ClieNFarms
Climate Neutral Farms

ClieNFarms Practice Abstracts

Using visual mapping tools to understand synergies and action levers for sustainable agriculture

Laurène Lebert (CKIC)

Developing synergies between initiatives at the local level, as well as across regions and countries, is crucial to support the adoption of climate smart farming practices at scale. To support collaboration, stakeholders can map relevant projects and their complementarities using tools like spreadsheets and visual platforms such as Kumu (https://kumu.io/CecilMapsBarclay/clienfarms-scaling-toolbox).

As described by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Kumu is "an online tool for mapping and visualizing systems, stakeholders, networks, and more, with a backend spreadsheet that hosts all the data that Kumu automatically visualizes"[1]. In Kumu, "different automated visual layouts can be tweaked by modifying colours, shapes, fonts, and sizes. Furthermore, the maps can be shared as interactive, non-editable maps through a hyperlink (which can also be used to embed the map on a website); or exported as files."

In the ClieNFarms project, Kumu was used to map sustainable agriculture initiatives across Europe. Data on selected programmes was first compiled in a spreadsheet and tagged according to ClieNFarms's objectives and sub-areas of work (e.g., livestock management, arable crops, energy management). This structured data was imported into Kumu to create a customized visual map, which helped the team identify and prioritize potential synergies with partners.

Beyond synergy mapping, tools such as Kumu can also be used to map stakeholders and interactions within complex systems, enabling collective discussion to identify levers and barriers to action. Used as part of interactive workshops, visual maps are a powerful tool for collaboration.

The Purpose of the Tool

This map of EU projects connected to the net-zero transformation of the agricultural sector in Europe is a product of the project ClieNFarms (clienfarms.eu), a Green Deal project aiming to support the transformation of 20 farming systems across Europe. The related data base is available at: https://airtable.com/app6hIvrTijjfKmxV/tblKYfhilFBPFT1Bi/viw856qAfwZ2CF91m?blocks=hide

Programmes in it hail from multiple parts of Europe. Occasionally they are global. The collection of projects in the database approach different themes/problems from finding and testing ways to farm more sustainably to linking siloed value chain actors etc. The projects also approach these quandaries in different solutions/practices - from agroforestry to lab analysis etc. They provide a host of services from products to knowledge hubs, toolboxes to communities.

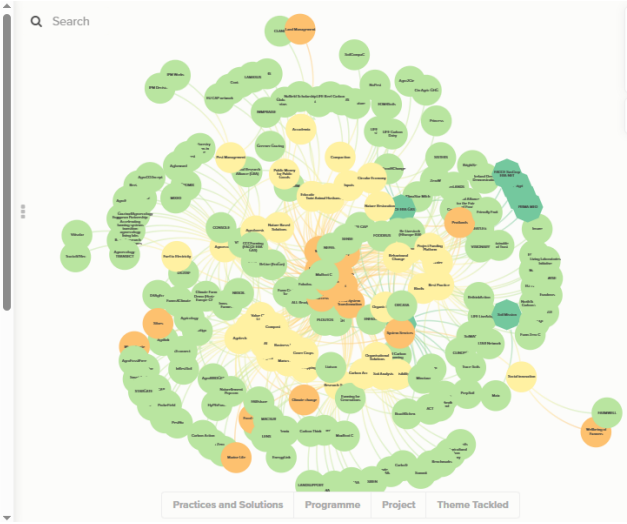

Figure 1: Screen capture from ClieNFarms Kumu.io map.

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