



**Practice Abstract 11-
Policy and Regulatory Recommendations for Smallholder
Digital Inclusion**

11. Policy and Regulatory Recommendations for Smallholder Digital Inclusion

Short Summary for Practitioners in English

Problem:

Digital technologies such as sensors, drones, satellite services, farm management software, Artificial Intelligence and connected machinery can improve productivity, reduce input use and support better farm management. However, many small and medium-sized farms still face barriers to adoption, including high investment costs, poor rural connectivity, limited digital skills, insufficient independent advisory services, unclear contractual terms, uncertainty over data ownership and sharing and limited interoperability between digital systems.

Solution:

Farmtopia analyzed the EU policy and regulatory landscape and collected evidence from its workshops with the 18 SIPs through stakeholder consultations involving farmers, advisors, technology providers and policymakers. This work identified the main barriers to digital adoption and informed a set of policy and regulatory recommendations, which were further refined through the multi-stakeholder Policy Workshop in Brussels. The recommendations promote stronger farmer control over farm-generated data, greater transparency in data use, improved interoperability, fair contractual practices, better access to digital skills and advisory services and investment in rural digital infrastructure, representing evidence-based guidance for future policy.



Figure 1: Farmtopia's farmer-centered recommendations

Practical Implementation:

Before adopting a digital solution, farmers should ask:

- Which practical problems does this technology solve on my farm?
- What farm data will be collected and why?
- Who will have access to my data?
- Can I download and transfer my data if I change provider?
- Are all costs, subscriptions and future fees clearly explained?
- Is training or technical support available?
- Will this technology work with my existing equipment?
- What benefits will I gain if I share my agricultural data?

Benefits:

The proposed evidence-informed policy recommendations are intended to reduce key barriers to digital adoption by improving trust, transparency and interoperability, while strengthening farmer control over agricultural data. If reflected in future policies and support measures, they could support wider uptake of Agricultural Digital Solutions among small and medium-sized farms, contributing to more productive, resilient and sustainable agricultural systems.

Further information

- More information and the complete Policy & Regulatory Recommendations are available in the Farmtopia project deliverables.

About this Practice Abstract and Farmtopia

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Farmtopia: The project is running from September 2023 to August 2026. The overall goal of Farmtopia (**GA No.: 101083541**) is to democratize digital farming to empower small and medium farms.

Website: <https://farmtopia.eu/>

GreenSupplyChain DIH: As part of the Farmtopia project, GreenSupplyChain DIH is the leader of WP2 on designing the Sustainable Business Models, a set of Policy Recommendations for a sustainable future and a Technology Code of Conduct. In addition, it's responsible for developing an open-source module for data integration.

Website: <https://www.greensupplychain.eu/>

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