

SCAR Conference 2019

Wednesday, 12 June 2019, 09:30 – 16:25

Venue: Liaison agency Flanders-Europe (VLEVA), Kortenberglaan 71, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Objective: *Identification of the role and impact of SCAR in the future Horizon Europe Programme, synergies with CAP and policies on research and innovation:*

- What relevance has SCAR at the national and EU level?
- How can SCAR accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral and resource-efficient sustainable Europe while maintaining sustainable agricultural and wider bioeconomy activity?

DRAFT AGENDA

08:45 – 09:30	Registration and welcome coffee
Moderator of plenum sessions: Peter Keet, former SCAR delegate, Netherlands	
09:30 – 09:45	Introductory speech
	<i>By Nathalie Sauze-Vandevyver, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission</i>
MORNING SESSION	
09:45 – 10:15	Keynote speeches
<i>15 min</i>	1 st Keynote: Looking at the past - SCAR achievements and having a glance at the future <i>Barna Kovacs, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary</i>
<i>15 min</i>	2 nd Keynote: Challenges in the future bioeconomy, agriculture and agri-food and the contribution of SCAR <i>Gerry Boyle, TEAGASC, Ireland</i>
10:15 – 10:55	Discussion with plenum (on the keynotes and statements made)
	Panel: <i>Barna Kovacs, Gerry Boyle, Nathalie Sauze-Vandevyver, Waldemar Kütt (DG RTD, European Commission)</i>
10:55 – 11:25	Coffee break
11:25 – 12:10	1st Participatory session in 3 groups*
12:10 – 13:10	Lunch Break
13:10 – 13:40	Roll-up session

AFTERNOON SESSION	
13:40 – 14:25	2nd Participatory session in 3 groups*
14:25 – 15:10	3rd Participatory session in 3 groups*
15:10 – 15:40	Coffee break
15:40– 15:55	Conclusion of participatory sessions* <i>Mike Collins, DEFRA, United Kingdom</i> <i>Inge Van Oost, DG AGRI, European Commission</i> <i>Barna Kovacs, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary</i>
15:55 – 16:10	Discussion and reflection with plenum
16:10 – 16:25	General conclusion <i>Marion Bardy, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, France</i>
16:25	End of programme

Note: On 11th June 2019, a closed side-event will take place only for mentors and mentees of the SCAR Mentoring Programme.

*** Participatory Sessions:**

Plenum will be divided in 3 groups to discuss on

- **Topic 1: Future possible SCAR Working Groups in view of the challenges ahead**
- **Topic 2: SCAR role in speeding up R&I impact at EU and national level and accelerating the transition to sustainable Europe**
- **Topic 3: SCAR Functioning: On the role of SCAR Member States and the European Commission in co-creation and advocacy of common policy advice**

(Please find below descriptions of the topics)

Participatory Sessions:

- **Topic 1: Future possible SCAR Working Groups in view of the challenges ahead**

Session organisers: Mike Collins (Moderator) and Rolf Stratmann

Since the renewal of its mandate in 2005 and the communication of the EC « Towards a coherent strategy for a European Agricultural Research Agenda », the structure of SCAR has changed over time, reflecting the needs of its time and the EU agriculture and wider bioeconomy.

During FP6 and FP7, the SCAR was mainly implementing collaborative working groups which aimed at coordinating including increased and improved alignment of research activities of the EU Member States as well as Candidate and Associated Countries. The CWGs were the main origins of ERA-NETs in FP6, FP7 and H2020. Broader in-depth activities were implemented through Joint Programming Initiatives, like the JPI FACCE and HDHL.

Whilst this goal was being mainly reached, the EU agriculture and wider bioeconomy was and is still facing a wide range of challenges, which include further globalisation, tariff/trade wars, tightening of energy supplies, climate change, environmental degradation, unsustainable consumption of natural resources and changes in end-users' behaviour. In addition, a number of new opportunities arose through the development of new bioeconomy value chains and strategies and the move to more circular agricultural systems.

In order to tackle these challenges, the agriculture and wider bio-economy research and innovation need, on the one hand, to be addressed through more holistic, multi and interdisciplinary approaches, and to rely more on multi-stakeholder approaches. On the other hand, with a view to increase efficiency of R&I investments, synergies between Member States and between Member States and the EU need to be maximised.

Recent changes in SCAR and its working groups have reflected these challenges, shifting SCAR activities from merely contributing to MS R&I alignment and the related CWG, to SWGs which are now acting as a think-tank producing ideas to improve the EU Bio-economy R&I ecosystem. The think tank approach is essential to gather collective intelligence and best practices from MS's expertise in the various themes, and services both countries and European Commission for their R&I programming. The SCAR WGs are still serving alignment and coordination of research, but with a different approach and as a platform to be informed on project portfolios related to the activities around their themes at the various geographical levels.

The **aim of the session** will be to address the following questions:

1. **Potential for new SCAR working groups**

For which topic(s) would you recommend setting-up new working group(s)?

In what area is a SCAR working group missing?

Which topic(s) need to be addressed by specific (new) SCAR working group(s)?

How could and should SCAR enlarge the topics it actually covers?

Do you plan national funding programmes in the near future, where no SCAR group is active yet, where you could envisage setting one up and bring the topic on the European Research Area ?

Outcomes

Areas/topics for new working groups

Broadening of existing mandates of working groups

Interest of MS and EC for new identified potential groups (strong/weak support)

SCAR working group on communication and impact of SCAR outcomes?

2. Potential for crosscutting working groups / crosscutting workshops

How could SCAR WGs collaborate to better coordinate research and innovation activities at MS and EU level?

Could multidisciplinary groups on cross sectoral themes help achieving SCAR goals?

Is a specific working group missing expertise which can be found in other working groups?

Are there horizontal topics of a specific working group which are more and more covered by other working groups (e.g. ARCH)?

3. Capacity

Does SCAR miss (administrative) capacity to adequately support the WG topics in its area: e.g. preparing thematic portfolios of running or finished projects to prepare discussion in the WGs, summarising collective intelligence, supporting the WGs for facilitation and reporting, communication for better impact, newsletter, website, etc.?

- **Topic 2: SCAR role in speeding up R&I impact at EU and national level and accelerating the transition to sustainable Europe**

Session organisers: Inge Van Oost (Moderator) and Sylvia Burssens

International scientific assessments of recent months have highlighted the need for a step change in the way we produce and consume food and biological resources in order to decrease its impacts on climate (IPCC report), health and diet-related non-communicable diseases (EAT-LANCET), and biodiversity and ecosystems (IPBES). The research and innovation of today will feed into the solutions we urgently need to manage this “great transformation” (EAT LANCET). On the other hand, our primary food producers step out of business at an alarming rate and young farmers are difficult to attract into the business. This puts into question both profitability and sustainability of farming as well as the landscape management and ecosystem services they produce. Our food provision may be at risk on the longer term.

How can SCAR better focus on the R&I priorities needed for a transition to a more sustainable food production and ensure that the innovation potential of results and outputs from research projects at national and EU level is better exploited. Better coordination and cooperation in the use of EU and national R&I instruments to bring solutions are needed. During this session we will discuss how SCAR and the WGs can contribute to improve the impact of R&I at EU and national level in particular regarding the transition to fully sustainable development in agriculture and the wider bioeconomy.

The **aim of the session** will be to address the following questions:

1. **How can SCAR contribute to enhanced research impact for sustainable agriculture and wider bioeconomy at national and EU level?**

(Q1 may concern the interplay between different actors at national and EU level, coordination of research and/or innovation initiatives between the different geographical levels, global policies, specific partnerships)

2. **Which concrete incentives can help to ensure research results are sufficiently transformed into concrete solutions as well as taken up by end-users ? How to mobilise quicker involvement by end-users to speed up the practical implementation? Which critical factors play a role?**

(Q2 may concern interactive innovation, living labs, demonstration projects and groups, operational groups and cross-border exchanges, co-creation, multi-actor approach, value chain interaction and cooperation, means to enhance knowledge flows between research, networks and practice, CAP AKIS Strategic Plans, financial instruments, better synergies between national and EU instruments,...)

3. **Overall, how can SCAR have more impact at the EU and national levels to assist the take-up of research results which help to speed up the transition to more sustainable agriculture and wider bioeconomy?**

- **Topic 3: SCAR Functioning: On the role of SCAR Member States and the European Commission in co-creation and advocacy of common policy advice**

Session organisers: **Barna Kovacs** (Moderator), **Christine Bunthof**, and **Dorrie Boekhorst**

For the assessment of the role of SCAR, an introspect towards SCAR functioning is of key importance. A logical iterative framework for this consists of an assessment of state of play, progression and an outlook to what is needed in the near future. Further improvements might go in line with two important functions of SCAR: the co-creation of outputs and the advisory role to the decision makers at Member State and Commission level.

SCAR functioning includes factors such as interest, representation, and active involvement of Member States and European Commission; the operation and processes of the SCAR Steering Group and the Working Groups; concrete inclusiveness and interactivity of all SCAR Member States in Working Groups, Steering Group and Plenary; the effective broadening of the SCAR remit; the relevance of activities of SCAR and the success of making results known and used.

The role of Secretariat, cooperation with the ongoing EU Presidency and active Member States, and the level of involvement of the European Commission in **co-creation** and **advocacy** of the SCAR outputs at different levels: Plenary, SG, WGs should be discussed.

The **aim of the session** will be to address the following questions:

1. Redefining an appropriate co-creation process in the SCAR

At the level of the Working Groups ('executive' level): What should be the role of the Member States and the Commission...

- ...in channeling Member States strategic discussions around thematic and/or intervention areas?
- ...in organizing SCAR as a focal point for all Member States' led joint initiatives (including JPIs, EJPS, ERANETs, CSA) and preparing strategic thematic discussions for Horizon Europe?
- ...in ensuring inclusiveness and interactivity of all Member States and the Commission in the Working Groups?
- ...in making results known and used?

At the level of the Plenary / Steering Group ('decision making' level): What should be the role of the Member States and the Commission...

- ...in defining the SCAR remit needed for effective actions according to its legal base?
- ...in ensuring the complementarity of work with the Programme Committee?
- ...in ensuring 'one voice, one agreement, one strategic coordination'?

2. Redefining the advisory and advocacy process in the SCAR

At the level of the Working Groups ('executive' level): What should be the role of the Member States and the Commission...

- ...in advocating for priority fields?
- ...in strategic discussion with the Commission?

...in strategic planning of Horizon Europe with the Commission?

At the level of the Plenary / Steering Group ('decision making' level): What should be the role of the Member States and the Commission...

...in steering the discussions in SCAR Steering Group and Plenary meetings?

...in ensuring SCAR opinions are endorsed?

...in raising the profile of SCAR in the Commission?

Outcome:

Recommendations for SCAR Member States and the Commission on:

1. improving co-creation of policy advice;
2. its endorsement in Member States and Commission at high levels;
3. raising the visibility of SCAR policy advice.

The aim in doing so is to raise the profile of SCAR and its policy advice in Member States and the Commission and improve active involvement of Member States in SCAR and its Working Groups.

Programme for participatory session – Topic 3:

1.	(10')	Introduction by Barna Kovacs (SCAR delegate and SG member), Christine Bunthof (CASA WP1 lead) and Dorri te Boekhorst (author of study report)
2.	(30')	Group work, focussing on two main discussion topics given below
3.	(5')	Summarising input for the questions discussed

Background material for the topic:

A study in 2017 conducted by SCAR CASA Work Package 1 Task 1.1. *Analysis of key factors of involvement and representation* revealed interesting results, but also open questions and new ideas. In this study data from 2016 was analysed and a number of interviews were conducted. Findings were discussed in the SCAR Conference 2017 in Tallinn, and the consolidated report was published in January 2018. The General Assembly of December 2017 welcomed the proposal of a follow-up study by to be conducted in 2019 to show SCAR impact in terms of involvement, inclusion, and perceived relevance of the SCAR and SCAR activities. The current study involves analyses of data of 2017 and 2018, interviews, and group discussions. It aims to show how perception has changed and how networking and representation of currently less involved but interested countries has evolved in the last years. The study includes assessment of cases, modalities and practical examples giving therewith also an overarching résumé of the work CASA has provided over the years. The final steps are a participatory discussion session at the SCAR Conference 2019 and the finalisation of the report.

Reading material:

- SCAR Reflection Paper on the Role of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (2015)
- Concept report of Impact study of progression of representation and inclusion in SCAR