

The Collaborative Working Group 'ICT and robotics in Agriculture and related Industries' under SCAR

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There is a growing worldwide need for the development of innovative technologies applicable for biological systems according to the global demand for food, feed, bioenergy and the increasing awareness of the impact of agriculture on animal welfare and environment. This is accompanied by a significant potential in supporting the competitiveness of EU agriculture and related industries through mobilising research and innovation efforts on ICT and robotic technology. The knowledge bases that exist in the implicated research areas will through a closer cooperation and coordination be able to achieve a synergy that can create new innovative solutions in the applied research and production of the sector. The added value will be created through interprofessional network and the large growth potential of SMEs that can develop high-technological solutions in the cross field between biology and engineering, an area where the EU has the potential to take the lead.

A Collaborative Working Group (CWG) under the Standing Committee for Agricultural Research (SCAR) was formed in the spring of 2005 to explore the possibilities for improved coordination of research and development within the area of ICT and Robotics in agriculture and related industries. The working group has brought together existing networks, thereby achieving critical mass, and providing improved conditions for joint European work in the area. The CWG has through its work assisted in putting this field of research in a European context as well as creating consensus stakeholders.

The group has through initial mapping of research programmes and national projects and preliminary contacts with stakeholders in the Technology Platforms “Food for Life”, “Manufacture”, “Robotic” and “NESSI” created a common baseline and understanding of the need for further cooperation.