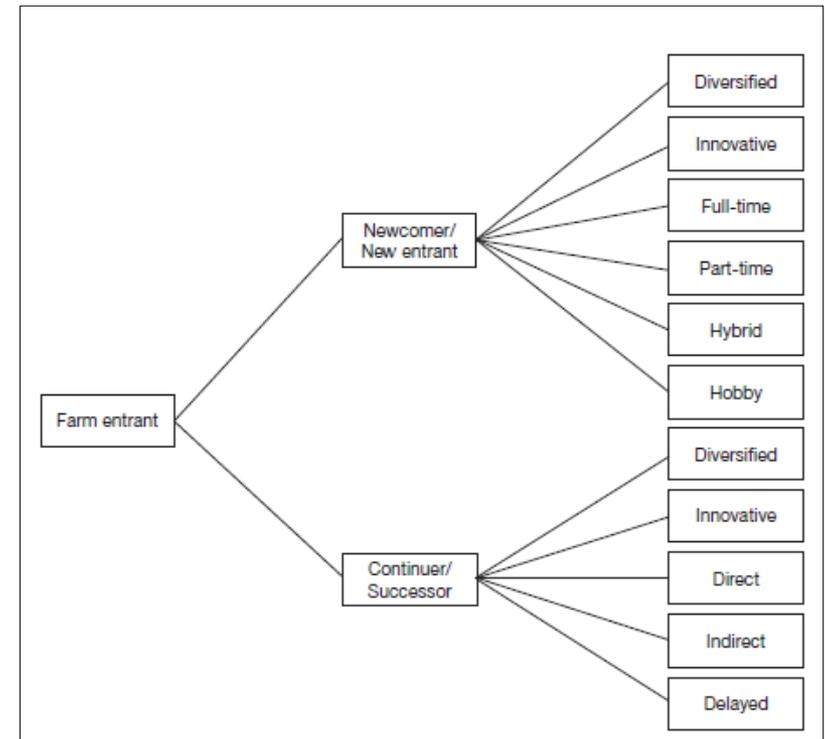


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- **Need for 'novel practices'** that support new entrants to farming access land

Why?

- 'New entrants' are a diverse group
- **Different** types of new entrants may be more dominant in different types of rural areas
- **Different** types of rural areas can present different land challenges impacting access to land
- **Different** European realities
- Creates a **significant challenge for policy**
- *No one (or a few sizes) to fit all*

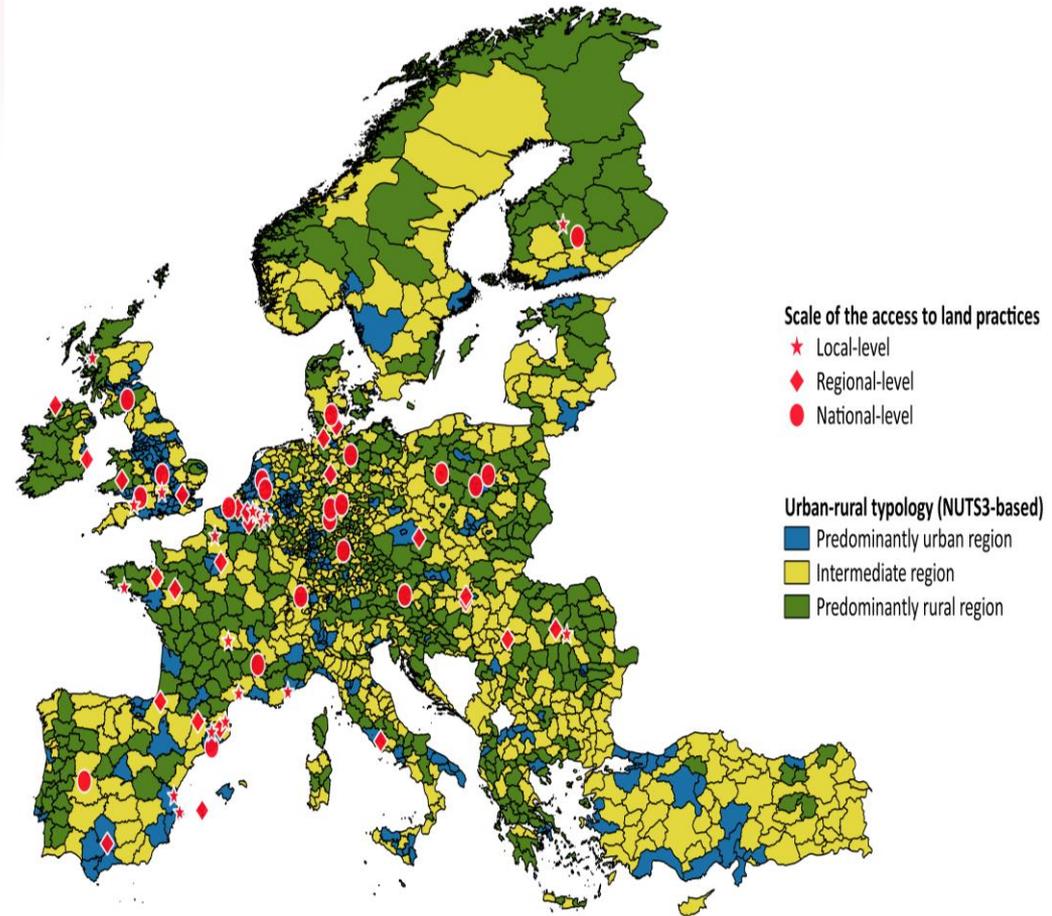


Source: Developed by Monllor i Rico and Fuller, 2016, based on EIP-AGRI, 2016

RURALIZATION's response – generate new policy relevant knowledge

Review and analyse innovative land practices from civil society organisations, public authorities and the private sector

- **Phase 1:**
 - **Scoping study of innovative land practices in Europe.**
 - **A total of 64 initiatives collected from 14 countries**
- **Phase 2:**
 - In-depth study of novel, innovative practices
 - 5 approaches (1 larger +1 smaller action)
- **Phase 3**
 - Explore potential transfer
 - In areas where these practices may provide solutions



Source: Loveluck et al., 2021 (forthcoming)

Phase 1 report:

'Innovative land practices for an agricultural transition and rural regeneration: documenting and analysing current practices'



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The opening of rural areas to renew rural generations, jobs and farms

D6.1 - Innovative land practices for an agricultural transition and rural regeneration: documenting and analysing current practices

Version 1.0

RURALIZATION GRANT AGREEMENT NO 817642



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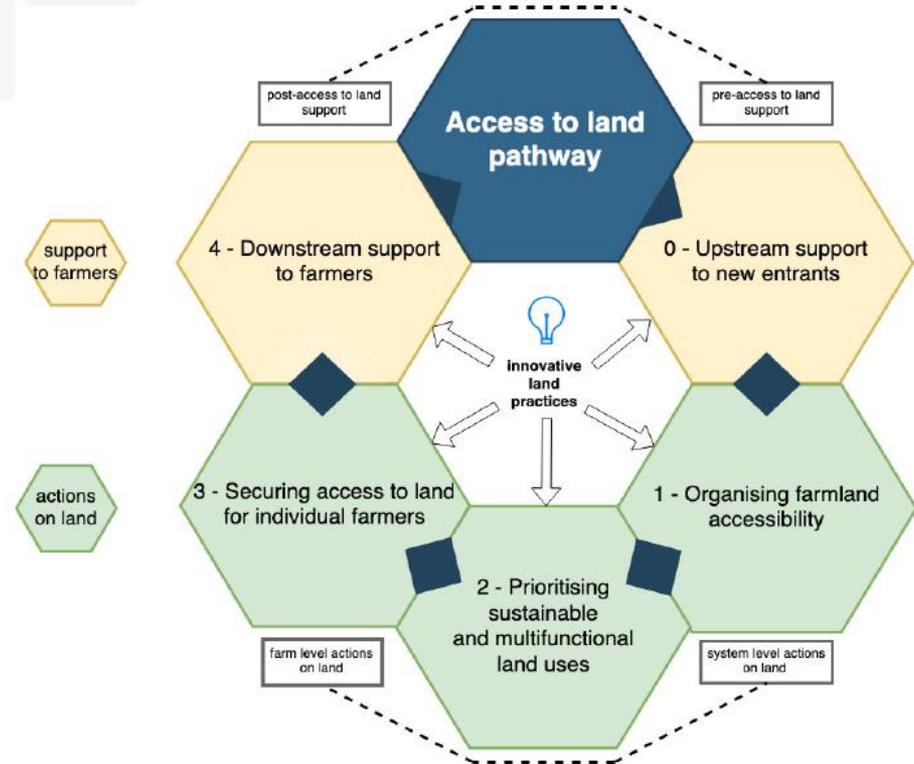
Report to be published early 2021

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Access to land is a many-sided issue

- RURALIZATION looks at **access to land as complex, multi-faceted, time-variable notion:**
- Gaining access
 - “general process by which access is established”
- Access control
 - “the ability to mediate others’ access”
- Access maintenance
 - “expending resources or powers to keep a particular sort of resource access open”



Source: Loveluck et al., 2021 (forthcoming)

Innovative land practices?

- ▣ Varied practices
 - ▣ Operate at some or across the 'access to land pathway'
- ▣ Respond to complexity of access to land issue
 - ▣ 'Integrated'
 - Address multiple issues e.g. land access and skills development
- ▣ Multi-functional
 - ▣ Support access to land but also...
 - Rural regeneration
 - Generational renewal
 - Can be tied to wider social, economic and environmental motivations

For example:

- ▣ Projects supporting entry into farming profession
 - ▣ e.g. farm incubators
- ▣ Regional food system networks
- ▣ Land acquisition e.g. trusts, cooperatives
- ▣ Land re-cultivation
 - ▣ e.g. abandoned land
- ▣ Land intermediation
- ▣ Land stewardship /conservation
- ▣ Connecting land-holders and land-seekers
 - ▣ e.g. farmers and new entrants

Upstream support: Farm incubators

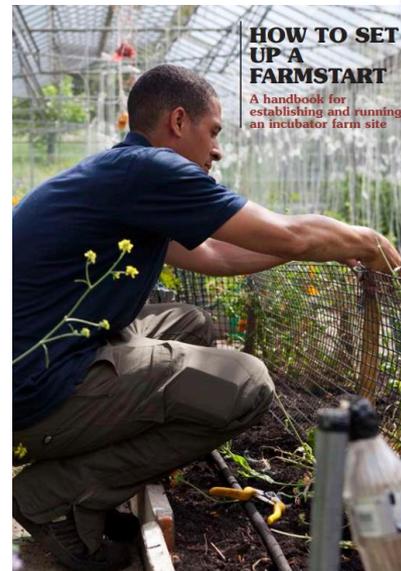


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- 'Test farms'
- Specific approaches differ, but can provide:
 - Farming and business training
 - Peer to peer learning opportunities
 - Access to land, equipment
 - Support after incubation period
 - Links to local markets for produce
- Address barriers to entering farming:
 - Develop skills in real world context
 - Opportunity to explore a farm model and farming profession
 - Build a network of peers

Examples:

- Point Vert, Belgium
- CIAP (Cooperative for the set-up of peasant farms), France
- FarmStart Programme, OrganicLea workers' cooperative, UK



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Source: <https://landworkersalliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Farm-Start.pdf>

Organising farmland accessibility: Connecting land-holders and land-seekers

Red Terrae (Spain)

- Network supporting local authorities
 - 40 across 8 regions
- Focus on abandoned land (or at risk of abandonment)
- Helps increase levels of public land available for farming
- Also supports links between private landowners (offering land) and potential land users
 - E.g. model contract agreement
- Often small land parcels, marginal land
- Type of farms more common:
 - Social farming projects
 - Small scale farms involving new entrants



The screenshot shows the website for 'Territorios Reserva Agroecológicos' (Terrae). The header includes a navigation menu with 'INICIO', 'MAPA', 'OFERTAS', 'DEMANDAS', and 'SEMILLAS'. A statistics box in the top right corner displays: Usuarios: 2847, Demandas: 354, Parcelas: 192, and Superficie: 1.424.866 m². The main content area features a large image of a hand planting a seedling in a tray. To the right of the image, the text reads 'PARTICIPA EN EL BANCO DE TIERRAS TERRAE'. Below this, there are two call-to-action buttons: 'DEMANDAS' (with a speech bubble icon) and 'OFERTAS' (with a gift icon). A section titled '¿QUÉ ES Y QUÉ REPRESENTA EL BANCO DE TIERRAS?' follows, with a brief description of the land bank's purpose.

Source:

<https://www.tierrasagroecologicas.es/bancotierra/s/inicio/>

Organising farmland accessibility: Connecting land-holders and land-seekers

Kontaktforum Hofübergabe (Germany)

- Organised by the Eco Young Farmers Network
- Annual two-day matching event
 - Retiring farmers and new entrants
- Workshops, role-swaps, professional advice
- Aims to support farm succession outside the family
- Tailored to organic agriculture



Kontaktforum Hofübergabe

Lebenswerke übergeben - Lebenswerke beginnen

Ein Lebenswerk wird übergeben und ein neues möchte gleichzeitig entstehen – viel gegenseitiges Verständnis ist hier gefordert. Bei außerfamiliären und innerfamiliären Hofübergaben ist dies für beide Seiten oftmals ein existenzieller Moment, einhergehend mit vielen Visionen, Bedürfnissen, Sorgen und Hindernissen. Beim Kontaktforum Hofübergabe treffen sich Hofabgebende und Hofsuchende, um Ideen und Erwartungen auszutauschen und sich kennenzulernen.

Gemeinsam mit der Stiftung Ökologie & Landbau (söl) und der BioBoden Genossenschaft organisiert das Öko-Junglandwirte-Netzwerk auch in 2021 voraussichtlich wieder eine Veranstaltung zu diesem Thema. Dabei erfährt der Abgabende, wie er sein Lebenswerk bestmöglichen und für Verantwortliche übergeben kann. Auch der Nachfolger wird sich



Source: <https://www.soel.de/projekte/oeko-junglandwirte/hofuebergabe>

Securing land access for individual farmers: Land acquisition

- Acquire land to safeguard access for
 - New entrants
 - Environmental, agroecological farming
- Rent land to farmers who farm according to these principles
 - Secure, longer-term leases

Examples

- **Terre de Liens (France)**
 - Established 2003
 - Raised €90 million in investment and €9.6 million in donations.
 - By 2019 acquired 219 farms, or 5,750 hectares
 - 343 rural leaseholders.
- **Kulturland (Germany)**
 - Established 2013
 - Raised capital of €3 million
 - Acquired 11 farms, 265 hectares
 - 30 farmers and families
- **Ecological Land Cooperative (UK)**
 - Established 2009
 - Five sites in England and Wales.
 - Plans to expand
 - Raised £500,000 in investment to create 18 new small farms on six new sites by the end of 2023.

How can these types of models be facilitated?

Human and social capital as an important driver of innovative land practices

- ▣ The key role of partnerships
 - ▣ Numerous and helping consolidate local and non-local resources/support for the practices
- ▣ The importance of public actors
 - ▣ Represent 20% of owners involved in initiatives
- ▣ The centrality of work on governance in the innovations
 - ▣ Governance of the land itself
 - ▣ Governance within the practices themselves
- ▣ Bottom-up / importance of the collective or multi-partnership
 - ▣ Importance of promoting mutual knowledge between actors (reducing social distance and building trust)
 - ▣ Increasing wider human capital available to work on these issues through
 - ▣ Training/awareness-raising of volunteers, farmers, communities, local authorities, etc.

Sources of further information



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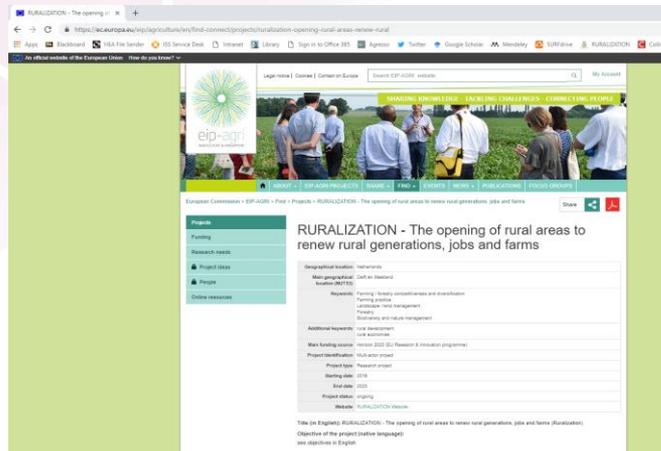
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Practice abstracts on the EIP-AGRI database

See:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/ruralization-opening-rural-areas-renew-rural>

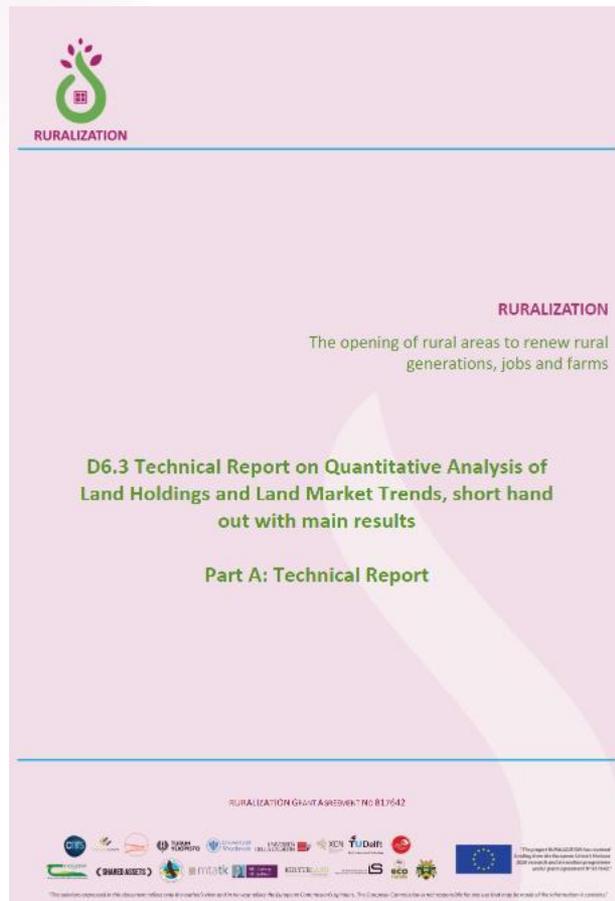


Source: Access to Land Network. 2018.
https://www.accesstoland.eu/IMG/pdf/a2l_newentrants_handbook.pdf



Source: Access to Land Network. 2017.
https://www.accesstoland.eu/IMG/pdf/a2l_handbook_local_authorities.pdf

Other emerging work on access to land





THANK YOU!

www.ruralization.eu