



# Farmers of the Future

#Farmers2040

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# Farmers of the future

An initiative  
of DG Agriculture and Rural  
Development

For a foresight study

carried out by the  
Joint Research Centre JRC  
(I.2 Foresight, Modelling, Behavioural Insights,  
Design for Policy)

# Joint Research Centre JRC

- The science and knowledge service of the Commission
- Support to EU policies with independent evidence throughout the whole policy cycle

## Competence Centre on Foresight @ JRC

- Strategic and future-oriented input into EU policymaking
- Develop an anticipatory culture
- Experimentation on methods and tools



# What is Foresight?

- Systematic participatory process
- Looks forward into the medium- to long-term future
- Creates collective intelligence about the future
- Builds plausible rationales of possible future developments
- Sees the future as something to shape



# Farmers of the future - #Farmers2040



- Exploring the future professional roles of farmer towards 2040
- People-centered: panorama on farmers of the future
- Participative:
  - Farmers, other stakeholders/experts involved through workshops, interviews....
  - Commission services: AGRI, JRC, other DGs

# Timing and steps



**Scoping -**  
literature review, horizon scanning, Commission workshops

**Exploring & developing -**

**Participatory workshops**

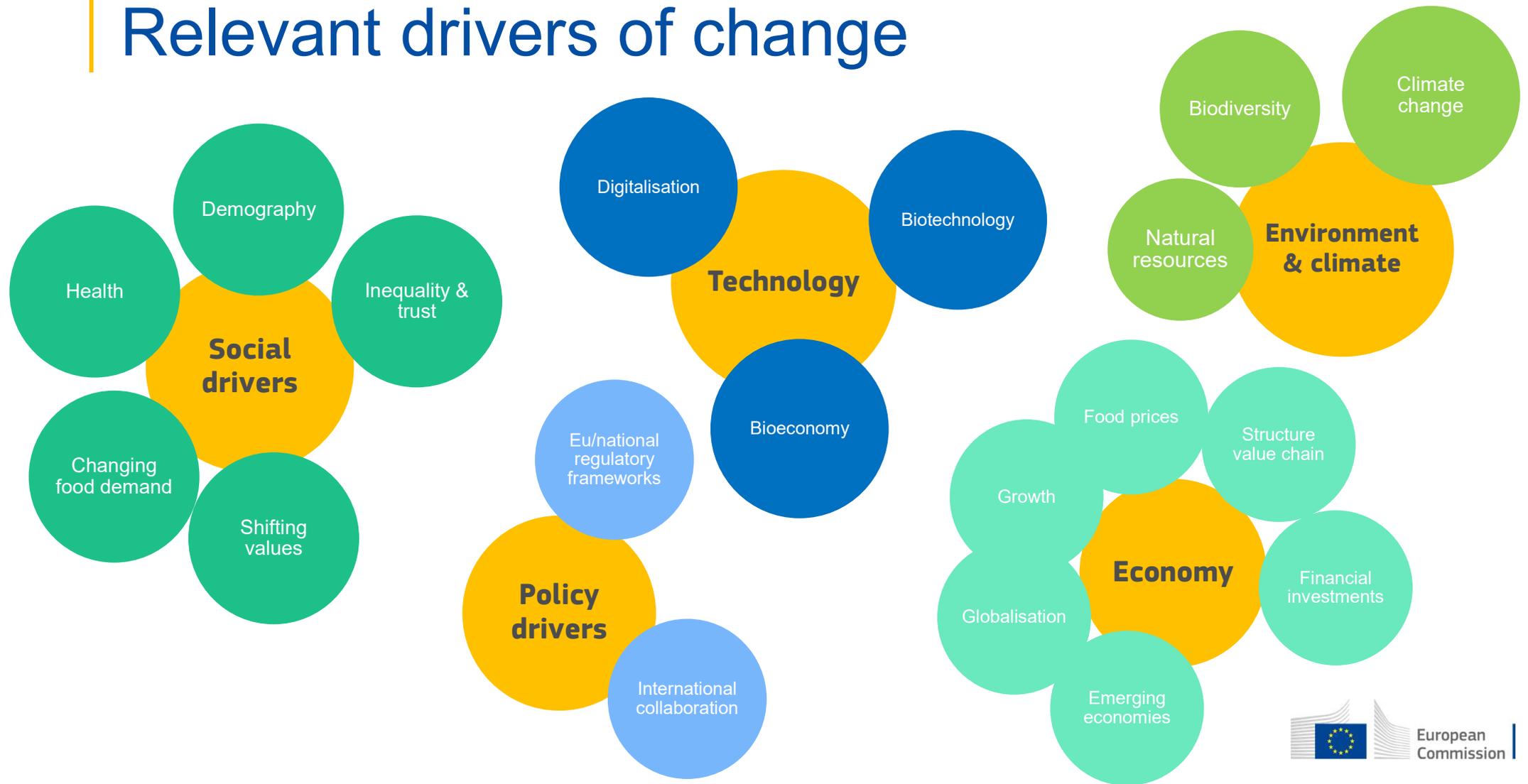
- to explore Megatrends and their possible impacts on farmers towards 2040
- On farmers expectation towards their future
- Implications of farmer profiles 2040

**Output -**

Final report  
Outlook conference  
Engagement tool

# Exploratory phase

# Relevant drivers of change



# The Megatrends



# EU farmer profiles 2020

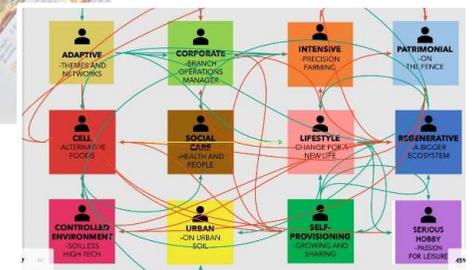
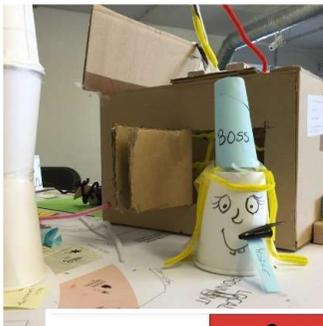
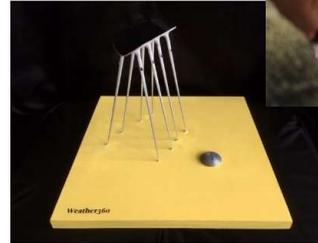
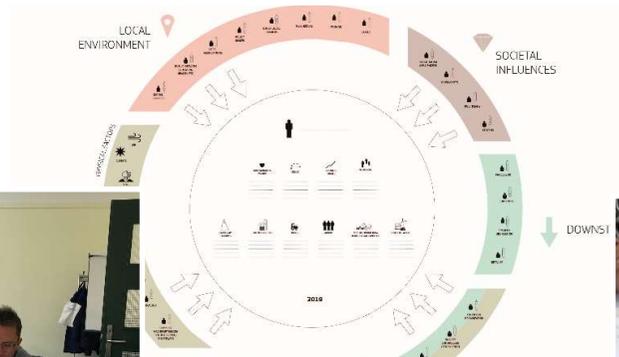
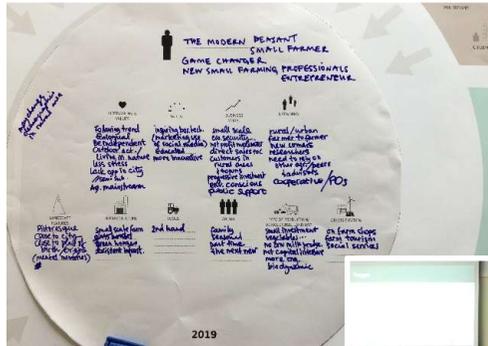
## Current

- Adaptive - diversified
- Intensive - specialised
- Patrimonial - family
- Corporate
- Semi-subsistence
- Hobby

## Emerging

- Regenerative
- Indoor – controlled environment
- Urban - micro-farming
- Lab/Cell culture
- Community – Social farming
- Lifestyle - neo-rural

# Participatory workshops



**CELL**  
-ALTERNATIVE  
FOODS



# EU farmer landscape 2040

# Narrative 2040 – Megatrends...

- Climate change and environmental degradation
- Accelerating technological change
- Consumption patterns
- Changing health, education and governance systems



# ... and their implications for farmers

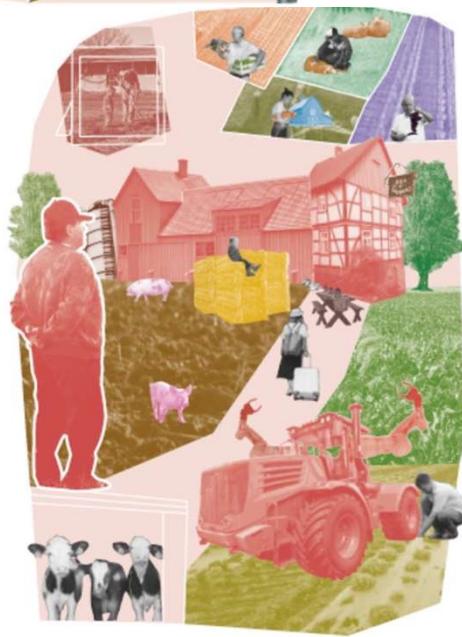
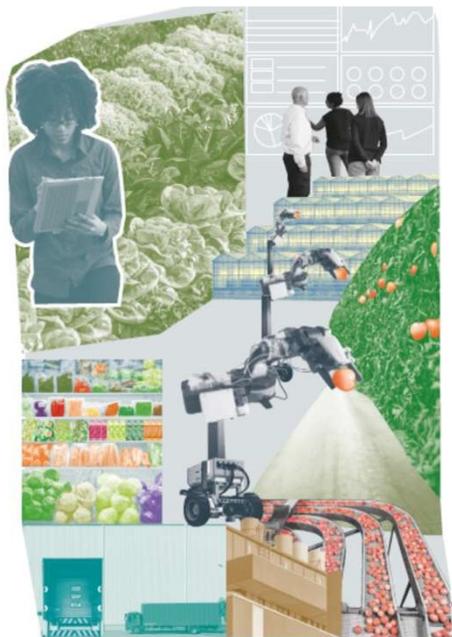
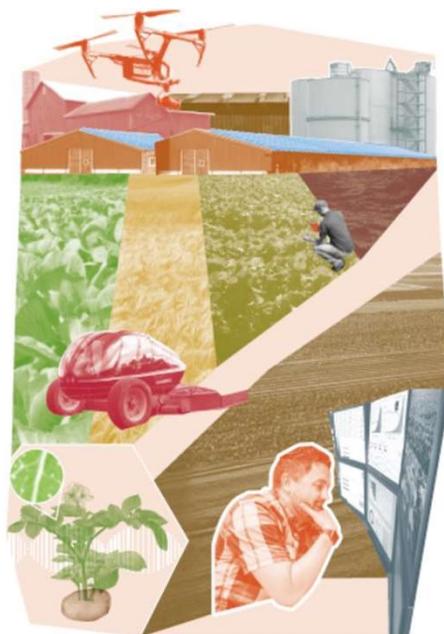
- New technologies will change way of working and business models
- More distributed and diverse food supply networks
- Climate change adaptation and environmental approaches mainstreamed
- More coherent societal demands – “planetary health”



# Farmer profiles 2040



- Were developed through a series of participatory workshops
- Show the future for certain groups of farmers in their environments
- Are an exploration of the future, not a forecast
- The final names try to reflect the trajectory of these profiles

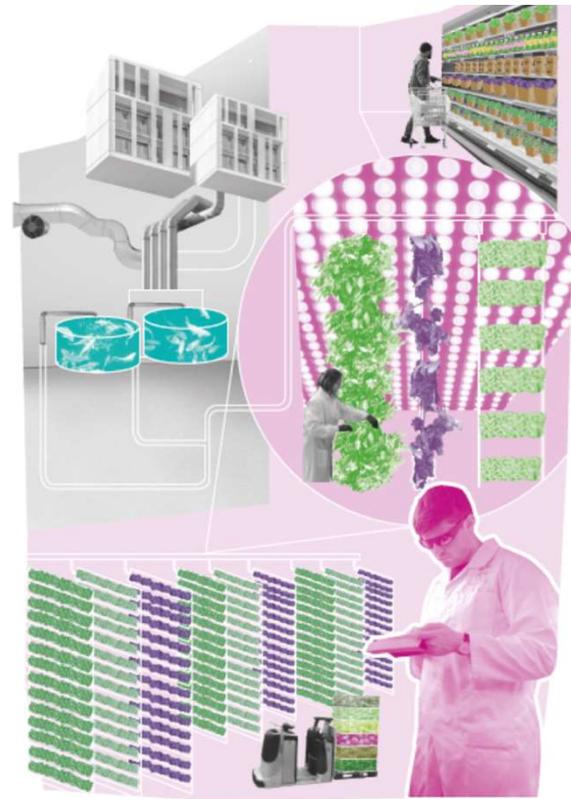


# Farmer profiles 2040

- **Adaptive** – themes and networks agile, networked multifaceted agri-business
- **Corporate** – branch operations manager
- **Intensive** – precision farming innovative, efficiency driven large specialized holding
- **Patrimonial** – on the fence traditional, locked-in, focused on heritage

# Farmer profiles 2040

- **Controlled environment – soilless high-tech vertical farming**
- **Cell – alternative foods**  
biotech entrepreneur, producing from cultured cells





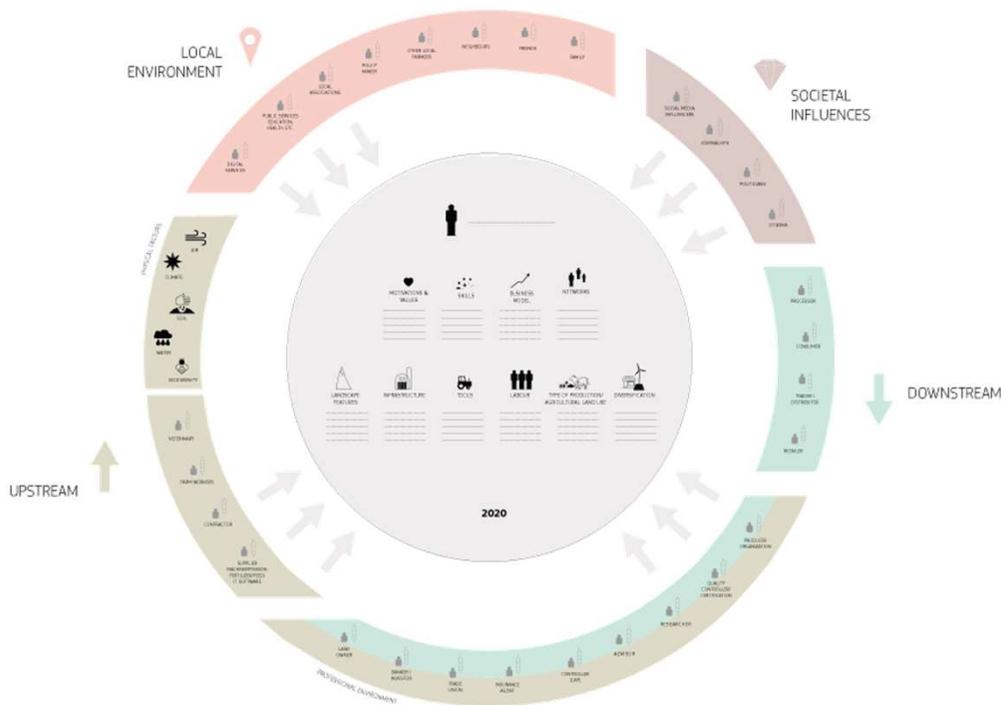


# Next steps

# Exploring the emerging policy questions

- How to ensure a coherent policy for increasingly diverse food systems?
- How to ensure moving in the same direction on environment and climate?
- How to build transformative resilience?
- How can farmers effectively use diverse and volatile networks?
- How can farmers effectively connect to consumers?
- What will the term 'farmer' mean in the future?
- What will be the interdependence between 2040 farmers and rural areas?

# Continuing the discussion



- **Outlook conference 2020**

- Launch of final report

- Session on Farmers of the future

- **Use the study material**

- Engagement tool to be made available for further use

# Thank you

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