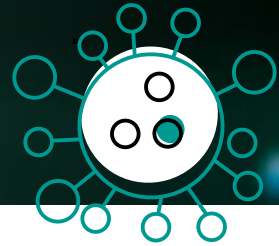


ANALYSIS OF COVID-19: SOLUTIONS ON THE FORUM



MENDING A BROKEN SUPPLY CHAIN AND DEALING WITH LABOUR SHORTAGES

In April 2020, a topic was launched on the SmartAgriHubs Innovation Portal to harness the power of our network and expertise for finding solutions to agrifood problems caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Here we give a high-level overview of the solutions provided. NB: A suggestion was given to incorporate the agrifood-related results from the EUvsCorona hackaton, similar to the SAH IP forum. These results are included in this report, as well.

MOST SOLUTIONS EVOLVE AROUND THE SUPPLY CHAIN OR LABOUR SHORTAGES

Supply chain

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) identified that the COVID-19 pandemic crisis quickly put a strain on the food supply chains; a complex web of interactions involving farmers, agricultural inputs, processing plants, shipping, retailers and more. The hospitality sector had to, almost fully, close and is only now slowly starting up. In addition, vulnerable citizens, especially the elderly, find it unsafe to shop for the necessary supplies. The creation of a platform/marketplace, where supply and demand can meet in alternative (digital) ways, is thus central to a large number of the mentioned solutions.

Labour shortages

Covid-19 has struck right in the middle of important harvest times. Social distancing measures and travel restrictions have caused immense labour shortages, since seasonal immigrant harvesters could not move across EU borders. The second largest group of ideas, hence, provides solutions to this problem, ranging from robotics solutions to identifying potential local labourers and connecting them to farms.

The role for SmartAgriHubs

It is hardly surprising that most solutions encompass in first instance a technological/digital application. Establishment of data-driven platforms are dominant, next to AI-based tools and matchmaking algorithms. Understandably, a promising product/prototype does not mean it is already a widely adopted solution. The provided solutions/ideas can thus very well profit from the broader range of Innovation Services offered by our SAH network of Digital Innovation Hubs. In the overview below, a distinction is made between what is already offered by the solutions; what is explicitly requested by them; and what SAH foresees is needed to bring these promising ideas to market.

What SAH can do for the community

SAH is about connecting the dots, also in crisis times. The proposed solutions could obviously benefit from SAH's strengths. We thus encourage you to visit the SmartAgriHubs website – [COVID-19 section](#) where a specific list of the solutions is available.

This information can help you identify which initiatives may be applicable in your region; find opportunities to partner; or if you already have developed or are aware of a comparable service or application and you would like to share experiences. It is a distinct chance to cultivate our network of Digital Innovation Hubs, Competence Centers, Flagship Innovation Experiments and community of SMEs, startups and other organisations.

DIH Innovation Services



Ecosystem

[Community building](#)
 Strategy development
 Ecosystem learning
[Representation/promotion](#)



Technology

Strategic RDI
 Contract research
 Technical support on scale-up
[Provision of technology infrastructure](#)
[Testing and validation](#)



Business

[Incubator/accelerator support](#)
[Access to finance](#)
 Skills and education
 Project development
 Offering housing

[Provided](#)

[Requested](#)

[Needed](#)



SmartAgriHubs thanks all participants who contributed to our taskforce covid-19