



**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 SCAR Plenary & BIOEAST meeting

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

Parallel event:

16:00 – 18:30 BIOEAST meeting

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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

**Maria Mrówczyńska**, Chairperson of the Council, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland

**John Bell**, Director Healthy Planet, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

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 Patermann**, "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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- Czesław Siekierski, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland/  
Adam Nowak, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland
- Maria Mrówczyńska, Chairperson of the Council, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland
- Dariusz Standerski, Secretary of State, Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland

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: **Wanda Chmielewska – Gill**, Counselor of the Minister Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development PL

Keynote speech & presentation:

- **Orsolya Frizon Somogyi**, DG for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission, EC
  - 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
  - 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:

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- Orsolya Frizon Somogyi, DG for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission, EC
- Czesław Siekierski, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland/  
Adam Nowak, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland
- Andrzej Grzyb, Member of Sejm of the Republic of Poland
- Krzysztofa Hetman, Member of the European Parliament
- Marek Zagórski, Committee of Agriculture of the National Chamber of Commerce
- Wawrzyniec Maciej Czubak – Poznan University of Life Sciences

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:



- Elena Závacká, Director, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, SK
- Mariusz Matyka, Director Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation, State Research Institute (IUNG), PL

13:45 Lunch

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
- **Rosalinda Scalia**, Deputy Head of Unit "Bioeconomy and Food Systems DG Research and Innovation, European Commission (DG RTD)  
– Shaping the Future of Agri-Food Systems: Policy, Science, and Practice in R&I

Panel discussion:

- **Monique Axelos**, Scientific Director for Food and Bioeconomy, National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE), Chair of SCAR SWG FS, FR
- **Rosalinda Scalia**, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission (DG RTD)
- **Mario Rocco**, EIT FOOD
- **Vladislav Popov**, Agricultural University of Plovdiv, BG
- **Christian Bugge Henriksen**, University of Copenhagen, DE

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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**, Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation, State Research Institute (IUNG), PL

Keynote speech & presentation:

- **Anu Korosuo**, Joint Research Centre, European Commission (introductory presentation)
  - a comprehensive overview of biomass availability in Europe
- **Nicoló GIACOMUZZI-MOORE**, Executive Director Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU)
  - instruments and financial mechanisms designed to accelerate investment in the bioeconomy

Panel discussion:

- **Nicoló GIACOMUZZI-MOORE**, Executive Director Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking
- **Jukka Kantola**, President of the World Bioeconomy Association, FI
- **Anu Korosuo**, Representative of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre
- **Stanislaw Bielecki**, International Research Centre for Innovative Biobased Materials, Lodz University of Technology, Bioeconomy Cluster Association, PL
- **Luka Juvančič**, SCAR SWG Bioeconomy, University of Ljubljana, SI



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**, Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation, State Research Institute (IUNG), PL

Keynote speech & presentation:

- **Orsolya Frizon Somogyi**, DG for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission, EC
  - Soil Mission implementation

Panel discussion:

- **Orsolya Frizon Somogyi**, DG for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission, EC
- **Martina Desole**, European Network of Living Labs, IT
- **Claire Rogel-Gaillard**, SCAR SWG Agroecology, National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE), FR
- **Martin Kováč**, Climate Club, National Trust in Slovakia, BIOEAST TWG member, SK
- **Mateusz Ciasnocha**, Member of Soil Mission Board, PL
- **Tomasz Wojciechowski**, European Compost Network, PL





18:30      Networking Cocktail

19:00      Gala Dinner

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



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.

Master of ceremony: Justyna Cieřlikowska, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, PL

Keynote speech & presentation:

- **Orsolya Frizon Somogyi**, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European
- **Krystian Olchowik**, Ministry for Digitalization PL
- **Marcin Plociennik**, Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center, PL
- **Jürgen Vangeyte**, Common European Agricultural Data Space
- **Alexander Bomberski**, Agricultural Advisory Center in Brwinów
- **Justyna Jasiewicz**, PwC



10:30

Plenary practical Session 2.: Increase of research impact by putting practitioners (end-users) into the center of the R&I activities all over the project cycle – the role of interaction between different actors along the agri-food chain, including farmers, advisors, researchers, policy makers in achieving common goals and innovative solutions to enhance the transition to a socio-economic and environmentally sustainable agriculture.

Strong and well operating Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems facilitate interaction among different partners and help them achieve common goals. It is key for fostering knowledge and innovation in agriculture and rural areas. R&I projects develop new knowledge and innovative solutions, however, it is also essential to support sharing of knowledge and innovative solutions. The session will focus on the role of co-operation/co-creation and knowledge sharing in ensuring that R&I solutions are applied in practice, underlining the role of advisory services as key intermediaries between research and practice.

There are good practices and instruments supporting multi-actor approach and knowledge exchange at country and EU level. The need to provide synergies between existing instruments will be also emphasized. Furthermore, drawing on current experience the session will highlight further challenges in developing Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems.

Master of ceremony: **Ewa Grodzka**, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, PL

Key note speech and presentation:

- **Henryk Skórnicki**, Agricultural Advisory Centre in Brwinów, Branch in Radom,
- **Inge De Bo**, Scientific Coordinator, EU-FarmBook, Ghent University, BE
- **Sergio Ponsá Salas**, BETA Technological Center, ES
- **Jan van Esch** –SCAR AKIS Strategic Working Group, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature, NL

11:15

Coffee Break



11:30 Plenary practical Session 3. 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 Chmieliński, PL

Keynote speech & presentation:

- **John Ingram**, Food Systems Transformation Group, FoSSNet, Oxford University, UK
- **Christian Bugge Henriksen**, Project Coordinator of CLEVERFOOD, University of Copenhagen, DE
- **Gabriela Versteeg**, FoodpathS: Toward Sustainable Food Systems – Strengthening Partnerships and Connecting Science, Policy & Education, The European Federation of Food Science and Technology (EFFoST), NL
- Justyna Kulawik, EIT Food Polska

12:30 Plenary practical Session 4. 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: Adrianna Pawlik, The National Centre for Research and Development, PL

Panel discussion:

- **Tomasz Calikowski**, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
- **Marie Kubankova**, UniNet, BIOEAST HUB CR, BBioNETS
- **Korinna Varga**, BOOST4BIOEAST, Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
- **Beata Jurga**, CEE2ACT, BIOECONOMY HUB PL, Institute of Soil Science and Cultivation – State Research Institute
- **Luka Juvančič**, BIOECO-UP project, University of Ljubljana, SI
- BioBoosters project, Foundation for Education and Social Dialogue “Pro Civis”(tbc)

13.20 Closing Speech

13.30 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)