



The conference of Poland EU presidency in cooperation with European Commission, Standing Committee on Agricultural Research and BIOEAST Initiative.

Research, innovation and digitalization to advance the competitiveness of European agriculture and ensure food security.

Warsaw, 11-12 June 2025

High-level R&I conference will be the platform for discussing strengthening green and digital transformation of the agri-food system as well as circular bioeconomy in the Central and Eastern European region and the whole EU.

Research, innovation and digitalization are key enablers in increasing the sustainable competitiveness, in setting transition pathways towards sustainability and ensuring long-term food security. They are crucial in developing new technologies and innovative solutions and the main response to structural, climate and geopolitical challenges. This approach requires support for good cooperation between practice, science and public administration. Transnational and macro-regional cooperation can significantly accelerate progress and add substantial value in achieving sustainable agri-food systems in Europe. Fostering cooperation will help to build lasting foundations for the development of the food systems economy: diversified, resistant to crises, and based on sustainable supply chains and overall competitiveness.

This high-level conference acts as a pivotal science-policy platform in the context of the new European Commission's vision for agriculture and food, as well as life sciences, and bioeconomy strategies. The aim is to address the key challenges in sustainable agri-food systems, digital and green transformation of the agri-food sector and bioeconomy development in the BIOEAST and CEE regions, and across the EU.

The conference will highlight the direction of policy-science-practice collaboration in building a future strategic approach for R&I on food systems. Discussions will leverage digitalization for agricultural advancement, promote healthy soils, and create a foundation for resilient bioeconomy sectors. The event will help further strengthen the science policy interface for improved food systems governance, bioeconomy deployment and the green and digital transitions of the agri-food sector.

The Presidency event will be an opportunity to provide knowledge exchange at Member State and EU level on the role of research and innovation in the challenges of green and digital transformation of the agri-food sector and circular bioeconomy. The event will be a space for

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presenting scientific achievements, as well as exchanging practical ideas and innovative solutions in the agri-food sector.

The event will continue the thematic discussions initiated during the Hungarian Presidency. It will focus specifically on critical areas such as water and soil management, sustainable food systems, and bioeconomy deployment. It aims to foster cooperation among EU and CEE countries, promoting a cohesive European Research Area and enhancing scientific collaboration between academia, policymakers, and practitioners at EU level.

Ultimately, the event aims to amplify Europe's needs in innovation and sustainability, aligning research and innovation priorities at national, regional - Central and Eastern European as well as EU levels. This alignment will inform future EU policies and strategic frameworks, including the next Framework Program 2028-2035. The event will contribute to the key Action of the Vision for Agriculture and Food: a new EU strategic approach to R&I to improve the competitiveness of agriculture, forestry and rural areas. Key initiatives to be featured include Food2030, preparation Bioeconomy Strategy update, Horizon Europe Partnerships and Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe" (Mission Soil), SCAR and the BIOEAST Initiative's future actions.

Safeguarding a resilient and competitive agricultural sector to maintain a stable food supply within the Union does require new approaches. Biomass security should be integrated into the broader EU security agenda. Biomass availability for food, industry and energy uses requires systemic thinking and is crucial for the future of European security and strategic autonomy.

Program

June 10, 2025

11:30 – 18:30 SCAR Plenary meeting

19.00 Dinner

- **John Bell**, Director Healthy Planet, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission (DG RTD)
- **Czesław Siekierski**, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland/
Adam Nowak, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland (tbc)

Parallel event:

16:00 – 18:30 BIOEAST meeting – level of State Secretary/ Deputy Ministry (tbc)

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June 11, 2025

9:00 REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE

10:00 High-level opening session

Welcome and opening speech

Czesław Siekierski, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland

Keynote speech

Christophe Hansen, Commissioner for Agriculture and Food, European Commission (tbc)

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark (tbc)

10:30 Policy outlook session 1. Setting the Scene: Competitiveness Compass. Policy priorities for R&I under competitiveness compass - the importance of the life science, bioeconomy and digital strategies to explore future research and innovation orientations and levers of change.

The session will explore the strategic approach to enhance the competitiveness of the bioeconomy through research innovation and technological advancements. The session will highlight the key challenges in unlocking potential and close the innovation gaps in the agri-food sector with focus on aligning with the strategic priorities of the European Union policies in the context of current global challenges.

Master of ceremony: **Daniela Lüth**, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation

Keynote speech & presentation:

- **John Bell**, Director Healthy Planet, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission (DG RTD)

Panel discussion:

- **John Bell**, Director Healthy Planet, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission (DG RTD)
- **Christian Paterman**, “Father” of the European Bioeconomy, Former Director for Agriculture, Food, Forestry, Fisheries and Biotechnology in the Directorate General for Research and Technology of the European Commission

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- European Commission representatives (tbc)
- Ministry representatives (tbc)

11:30 Coffee break

12:00 Policy outlook session 2. Setting the Scene: Increasing the competitiveness of European agriculture and ensuring food security. A Vision for Agriculture and Food.

The session will serve as a pivotal policy platform to discuss the competitiveness of European agriculture, taking into account the need to ensure food security.

In this context, it will provide an opportunity to address the most pressing challenges in sustainable food systems, digital and green transformation of the agri-food sector and bioeconomy development in CEE region and the EU.

Thus, it will indicate possible directions for the implementation of A Vision for Agriculture and Food in response to the question of how research, innovation and digitalization can help to achieve the vision goals.

Master of ceremony: **Adam Nowak**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland (tbc)/ **Wanda Chmielewska – Gill**, Counselor of the Minister Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development PL (tbc)

Keynote speech & presentation:

- **Christophe Hansen**, Commissioner for Agriculture and Food, European Commission (tbc)
 - A Vision for Agriculture and Food (focus on Research, Innovation, Digitalization, Knowledge and Skills)
- **Prof. Walenty Poczta** – Poznan University of Life Sciences / **Prof. Wawrzyniec Maciej Czubak** – Poznan University of Life Sciences (tbc)
 - Increasing the competitiveness of European agriculture and ensuring food security – CEE and EU context. Sustainable agriculture in the context of European big challenges: soil, water and food security. Context of CEE (tbc)

Panel discussion:

- **Christophe Hansen**, Commissioner for Agriculture and Food, European Commission (tbc)



- Czesław Siekierski, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland (tbc)/ Adam Nowak, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland (tbc)
- Member of European Parliament, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (tbc)
- Ministry representatives (tbc)

13:10

Policy outlook session 3: BIOEAST and Beyond. Fostering Collaboration Through Europe-wide R&I initiative, harnessing the potential of Central and Eastern Europe. Introductory session to the thematic areas' sessions for the afternoon.

The session will review conclusions from the BIOEAST and Beyond conference held by the Hungarian EU Council Presidency. It aims to advance the BIOEAST Vision on 'Partnering for the Future' by boosting sustainability and competitiveness via the bioeconomy research and innovation ecosystem in BIOEAST countries.

Additionally, the session will address future governance, key challenges, strategic areas such as water and soil management, sustainable food systems, and bioeconomy deployment. It will also discuss how to follow up on SCAR gap analysis to harness the potential of CEE countries and strengthen the European Research Area.

Moderator: **Barna Kovacs**, BIOEAST Secretary General

Keynote speech & presentation:

- **Barna Kovacs**, BIOEAST Secretary General
 - Hungarian EU Council Presidency Conference Conclusions
- **Peter Wehrheim**, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission (DG RTD)
 - BIOEAST gap analysis

Panel discussion:

- BIOEAST country representatives – State Secretary/ Deputy Ministry (tbc)
- Ministry representatives (tbc)

13:45

Lunch

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14:45

Thematic outlook session 4: Research and Innovation for competitive, sustainable and resilient agri-food systems - setting the direction of the policy-science-practice collaboration in building future strategic approach in R&I on food systems.

This session will focus in setting the direction of policy-science-practice collaboration in building a future strategic approach for R&I on food systems. Desired directions for cooperation between science and policy makers in a strategic approach will be indicated, both from the perspective of advising the European Commission, supporting strategic research and innovation directions, as well as taking into account the perspective of the Member States.

Master of ceremony: **Paweł Chmieleński**, Scientific Director, IRWIR PAN, BIOEAST TWG FS, PL

Keynote speech & presentation:

- **Monique Axelos**, Scientific Director for Food and Bioeconomy at INRAE, Chair of SCAR SWG FS, FR
 - Tomorrow's food systems: the role of research and innovation (tbc)
- **Rosalinda Scalia**, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission (DG RTD)
 - FOOD 2030 and beyond

Panel discussion:

- **Monique Axelos**, Scientific Director for Food and Bioeconomy, INRAE, Chair of SCAR SWG FS, FR
- **Rosalinda Scalia**, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission (DG RTD)
- Representatives of FutureFoodS, Food Systems Partnership (tbc)
- Representatives of Agri Ministry (tbc)
- **Vladislav Popov**, Agricultural University of Plovdiv, BG

15:45

Thematic outlook session 5: Research and Innovation in the way for future concept of bioeconomy - a comprehensive overview of biomass availability in Europe & the essential role of research, innovation, and international cooperation in driving sustainable development through the bioeconomy.

The session will open with a comprehensive overview of regional biomass availability in Europe (Biomass supply and uses in the EU). This will provide the strategic context for a forward-looking discussion on the sustainable supply



of biomass within the EU towards 2050, highlighting the critical balance between environmental limits and growing bio-based demand and competition for biomass between different sectors.

Attention will then turn to the policy instruments and financial mechanisms designed to accelerate investment in the bioeconomy, including Horizon Europe, the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU), as well as various regional and national initiatives aimed at scaling up innovation and industrial deployment in the bio-based sector.

Master of ceremony: **Jerzy Kozyra** PL

Keynote speech & presentation:

- Joint Research Centre, European Commission (introductory presentation) (tbc)
 - a comprehensive overview of biomass availability in Europe (tbc)
- Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU)
 - instruments and financial mechanisms designed to accelerate investment in the bioeconomy (tbc)

Panel discussion:

- Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU)
- **Jukka Kantola**, President of the World Bioeconomy Association (tbc)
- Representative of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (tbc)
- **Stanislaw Bielecki**, International Research Centre for Innovative Biobased Materials, Lodz University of Technology, Bioeconomy Cluster Association (tbc)
- **Luka Juvančič**, SCAR SWG Bioeconomy, University of Ljubljana, SI (tbc)

16:45 Coffee Break

17:00 Thematic outlook session 6: Research and Innovation for Natural Resource Sustainability Soil Health, Freshwater, Climate - the importance of research and innovation for soil and water sustainability, aligning with the EU Soil Mission, and broader objectives of sustainable resource management.

The session will highlight the research and innovation needs for soil and water management and broader objectives of sustainable resource management recognizing that many pioneering farmers and land stewards across Europe are



already successfully applying soil and water regenerative practices. These proven solutions provide a strong foundation for broader uptake. The session will highlight the further challenges in such areas as soil regeneration and integrating soil and water management into broader picture of natural resource sustainability and climate resilience. In order to address the current challenges, wider application of soil regeneration into agricultural advisory processes is necessary. Many soils and water regenerative or protective practices have been tested but their transfer to practice is still insufficient, to scale up successful practices, coordinated financial instruments and enabling public-private regulatory environments are essential. Links between the bioeconomy, including biomass conversion, and soil health will be emphasized to involve soil management in circularity strategies.

Master of ceremony: **Grzegorz Siebielec PL** (tbc)

Keynote speech & presentation:

- **Orsolya Frizon Somogyi**, DG for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
 - Soil Mission implementation
- Board member of Water and Ocean Mission (Zagreb University) (tbc)

Panel discussion:

- **Orsolya Frizon Somogyi** DG for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
- **Martin Kováč**, Climate Club, National Trust in Slovakia, BIOEAST TWG member
- **Mateusz Ciasnocha**, Member of Soil Mission Board, PL (tbc)
- European Network of Living Labs (tbc)
- Board member of Water and Ocean Mission (tbc)

18:30 **Networking Cocktail**

19:00 **Gala Dinner**

- **Christophe Hansen**, Commissioner for Agriculture and Food, European Commission (tbc)/ **Diego Canga Fano**, Director-General Outreach, Research & Geographical Indications, European Commission (DG AGRI) (tbc)
- DG Research and Innovation, European Commission (DG RTD) (tbc)

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- Czesław Siekierski, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland (tbc)
- Adam Nowak, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland

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June 12, 2025

08:30 REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE

09:30 **Plenary Session 1. Governance for Digital Transition in the Agri-Food Sector - Digitalization as a driver to further advance the transition.**

The session will highlight the role of digital transition that can help agriculture and rural areas face a variety of challenges, such as climate change, environmental degradation, geopolitical instability, changing supply networks and evolving consumer demand. The conference will enable the presentation of actions taken and further discussion on the challenges facing the digitalization of agriculture. The session will provide insights into policy strategies to support agricultural digitalization. The event will be an opportunity to focus on the key enablers that support the process of digital transformation, for the adoption and use of digital technologies, including capacity building, developing a digital ecosystem & data governance, investing in infrastructure and connectivity, and providing adequate funding. The session will present and discuss innovative collaboration in this regard.

Keynote speech & presentation:

- Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (tbc)
- JRC representative the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (tbc)
 - Digital transition: long-term implications for EU farmers and rural communities.

Panel discussion:

- EC representative European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (tbc)
- Ministry for Digitalization PL (tbc)
- Representative of the Directorate General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM) (tbc)
- Representative of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (tbc)
- European Partnership Agriculture of Data
- AgriData Space

10:45 Coffee Break

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11:00 Plenary practical Session 2. Governance for Food Systems Transformation– education, research and innovation perspective. Achievements & good examples of initiatives to explore future research and innovation orientations and levers of change.

The session brings together achievements in EU food systems, related good examples of initiatives to explore future research, and innovation orientations and levers of change. Joint dialog, identification of research priorities and appropriate targeting of collaborative projects under the EU's framework programme are necessary to achieve the goals of transforming food systems in Europe more quickly. The session will present how research-driven initiatives can shape food system governance, emphasizing the role of science-based policymaking, digital transformation, and multi-stakeholder engagement in advancing sustainable food systems and in creating a new ecosystem of institutions working for better governance of food systems

Master of ceremony: BIOEAST, Paweł Chmieleński, PL

Keynote speech & presentation:

- Christian Bugge Henriksen, Project Coordinator of CLEVERFOOD
- EIT Food (tbc)
- Gabriela Versteeg, EFFoST, FOODPathS
- Stine Rosenlund Hansen, Project Coordinator of FoSSNet (tbc)

12:00 Plenary practical Session 3. Governance for Bioeconomy development– education, research and innovation perspective. Inspiring examples of successful bioeconomy projects and initiatives including regional excellence to explore future research and innovation orientations and levers of change.

The session will open with a comprehensive overview of projects providing solutions for bioeconomy development, the strategic context for a forward-looking discussion in frame of innovation oriented research projects or research and policy supporting.

To ground the discussion in practice, the session will highlight successful bioeconomy projects and initiatives emerging from Central and Eastern Europe. These will include inspiring examples of regional excellence – such as bio-based product innovations, local clusters, hubs, and multi-actor partnerships – demonstrating the potential of place-based innovation to support a fair and green transition. This session will also highlight the role of bioeconomy education and



key strategic areas that are to be addressed, on the example of the BIOEAST macro-region

Master of ceremony: Jerzy Kozyra, PL

Keynote speech & presentation:

- CBE JU Working Group on Primary Producers, DG for Agriculture and Rural Development/ CBE JU (tbc)
- BIO-Boost (tbc)
- CEE2ACT (tbc)
- BOOST4BIOEAST
- BIOECO-UP
- BioBoosters
- RuralBioUP
- BBioNETS
- UniNet

13.00 Closing Speech

13.15 Lunch

14.00 - 16.00 Closed workshops – side events

Session 4. R&I for policy impact – RefreSCAR session (tbc)

Session 5. International roundtable on Foods Systems – Cleverfood session (tbc)