



Invitation and program LBPT

ENAJ/EU-FarmBook Press Event

"Transfer of Innovation into Agricultural Practice" **22 – 24 September in Bonn, Germany**

Dear colleagues,

the European Network of Agricultural Journalists ENAJ and the Horizon Project EU-FarmBook are pleased to welcome journalists to Bonn, Germany in September. The press event will be hosted by the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional and Engineering Sciences at the University of Bonn.

The topic of this year's ENAJ/EU-FarmBook Press event is "Transfer of Innovation into Agricultural Practice". Journalists will learn about most innovative research and the transfer of innovation to farms.

Embedded within the Faculty of Agricultural, Nutritional and Engineering Sciences at the University of Bonn, PhenoRob is Germany's only Cluster of Excellence in the field of Agriculture 4.0. Phenorob is internationally visible as a center of excellent research in robotics and phenotyping for sustainable crop production. It has delivered significant contributions toward sustainable agriculture – also through the successful spin-off of start-up companies.

Four visits to family owned farms are included in the program. The region is known for its diverse agriculture, which is based on dairy farming in the hilly region of "Bergisches Land" and on fruit and vegetable production and arable farming in the South of North Rhine-Westphalia. The journalists will meet farmers, who have successfully implemented innovations on their farms and who participate in research programs like Agri photovoltaics in orchards and strategies for climate resilience like planting Miscanthus to protect land and infrastructure against floods.



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Preliminary Program:

Innovation Monday, 22. September

11.00	Check In Motel One, Bonn
12.00	Arrival at Bonn University
13.00	Marketplace of ideas with Research Projects, agricultural Spin-off and Start-up companies: Elevator pitch
14.00	Welcome Yanne Boloh (Chairwoman ENAJ) and Pieter Spanoghe (Coordinator EU-FarmBook, Ghent University)
14.15	Panel Discussion: Transfer of Innovation into agricultural practice
16.00	Marketplace of ideas with agricultural Spin-off and Start-up companies
17.30	End of Innovation Monday
19.00	Dinner

Tuesday 23. September

Arable farming and horticulture: From the lab to the farm

7.30	Bus Departure Hotel
8.30 – 12.00	Campus Klein Altendorf and Bio Innovation Park



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The [Campus Klein-Altendorf](#) (CKA) is an experimental and research site of the University of Bonn's Faculty of Agriculture. CKA is dedicated to applied agricultural science, innovation, and sustainable crop production.

On the campus, the journalists will get to know current research projects in small groups. Current plans include:

Testing Phenorob technologies in the field, Cultivation of tomatoes and other greenhouse crops on Miscanthus substrate, Use of an apple-picking robot

This will be followed by a Q&A with researchers on research projects with practical relevance. One focus will be on research projects funded by the EU (EIP agri, EFRE).
Snack.



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Photo by Katharina Seuser (from left to right): Salman Doagooei, Dr. Alireza Ahmadi, Amirerfan Siamaki, and Amirhossein Soltani

Demonstration of Phenorob technologies: Journalists will meet the team of DynamoBot (www.dynamobot.de), a spin-off from Excellence Cluster Project Phenorob (www.phenorob.com). DynamoBot with its robotic crop and weed management solution (Called WeWeed) will be part of the demonstration at Campus Klein Altendorf. The WeWeed recognizes plants and their growth status with the help of cameras and it can control them mechanically with electricity or by spraying. The robot works with

millimeter precision to deliver plant-specific interventions and is being developed both as an autonomous robot and as an attachment for tractors.

13.30

Farm visit – Miscanthus as Flood Protection



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The journalists will visit a farm in Bengen, where miscanthus is planted for flood protection. Miscanthus is a renewable raw material that can be used for many purposes such as animal bedding, as a plant substrate, for soil improvement, as a building material and in the chemical industry. The importance of Miscanthus for flood protection is new and is being researched in the EU-funded [MisKaRe](#) project. The farmer from Bengen has been growing miscanthus for over 10 years and mainly uses the material as bedding for animals. In 2016, during a heavy rainfall

event, he noticed that the miscanthus areas on the slope could slow down the surface water. This observation gave rise to the MisKaRe project. He is a practitioner and makes his land available to the EU-funded MisKaRe project for sampling. However, the MisKaRe project is not just about preventing heavy rainfall. Rather, it is about the effective cascade use of Miscanthus. The first use is during growth in the field for heavy rain prevention and as a habitat, followed by the use of the biomass for regional products to close the cycle. In addition to the MisKaRe project, the farmer is also prepared to install weather stations from the EIP project "Digitalization of climate data using the example of the southern Lower Rhine Bay" (DigiKliMap) on his land. This is because the extreme weather conditions in the southern Lower Rhine are increasingly threatening fruit production due to sunburn, drought, late frosts and heavy rainfall. To support producers, a digital network of weather stations and soil sensors has been set up to provide precise climate data. This data is exchanged via a regional platform in order to optimize the use of resources and promote more climate-resilient cultivation methods.



15:30

Farmvisit Johannes and Christian Nachtwey – Fruit horticulture



Johannes and Christian Nachtwey operate an organic fruit farm. They are specialised on apple and pear production, combining organic production with modern quality standards. He operates a test Agri-PV system for climate-friendly fruit growing on his farm together with the Fraunhofer Research Institute.

When the journalists arrive, the apple harvest will be in full swing. At the beginning of the visit, the journalists will pick apples themselves to experience the highlight of the apple year with their own senses.

18.00

Dinner



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Wednesday 24. September, Innovative livestockfarming in “Bergisches Land”

7.15 **Bus Departure from Hotel**

8.30 **Farm visit Christoph Lüpschen – Dairy Cattle Schöpcher Hof**



Christoph Lüpschen and his family run a dairy farm, in the hilly region “Bergisches Land”.

Since taking over the farm from his father, he has always been the first in the region to try out new technologies - from milking robots and biogas to exporting livestock all over the world. For some years now, his farm has been supplying a nearby industrial estate with electricity and district heating. His motto is to improve the added value of traditional milk production. His wife and his three

children work on the farm.

11.15 **Farmvisit Helga and Albert Trimborn – Bauerngut Schiefelbusch**



Helga and Albert Trimborn and their son Andreas run the farm “Bauerngut Schiefelbusch”. The farm is also located in the picturesque Bergisches Land region, which is a local recreation area for the metropolis of Cologne and the densely populated surrounding area. The Trimborns therefore focuss on regional products, direct marketing and transparency 40 years ago: The farm is open 24/7 to hikers, cyclists, schools and holidaymakers. From the farm shop you can see into the cowshed, from the café into the chicken run and when journalists visit Gut Schiefelbusch in September, 1500 geese will graze next to the farm. Son Andreas works on the farm, son Simon and the two daughters support the business with good ideas. The press trip ends with a snack at the Trimborns’.

14.00 **End of program, bus trip to Bonn, ca. 15:00 Arrival at the hotel in Bonn**



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COSTS AND REGISTRATION:

By no later than **31. Juli 2025** use the following form for registration:

<https://eveeno.com/156238313>

The number of participants is limited to 25 people.

The fee is 170 Euro/Person. The costs include meals, transportation during the program, and accommodation for two nights. After you register, the organizers will send you a confirmation email with the bank account details. Please transfer €170 to this account.

The trip to Bonn must be organized and paid by the participants. The cost will not be refunded if you do not participate.

ACCOMODATION

Motel One Bonn is located in the center of Bonn (Address Am Hauptbahnhof 12, 53111 Bonn). It is a 20-minute walk to "Poppelsdorf Hörsaalzentrum".

EVENT VENUE

The Opening on 22. September takes place at Poppelsdorf Hörsaalzentrum (Hörsaal 7, Hörsaalzentrum Poppelsdorf, HS7, Friedrich-Hirzebruch-Allee 5, 53115 Bonn)



USEFUL INFORMATION

The nearest airport is Adenauer Airport in Cologne. For public transport take Bus SB 60 from Airport terminal 1 to Bonn central station every 30 minutes on weekdays. It takes about 30 minutes. The price of a one-way bus ticket to Bonn is around 8 Euros. Tickets may be purchased from the driver or at a ticket machine.

The Bus and train station is located directly next to Motel One.

Other airports, which are further away, are located in Düsseldorf and Frankfurt.

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The EU project EU-FarmBook, funded by the European Commission under Horizon Europe, is developing an EU-wide digital platform for innovation transfer in agricultural practice (<https://welcome.eufarmbook.eu>). The project runs from 2022 to 2029 and is led by Ghent University, Belgium. The project consortium, consists of 29 organizations from 18 European countries.