Farmers of the Future

#Farmers2040

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• The science and knowledge service of the Commission
• Support to EU policies with independent evidence throughout the whole policy cycle

Competence Centre on Foresight @ JRC

• Strategic and future-oriented input into EU policymaking
• Develop an anticipatory culture
• Experimentation on methods and tools
What is Foresight?

- Systematic participatory process
- Looks forward into the medium- to long-term future
- Creates collective intelligence about the future
- Builds plausible rationales of possible future developments
- Sees the future as something to shape
Farmers of the future - #Farmers2040

Exploring the future professional roles of farmers

➢ People-centered: panorama on farmers of the future

➢ Participatory:
  - Farmers, other stakeholders/experts involved through workshops, interviews….
  - Commission services: AGRI, JRC, other departments
Participatory workshops
The Megatrends and their implications for farmers
EU farmer landscape 2040

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Narrative 2040 – Megatrends…

- Climate change and environmental degradation
- Accelerating technological change
- Consumption patterns
- Changing health, education and governance systems
• New technologies will change way of working and business models
• More distributed and diverse food supply networks
• Climate change adaptation and environmental approaches mainstreamed
• More coherent societal demands – "planetary health"
Farmer profiles 2040

- Were developed through a series of participatory workshops
- Show the future for certain groups of farmers in their environments
- Are an exploration of the future, not a forecast
- The final names try to reflect the trajectory of these profiles
Farmer profiles 2040

- Adaptive – themes and networks agile, networked multifaceted agri-business
- Corporate – branch operations manager
- Intensive – precision farming innovative, efficiency driven large specialized holding
- Patrimonial – on the fence traditional, locked-in, focused on heritage
Farmer profiles 2040

- Controlled environment – soilless high-tech vertical farming

- Cell – alternative foods biotech entrepreneur, producing from cultured cells
Farmer profiles 2040

- **Social care – health and people**
  Service- and society-oriented, focus on social/healthcare services

- **Regenerative - a bigger ecosystem**
  Strong environmental and social motivation, holistic approach to agriculture

- **Urban – on urban soil**
Farmer profiles 2040

- **Lifestyle - change for a new life**
  Quality of life, self-actualisation, cross-cultural competence

- **Serious hobby - passion for leisure**
  Small farms, the objectives focus on occupation rather than profitability

- **Community-provisioning - growing and sharing**
  Care-giver, nurturer oriented to small, tight networks
Emerging questions

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Continuing the discussion – emerging questions

• How to ensure **coherent policies** for an increasingly diverse food system?

• How to ensure movement in the **same direction** on environment and climate?

• How to build **transformative resilience**?

• How can farmers effectively use **diverse and volatile networks**?

• How can farmers effectively **connect to consumers**?

• What will the term ‘**farmer**’ mean in the future?

• What will be the interdependence between **2040 farmers and rural areas**?
Thank you

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