



The Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) supports the European Commission (EC), EU Member States and Associated Countries on R&I priorities to address Europe's challenges in agriculture, fisheries, food systems, forestry, and the wider bioeconomy.

Welcome to the SCAR newsletter. You will read more about the latest news, events, publications, and networking possibilities regarding the SCAR network.  
The SCAR newsletter is prepared every six months and sent to subscribers.

[Subscribe to the newsletter](#)

## SCAR News



### The upcoming SCAR Plenary Meeting

The 38<sup>th</sup> SCAR Plenary will take place under the Swedish Presidency on 8 June 2023, in Brussels, Belgium. The Plenary will focus on current priority topics for food systems, agriculture, bioeconomy and forestry R&I. The agenda includes an update on the EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe" and ongoing foresight exercises, as well as a discussion on the SCAR Groups' priorities. Read more on the SCAR plenary [here](#).



### Reporting on the EU AgriResearch Conference "Knowledge, innovation and skills for sustainable horizons"

DG AGRI hosted the 2023 EU AgriResearch Conference in Brussels on 31 May and 1 June 2023. The conference gathered 500 participants in person, with more attending online. Scientists, farmers, rural actors, industry, advisors, policymakers, citizens and NGO representatives all gathered to critically assess and discuss the future priorities of the EU's agricultural, forestry and rural research & innovation.

Read more about the conference and SCAR Members attending [here](#).



### The SCAR Foresight Process is starting up

The SCAR Foresight Group will host the workshop “Shaping the Future – steps to a New SCAR Foresight” on Wednesday 7 June 2023, on the afternoon before the SCAR Plenary. The workshop aims to inform the SCAR Working Groups about the next SCAR Foresight exercise. It will also contribute to capacity building, and offer the opportunity to exchange ideas on possible SCAR Foresight topics in the light of crises. The outcomes of the workshop will be reported back to the SCAR Plenary by the SCAR Foresight Group.

Read more about the SCAR Foresight workshop [here](#).



### A new Task Force to identify protein transition challenges

The Task Force Alternative Proteins is a new SCAR Working Group, bringing together 30 members from 10 different countries. It aims to identify the major difficulties to the protein transition and sovereignty in the EU. The Task Force started operating in September 2022 to address the R&I needs of new paradigms for producing, managing and consuming proteins. Given the cross-cutting nature of the protein issue, the SCAR Task Force Alternative Proteins will interact closely with other SCAR SWGs and CWGs.

Read more about the goals of the Task Force Alternative Proteins [here](#).



## Upcoming European Partnerships

The SCAR is a key platform for co-creating four future European partnerships in Cluster 6.

European Partnerships under Horizon Europe are large-scale initiatives bringing together a wide range of EU, public and/or private partners. Partners jointly develop and implement a common agenda of research and innovation activities. The upcoming partnerships under Cluster 6 of Horizon Europe will coordinate, align, and leverage European and national R&I efforts on key areas of the European Green Deal.

An overview of ongoing and upcoming European Partnerships in food, forestry, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment can be found [here](#).

### Four Horizon Europe Cluster 6 Partnerships are ramping up

The calls of the four upcoming Horizon Europe Cluster 6 co-funded partnerships Agroecology, Food Systems, Animal Health and Welfare, and Agriculture of Data, for which SCAR was a key co-creation platform, have closed in March and April this year. Currently, proposals are evaluated under the coordination of the Research and Executive Agency (REA).

Read more about the critical role SCAR has played in these partnerships [here](#).



# SCAR Working Groups update

The SCAR Working Groups form an inspiring network of motivated peers. They offer unique platforms to develop R&I agendas, co-construct European R&I partnerships, and exchange experiences and best practices. There are currently nine SCAR Working Groups.

*There are currently seven Strategic Working Groups (SWG): Agroecology (AE), Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation systems (AKIS), European Agricultural Research towards greater impact on global challenges (ARCH), Bioeconomy (BSW), Fisheries and Aquaculture Research (FISH), Food Systems (FS), Forest and Forestry Research and Innovation (FOREST) and two Collaborative Working Groups (CWG): Animal Health and Welfare (AHW), Sustainable Animal Production (SAP). In addition, there are two Task Forces: Foresight and Alternative Proteins.*



## AE - The Agroecology Partnership SRIA draft is ready

The SCAR AE SWG finalised the draft version of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the future Agroecology Partnership in February 2023. It was the result of a thorough co-creation process starting at the end of 2021, involving a wide range of stakeholders. The final draft will be presented to the SCAR AE plenary meeting on 22 June 2023. The SRIA will be endorsed once the Agroecology Partnership is formally established. [Read more.](#)

## AKIS - A new generation at the helm

The SCAR AKIS SWG has kicked off the year with their new, sixth mandate. The Working Group elected a new duo of co-chairs in Ewa Grodzka and Jan van Esch to lead them for the next two years. The Working Group has met twice under its new mandate, with a third meeting planned on 12 and 13 June. So far the Working Group has mainly dealt with finalising the previous mandate's Mandate Report, as well as the introduction of the new mandate topics. [Read more.](#)

## ARCH - Working together for safe and sustainable food systems

The SCAR ARCH SWG adopted their new mandate for 2023 and 2024. The Working Group stresses that food security in Europe continues to face challenges. In the coming years, SCAR ARCH SWG will work closer with the other SCAR Working Groups to raise the scope of European research on food systems to the global level. Read more on the new SCAR ARCH SWG mandate [here.](#)



## BSW - A new mandate with a new focus



## FISH - Science and industry joining hands



## FS - An important milestone in the Sustainable Food



In January 2023, the Bioeconomy Group started their new two-year mandate. Their focus will be on identifying R&I needs in three areas: circular and bio-based value chains, biomass uses and the demand side. To achieve this, the Working Group has asked the SCAR Thematic Support Team to undertake a portfolio analysis. Read everything about the process [here](#).

The SCAR FISH SWG is co-organising with ICES (The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) a Workshop on Enabling Mechanisms for science-industry Partnerships. The workshop aims to improve the flow of fishery-dependent data into the assessment of fishery resources. Read more on the upcoming workshop and the process leading up to it [here](#).

### Systems Partnership

The SCAR FS SWG has finalised the draft Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the future Sustainable Food Systems Partnership. The milestone marks the end of a thorough co-creation process, spanning 18 months. It included a public consultation, and multiple workshops with Working Group members and experts. Read more about the process, and future plans, or download the SRIA [here](#).



### AHW - Suggestions on the EU Bioeconomy Strategy and FOOD2030

The SCAR AHW CWG has published a report that analyses the EU Bioeconomy Strategy and FOOD 2030, focussing on the aspects of livestock health and welfare. The CWG believes more focus could be given to livestock. Not only as a source of high-quality protein, but also as an efficient converter of inedible biomass and a provider of the livelihood for many. High-quality research is needed to create a higher resilience against emerging pathogenic threats, particularly from increased circularisation, and for a better balance between livestock productivity and their welfare. Read the full report [here](#).



### SAP - Further contributing to sustainable livestock farming in Europe

The SCAR Sustainable Animal Production CWG started its new mandate on 1 January 2023. The mandate will last for two years and will focus on the common picture of future livestock farming in Europe. To further contribute to this topic, the Working Group is currently in the process of organising its second workshop, which will be hosted by the Spanish National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology, INIA in the autumn of 2023. The results of last year's workshop will be further analysed and built upon. A summary of the previous workshop can be found [here](#).



# EU Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe'

## Sign the Soil Manifesto!

18 April 2023 marked an important moment in the life of the Soil Mission and for soils in Europe as the Mission Soil Manifesto was launched. By signing the Manifesto, researchers demonstrate their commitment to take action and to contribute to protecting and restoring soil health. Signatories are granted access to knowledge on soil health as well as events and activities where they can network and exchange best practices.

The Manifesto is a non-legally binding document. It can be signed by representatives of municipalities, regions, private or public companies and organisations, non-governmental and philanthropic organisations, schools and education institutions, and research institutions. Individuals can also sign and become Friends of the Mission Soil.

Access and sign the manifesto [here](#).

## Funding opportunities



### The Soil Mission Work Programme is still open!

The Horizon Europe Soil Mission Work Programme 2023 is open until 20 September 2023. The Work Programme includes two topics aiming to fund four projects of soil health living labs. These topics provide a great opportunity to a diversity of stakeholders covering all types of land use to co-create innovations for the most pressing soil health issues and deploy them on the ground, accelerating the transition towards healthy soils. Read more [here](#).



# Event Calendar

DATE	WG	EVENT NAME
7 June 2023	<b>SCAR Foresight</b>	Workshop: Shaping the Future – steps to a New SCAR Foresight
8 June 2023	<b>SCAR</b>	Plenary meeting
12-13 June 2023	<b>SCAR AKIS SWG</b>	Plenary meeting
22 June 2023	<b>SCAR AE SWG</b>	Plenary meeting

---

Follow us on social media #SCAREC



**SCAR Support Team**

**[scar.newsletter@weareweta.eu](mailto:scar.newsletter@weareweta.eu)**

The European Commission is not responsible for the content of this newsletter.

This email was sent to {{contact.EMAIL}}

You've received this email because you've subscribed to our newsletter.

[Unsubscribe](#)

