**Subject**: Request for assistance in a study on young farmers/exchange schemes

Dear Member of the Rural Development Committee,

As presented during the RDC meeting of 18 December 2013, the Ecorys-LEI-Aequator consortium is currently conducting a study on the needs of young farmers and existing exchange schemes, on behalf of DG AGRI. The aim is provide a comprehensive assessment of the specific needs of young farmers across the EU and to provide recommendations on the design, implementation and delivery of exchange programmes and schemes for young farmers.

The first step in this study will be a survey among young farmers on their needs. This survey will preferably be done by phone. Next to this, focus groups in all member states will be organised in order to test the findings from the survey. The next step in the study will be an inventory of existing exchange schemes and case studies. The results of the study will be presented and discussed during a final conference (for more information on the study, please refer to the presentation attached).

However, we will not be able to conduct this study without your assistance. **We would very much appreciate if you can answer the following questions to the team leader of the project, Sacha Koppert (****sacha.koppert@ecorys.com****), preferably before 17 January 2014:**

* Can you provide us with contact details (phone numbers or e-mail addresses) of young farmers for the survey? (Please indicate which type of contact details you have available).
* If not, can you indicate which organisations/contact persons might help us in obtaining contact details of young farmers?
* If it proves to be difficult to obtain phone numbers of young farmers, we might need to consider alternative options. For this purpose we would like to know whether most of the young farmers have access to e-mail in your country.
* Can you provide us with information that you have readily available (in any language) on:
	+ (Information and learning) Needs of young farmers
	+ Existing exchange schemes
* Can you help us in identifying participants in focus groups (in a later stage)

The team conducting the study is planning to inform you and to involve you as much as possible in the study. It would be very much appreciate if you include your contact details in your message.

More information on the study can be obtained through the team leader:

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Thank you very much in advance for your assistance and information.