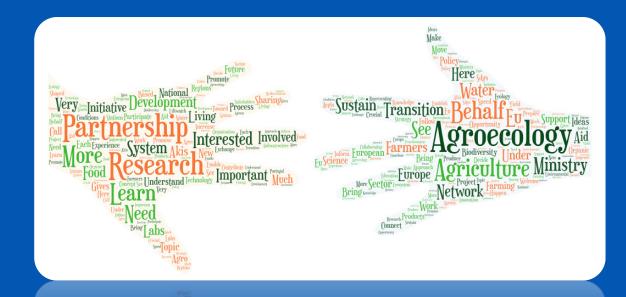


# The EU policy context for ecological approaches

**Susana GAONA SAEZ** 

European Commission
Agriculture and rural development
Research and innovation



UNISECO Final Conference

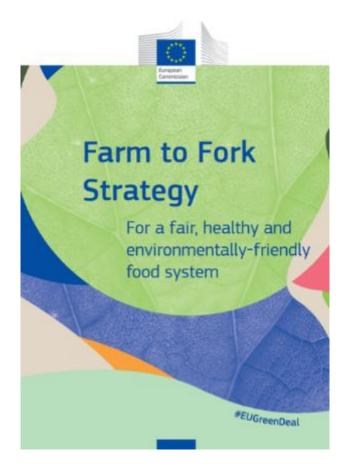
18 March 2021

### The Green Deal





### Ecological approaches in the Farm to fork strategy



Agroecology in focus through three proposals:

- Partnership: "New knowledge and innovations will also scale up agroecological approaches in primary production through a dedicated partnership on agro-ecology living laboratories. This will contribute to reducing the use of pesticides, fertilisers and antimicrobials."
- Future common agricultural policy: The new 'eco-schemes' will offer a major stream of funding to boost sustainable practices, such as precision agriculture, agro-ecology (including organic farming), carbon farming and agro-forestry. Member States and the Commission will have to ensure that they are appropriately resourced and implemented in the Strategic Plans.
- International cooperation: The EU will focus its international cooperation on food research and innovation, with particular reference to agro-ecology



### Ecological approaches in the EU Biodiversity strategy



#### Four mentions:

- Potential: Agroecology can provide healthy food while maintaining productivity, increase soil fertility and biodiversity, and reduce the footprint of food production.
- Acknowledging differences: In the implementation of the EU-wide agroecological targets, the different starting points and differences in progress already made in Member States will be taken into account.
- Policy commitments: The Commission will ensure that the CAP Strategic plans are assessed against robust climate and environmental criteria, and that Member States set explicit national values for the relevant targets [...].
   These plans should lead to sustainable practices such as precision agriculture, organic farming, agro-ecology, agro-forestry, low-intensive permanent grassland, and stricter animal welfare standards.
- Targets: EU Nature Restoration Plan: key commitments by 2030 At least 25% of agricultural land is under organic farming management, and the uptake of agro-ecological practices is significantly increased.



### Key targets & objectives to be achieved by 2030

-50% chemical pesticides

-20% chemical fertilizers

10% agricultural land under high-diversity landscape

-50% antimicrobials for livestock

25% share of organic production

protect soil fertility, reduce soil erosion and increase soil organic matter



## Time to step up the efforts...



...by 2030 = 9 years = 9 growing seasons.....



# The future common agricultural policy (CAP)



REBALANCE

**INCREASE** 

- New green architecture
- Enhanced conditionality
- > CAP Plans

#### **Eco-schemes:**

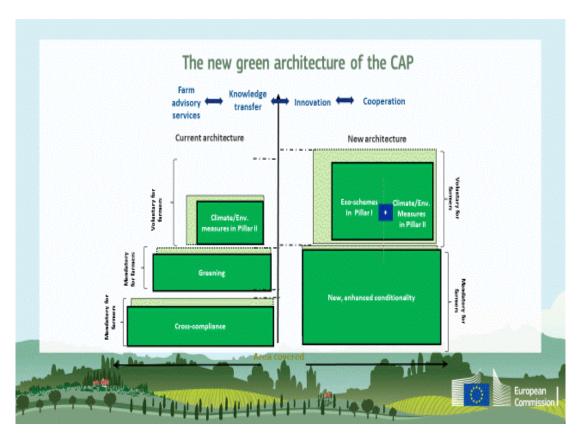
- climate, environmental, animal welfare, AMR
- contribute to the Green Deal targets

Organic farming practices
IPM, agro-ecology, agro-forestry,
carbon farming, etc





#### **Eco-schemes: policy context**



- The CAP 2023-2027 will support the **transition** towards a more sustainable food system
- ➤ by strengthening the efforts of European farmers to contribute to the EU's climate objectives and to protect the environment
- ➤ Eco-schemes are a new and one of the key CAP tools to deliver on the **Green Deal targets**
- > EU-wide and simple framework
- ➤ MS will set eco-schemes in their CAP strategic plans
- > As part of the overall green architecture

#### Practices to be supported under eco-schemes (CAP 2023-2027)

- ➤ Organic farming practices
- ➤ Integrated Pest Management
- > Agroecology
- > Agroforestry
- ➤ High nature value (HNV) farming
- Carbon farming
- > Precision farming
- ➤ Improve nutrient management
- > Protecting water resources
- > ...and others





#### **CAP Strategic Plans timeline (tentative)**

Trilogues

Nov 2020 – March 2021

EP Plenary / AGRIFISH

May 2021

Adoption Basic Acts

May 2021

Adoption secondary legislation

September 2021

Submission CAP Plans

Q4 2021

Approval CAP Plans

2022

**Start CAP Plans** 

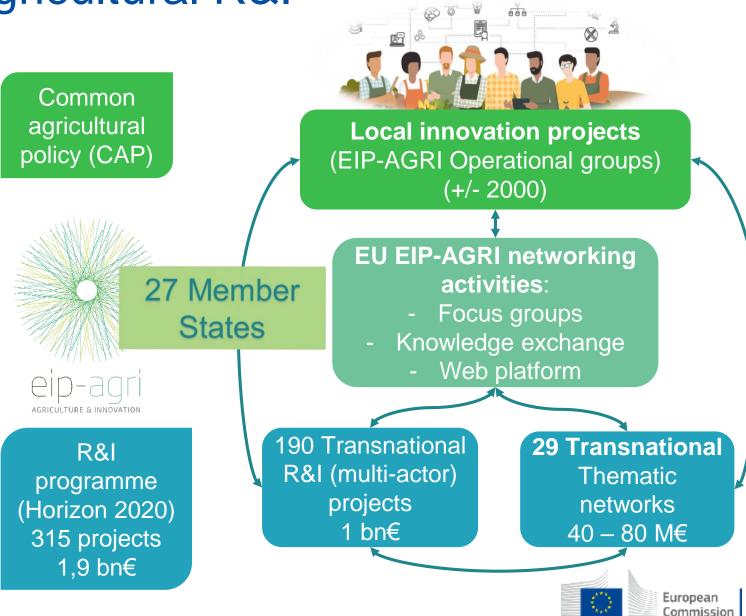
1 January 2023



EU approach to agricultural R&I

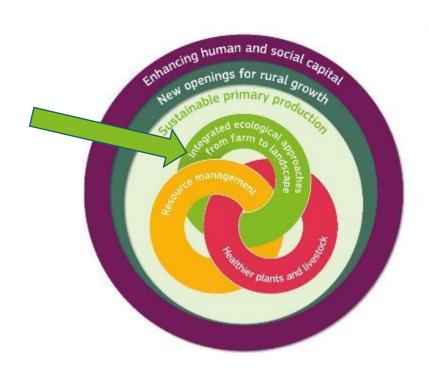


2016



#### **Ecological approaches in Horizon 2020 and EIP**

More than **40 Operational groups**9 EU Member States



One in five priorities



+240 M€ invested





Agri-innovation summit 2019 on EIP-AGRI & agroecology



### Horizon Europe (2021-2027)









Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system



### Various instruments to power the transition













Work programme 2021-2022 (April/May 21)

Key role for ecological approaches, including agroecology, organic farming and agroforestry

Calls for projects

collaborative

Achieving goals

Missions

Large-scale portfolio of coordinated actions to reach a bold and inspirational objective

Soil health: « Caring for soil is caring for life »

Partnerships

Concerted R&I efforts with EU and Associated countries and/or private sector, foundations or stakeholders

→ 8 partnership candidates (Cluster 6)



### Work Programme 2021-2022

**Destination 1** 



**Destination 2** 



Destination 3



Destination 4



Destination 5



Destination 6



Destination 7



**Environmental Observation** 

Biodiversity and Natural Resources

Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Areas

Seas, Oceans and Inland Waters

Food Systems

Bio-based Innovation Systems in the EU Bioeconomy

Circular Systems

#### Destination 5

CLIMATE **PACT AND CLIMATE LAW** 

**PROMOTING CLEAN ENERGY** 



**INVESTING IN SMARTER, MORE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT** 

Destination 1

**PROTECTING NATURE** 

Cluster 6

**STRIVING FOR GREENER INDUSTRY** 

**Destination 3** 

Destination 2

Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Areas

Seas, Oceans and Inland Waters

**Food Systems** 

All destinations

0000 **FROM FARM TO FORK** 

The European **Green Deal** 



**ELIMINATING POLLUTION** 

Destination 4

**LEADING THE GREEN CHANGE GLOBALLY** 



**MAKING HOMES ENERGY EFFICIENT** 



**FINANCING GREEN PROJECTS** 

**ENSURING A JUST TRANSITION FOR ALL** 

Destination 6

Destination 7



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# Thank you



- More information:
  - European R&I partnership on agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
- Webinars on building the European partnership on agroecology living labs



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