

NEWS FROM SCAR GROUPS

BIOECONOMY

Since the beginning of 2018, the Bioeconomy Strategic Working group (BSW) has held two meetings, Brussels (14th -15th February 2018) and Berlin (16th - 17th April 2018).

The meeting in Brussels focused on working the roadmap for the update of the 2012 European Bioeconomy Strategy. The inputs of the MS/AS were shared among the participants and collated into three documents: "Policy brief on bioeconomy", "CAP reform and bioeconomy, needs and synergies" and the "Inputs on the roadmap: Update of the 2012 Bioeconomy Strategy". The updated Bioeconomy Strategy is expected in October 2018 and the BSW will closely cooperate with the European Commission on drafting it.

Furthermore, the BSW members took the opportunity in Brussels and in Berlin to work on two deliverables supported by CASA: the Strategic Knowledge and Innovation Agenda for bioeconomy and the monitoring of bioeconomy report (both with support from LUKE, the Natural Resources Institute Finland).

The meeting in Berlin created the opportunity to connect with important stakeholders in the area of Bioeconomy: the FAO (on the global setting of bioeconomy) and the [Global Bioeconomy Summit](#).



Countries with a bioeconomy strategy, map presented at the Global Bioeconomy Summit

Bioeconomy Policies around the World



Dear reader,

Welcome to the third SCAR-Newsletter

The SCAR-Newsletter provides information about on-going SCAR activities, about the workshops of the different SCAR Collaborative and Strategic Working Groups, CASA activities and Bioeconomy - and SCAR-related events in Europe.

Please feel free to share it with relevant colleagues and interested people.

Enjoy it!

FISH

Why future research must take a holistic perspective on terrestrial and aquatic food production systems!

Terrestrial and aquatic food systems both contribute to human nutrition, health and livelihoods. To achieve the transitions in European and global food systems that will support COP21 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the mix of production from both food systems, terrestrial and aquatic, must be sufficient, safe and nutritious to meet the ongoing and growing demands of society. But, to ensure the sustainability and resilience of this production, the overall impacts of the production systems must not compromise planetary boundaries.

While terrestrial and aquatic food systems are often treated independently, these systems interact in terms of their contributions to food provision and their collective impacts on the environment. Examples of direct interactions between the food systems are the shared use of fishmeal, fish oil and soybean products to feed both farmed fish and livestock, with trends and allocations influenced by instability of supply and prices, shifts towards direct consumption, improved feed technology and emerging innovations in the use of algae and genetically modified plants. Examples of collective impacts of food production that span land and sea are contributions to carbon emissions and nutrient generation and redistribution, as well as effects on habitats that influence carbon sequestration and nitrogen and phosphorus cycling.

Emerging scientific studies are addressing these interactions and impacts and highlighting their importance. They are also comparing production in terrestrial and aquatic food systems, documenting the importance of identifying and not compromising marine planetary boundaries as well as terrestrial ones and driving understanding of the extent to which the pressures of climate change act on both food production systems- in some cases differentially. **This emerging science highlights the need to work across land and sea** when defining a safe and just operating space for the food system.



NEWS FROM THE SCAR GROUPS

SCAR
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on Agricultural Research

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Collaborative Working Group (CWG) on Animal Health and Welfare (AHW) held the 25th plenary meeting in Thessaloniki on the 18th April 2018. Among the main issues on the agenda were fish health and welfare and the presentation of the updated Strategic Research Agenda on Animal Health. For the first issue, speakers from Fish Med Plus Coalition (Prof. Palic Dusan), EATIP (Prof. Leonidas Papaharisis), SCAR-SWG Fisheries (Prof. Michalis Pavlidis) and Aquaculture and a fish pathologist from the Greek Veterinary Research Institute (Prof. Konstantina Bithava) presented activities of their organizations in order to better understand the emerging research gaps on fish welfare and health and better coordinate and align any EU research initiatives. According to the SRA, this study, carried out by the AHW CWG with the support of CASA and PANGEA, provides an updated view of the EU Animal Health (AH) Strategic Research Agenda (SRA), specifically on Animal Health, which was part of the ANIHWA ERAnet SRA (Deliverable 5.2) published in 2015. Although the previous SRA was developed with a 20-year outlook, changing drivers of AH research needs require a constant review of the SRA.

As last activity of the study a consensus workshop was organized on the 28th November 2017 to finalize the study of updating the SRA. The workshop has been carried out by expert's opinion collected by online surveys and focus groups with the participation of over 120 experts from 25 countries. The output of the study is the updated SRA which provides the most impactful priorities on animal health divided in three groups: a) structural/political, b) technological and c) specific topics research needs. Furthermore, some in depth information on specific animal disease can be found in the Appendix, which have been set to be updated any time in relation to new emerging topics. All the different sections, in order to serve the use of different stakeholders, were organized into the following sub-section: general recommendations for the Animal Health R&D sector,

identified research topics, research questions for the high relevant prioritised research topics.

This update report has been created to support SCAR and the Member States (MS) in the definition of AH policy. It will help MS research funders to target areas for investments and collaboration, as well as assisting researchers and research managers to target their research activities. Furthermore, the SRA, creating a shared vision toward the AH future, implement the participants' commitments towards common results. The updated Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) produced has been disseminated by email to the CWG members and can be found among the available resources on the SCAR CWG AHW website (<http://www.scar-cwg-ahw.org>).



ARCH

ARCH receives support to the coordination of the working group through a small facilitation fund managed by CASA. This is very important to keep the group active in times of growing resource constraints.

ARCH has implemented a study entitled "Global implications of the European Food Systems – A food systems approach" and carried out by a team from Wageningen University & Research led by Petra Berkhout. This important study was possible through support from the CASA project. The report focuses on the global dimension of the European food system, by zooming in on the trade relations between the EU and the rest of the world and the effects of this trade on local food systems. At the time of writing a possible follow up meeting is being discussed.

ARCH coordinated the preparation and implementation of a joint workshop with SWG Food Systems and SWG AKIS held in Rome back to back with an FAO Symposium. Whilst work with impact assessment ex post is at a more advanced stage of development, there is relatively limited understanding of ex ante impact assessment and what is needed to programme for greater impact ex ante. This workshop addressed the ex-ante angle and was called "Programming Research and Innovation for Improved Impact". The workshop was a big success and a Policy Brief is being prepared. This will be discussed in the three SWGs before being circulated widely.



AKIS

The SCAR SWG AKIS organised 2 meetings since December 2017:

- [Tallinn \(EE\) on the 17th December 2017](#) (back to back with the SCAR conference)
- Athens (HE) on the 28th February 2018 and 1st of March 2018

These meetings have been the opportunity to address different strategic topics for the future of the European Research and Innovation in Agriculture:

- IMPROVING THE STRUCTURING OF MEMBER STATES' AKIS – Design of Member States' AKIS plans following the EC CAP communication on "Future of food and farming", November 2018.
- Exchanges with several coordinators of H2020 projects (Thematic Networks and Research & Innovation Actions) on the setting and implementation of the Multi-Actor Approach within these projects.
- To cross-fertilize on the innovation process implemented in LEADER projects/programs with ENRD representatives.

The chairs of the SWG AKIS also actively participated in the organisation of the annual meeting the "Role of Thematic Networks in EU Agricultural Innovation" on March 9th 2018 in Bruxelles (Copa-Cogeca facilities).

The report of these meetings will be soon available on the SCAR Website.

Finally, the SCAR SWG co-organised with the SWG ARCH and SWG Food Systems on April 6th 2018 in Rome, a workshop on the theme "Programming Research and Innovation for Improved Impact". The workshop gathered 56 experts from a wide range of European R&I organisations, but also the European Commission and the FAO. The outcomes of the exchanges will result in a Policy Brief co-edited by the 3 SWGs and will be widely spread and disseminated after the summer 2018.

The SWG AKIS will meet again in Warsaw (PL) on the 26th and 27th June 2018.



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NEWS FROM THE

SCAR
Standing Committee
on Agricultural Research

GROUPS

FOREST

SCAR Forest has released two reports:

The first report consists in a synthesis report on forest bioeconomy research and innovation in Europe. The study funded by support of CASA has been carried out by Robert Mavsar and Marko Lovric and was looking into the synergies and the coherence of research and innovation needs in the forest-based bioeconomy. The work has been done thanks to an analysis of research and innovation activities and several examples of best practices. See:

https://scar-europe.org/images/FOREST/Documents/SWG_forestry_study-v2.pdf

The second report funded by support of CASA is an impact assessment of past and existing ERA-Nets and COST Actions within and related to the European forest-based sector. Carried out by Andreas Kleinschmit von Lengefeld and Uwe Kies, its findings contribute to the scope and role of the SCAR strategic group for forests and forestry research and innovation (R&I). The results of the study highlight the importance of the ERA-NET and COST funding schemes to initiate and implement future oriented forest-related R&I projects through transnational networks and collaborative actions. The report is available online:

https://scar-europe.org/images/FOREST/Documents/Final_Report_study_ERA-NET_COST.pdf

In addition, the SCAR forest has published a video following the Barcelona conference held on 19th October 2017 in which members from several countries are interviewed about their research work on forests.

The SCAR Forest has participated to the COST-CONNECT event on "Climate change and forest systems". This interactive workshop involving related COST Actions and scientific communities, stakeholders and policy makers aimed at facilitating dialogue and discussion on future research agendas in the field. The aim is to gather various actors working on climate change and the forest-based sector, to further develop synergies and collaboration activities, linked to the ongoing discussions in frame of the Sustainable Development Goals.

At last, the co-chair of the SCAR Forest or its local members participated in various events:

- 21st March 2018 - SCAR Steering Group meeting in Brussels
- 09th-10th April 2018 - SCAR Foresight Workshop
- 25th April 2018 - CASA-SCAR national meeting in Budapest, Hungary



CASA-SCAR National Meeting in Budapest, Hungary (25th April 2018)



FOOD Systems

The SCAR FOOD Systems SWG main priority during the first half of 2018 is to finalise the qualitative and quantitative mapping related to MS food systems. The results of the mapping will be published in a booklet, titled "Assessment of Research and Innovation on Food Systems by European Member States. Policy and Funding Analysis" and will be publicized during the HLC FOOD2030 in Plovdiv in June 2018.

21 countries have answered to the qualitative mapping and 11 have completed their quantitative mapping. Other countries are still gathering data and a more complete overview of R&I European Member States investment in food systems should be obtained by the end of 2018.

CONFERENCE 2nd FOOD 2030 High Level Event

14-15 June 2018,
Agricultural University - Plovdiv, Bulgaria

<http://food2030plovdiv.eu>

Besides the mapping exercise, the task leaders of "Monitoring food systems" carry out a study: "Overview and synthesis of existing Food Systems studies and research projects in Europe". The objective is to provide a state-of-the-art synthesis of relevant existing studies and research projects using a Food Systems approach to analyse Europe's food system and certain aspects (for example nutrition, or environmental issues) as input to reveal shortcomings for EC research programs.

In April 2018, the SCAR Food Systems SWG held a joint workshop among AKIS, ARCH and Food Systems, on "Programming Research and Innovation for Improved Impact". They are currently working on the Policy Brief based on the outcomes from the workshop.



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SCAR SWOT Analysis



Building on the results of an extensive review of the European bioeconomy research and innovation (R&I) policy landscape, CASA has released a report which details the principal findings of 13 key informant semi-structured interviews and a SWOT workshop attended by 68 international delegates assessing for the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats associated with the EU's Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR). The report is available online:

https://scar-europe.org/images/SCAR-Documents/CASA_D3.4_SWOT...pdf

Wp3: STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC ADVICE

The overall aim of Wp3 is to strengthen strategic advice for SCAR. This will be achieved by supporting SCAR's internal and external work – especially by exploring new opportunities for alignment, collaboration and strategic action associated with relevant recommendations.

During the SCAR 2017 conference in Tallinn, 4th and 5th December 2017, preliminary results of the SWOT analysis ([Deliverable 3.2](#), Assessing for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the SCAR in its current configuration) were presented and discussed. The input received was included in the final document, which will be available at the SCAR website soon. Within Task 3.4, a questionnaire was sent out to SCAR Working Group Members to gather information on alignment and impact of SCAR activities. Results will feed in the list of proposals on better alignment (D3.5). Furthermore, the [Deliverable 3.6](#) dealing with guidelines on standardisation procedures of initiating new activities within SCAR was prepared, delivered as scheduled and finally approved, both by CASA and SCAR members.

On 9th and 10th April 2018, a first SCAR Foresight Task Force Meeting with the title "Starting the new 5th Foresight Process. From Terms of References (ToR) to Implementation" took place in Brussels. The workshop was organized by the SCAR Foresight group and supported by Wp3, T3.6. The aim of the meeting was to start a new Foresight process of identifying topics and the direction of the 5th Foresight. In conclusion, the proposed headline for the 5th SCAR Foresight is "Natural resources and food systems: Transition towards a "safe and just" operating space."

A preliminary draft of the impact assessment framework (Task 3.7) is currently developed, following a desk analysis and talks with informed experts. The draft describes the assessment logic, the target areas of investigation and the related research questions with a first set of possible indicators. As the CASA project will end after 36 months, Wp3 looks also into scenarios on sustainability and follow up activities to ensure a sustainable and self-sustaining continuation of this collaboration.

CONTACT FOR CASA Wp3: Vera Steinberg, vera.steinberg@ble.de



SCAR Foresight Task Force Meeting in Brussels (9th and 10th April)

NEWS FROM



Common Agricultural
and wider bioeconomy
Research Agenda

Wp1: REPRESENTATIVENESS

Work package 1 (Wp1) supports the inclusion and representation of countries and the broadening of the remit of SCAR through various activities. An analysis of the state of play, consolidated at the SCAR Conference in Tallinn, was published in January.

A new task to be done in 2019 "Impact study of progression of representation and inclusion in SCAR" was proposed in the CASA GA, and presented to the SCAR SG in March.

The first round of the Mentoring Programme is about to finish. It supported twelve mentees. Preliminary outcomes were presented by Annemarie Groot to the SCAR SG in May.

And in the first half year of 2018 CASA supported [SCAR National Meetings](#) in Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy and Greece.

CONTACT FOR CASA Wp1: Christine Bunthof, christine.bunthof@wur.nl

Wp2: ADDED VALUE AND IMPROVED QUALITY FOR GREATER IMPACT

Work package 2 (Wp2) is progressing well and continues to support a number of external studies (task 2.3) which are being implemented for some of the working groups and several are about to be initiated. These studies provide valuable information for SCAR. A study called "[Synthesis on forest bio-economy research and innovation in Europe](#)" has been completed for SWG Forest and a study called "Updating of Strategic Research Agenda on animal health Research Needs" has been completed for CWG AHW. Finally, a study supporting SWG ARCH called "[The global dimensions of the European Food Systems](#) – current situation and trends". In the remaining part of 2018 a number of other studies will be completed.

The results of the CASA Task 2.5 survey: "First results of Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the 4th SCAR Foresight" was presented by the task manager at the SCAR Foresight Group - Task Force Meeting "Starting the new 5th Foresight Process: From Terms of References (ToR) to Implementation" in Brussels 9th - 10th April 2018.

With the support of Wp4 and especially the Portuguese partners from INIAV, a new ARCH flyer has been produced. This can be downloaded from <https://www.ard-europe.org/arch>

Preparation of the SCAR Annual Rolling Work Plans and the Work Plans for the working groups for 2019 will start October 2018.

CONTACT FOR CASA Wp2: Alex Percy-Smith, alex@aspconsultingservices.dk

Wp5: COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

CASA is coordinated by the Project Management Jülich division of the Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH. Rolf Stratmann (project coordinator) and Hanna Steffens are the main contacts for CASA.

In the period from December 2017 to June 2018 the coordinator provided three update documents to SCAR SG with information on actual [CASA activities and deliverables](#) and topics were presented in CASA agenda slots at the SCAR SG meetings in March and May 2018.

On 6th December 2017 the second CASA General Assembly was held in Tallinn, during which past and future CASA activities were thoroughly discussed. Several adjustments, e.g. the new Task 1.5 (see WP1) and the utilisation of the SCAR SG as advisory board are included in the 2nd Grant Agreement Amendment (GAA).

The third CASA General Assembly is planned for June 2018. The Management Group, which comprises all WP leaders, met on 4th May in Brussels. One of the topics discussed was the next SCAR conference planned for pre-summer 2019.

Concepts are presented and discussed at SCAR SG and SCAR Plenary.

CONTACT FOR CASA Wp5: Rolf Stratmann, rstratmann@fz-juelich.de



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