

# EU AgriResearch

CONFERENCE 2023



European  
Commission



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# Agrobiodiversity for healthy cropping systems

Breakout session 2



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The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of a pair of hands gently cupping a small green seedling in dark brown soil. A semi-transparent digital overlay is centered on the seedling, consisting of concentric white circles and lines connecting to four circular icons: a sun in the top-left, a leaf in the top-right, a water drop in the bottom-right, and a stylized plant in the bottom-left. The overall lighting is warm and golden, suggesting a sunrise or sunset.

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## Agenda

- 09:15** Welcome
- 9:25** Keynote speech
- 9:40** Overview of R&I activities
- 9:50** Panel discussion
- 10:30** Co-creation discussion
- 11:30** Wrap-up and closing

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The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of a person's hands gently cupping a small green seedling in dark brown soil. Overlaid on this image are several white line-art icons: a sun in a circle at the top left, a plant with two leaves in a circle at the top right, and a water drop in a circle at the bottom right. These icons are connected by thin white lines to a central point above the seedling. Additionally, there are concentric white circles around the seedling, suggesting a digital or technological theme.

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# Keynote speech

**Dr Guy Richard**  
INRAE

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The background image shows a pair of hands gently holding a small green seedling in dark brown soil. A digital overlay is present, featuring a central point with concentric circles and lines connecting to four circular icons: a sun in the top-left, a leaf in the top-right, a water drop in the bottom-right, and a plant in the bottom-left. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset.

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# Overview of R&I activities supporting agrobiodiversity for healthy cropping systems

**Susana Gaona Saez &  
Gisela Quaglia**

European Commission, DG AGRI

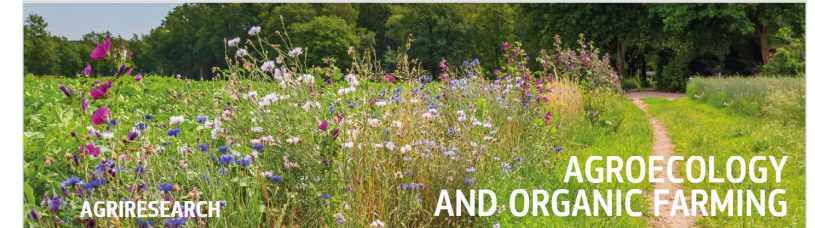
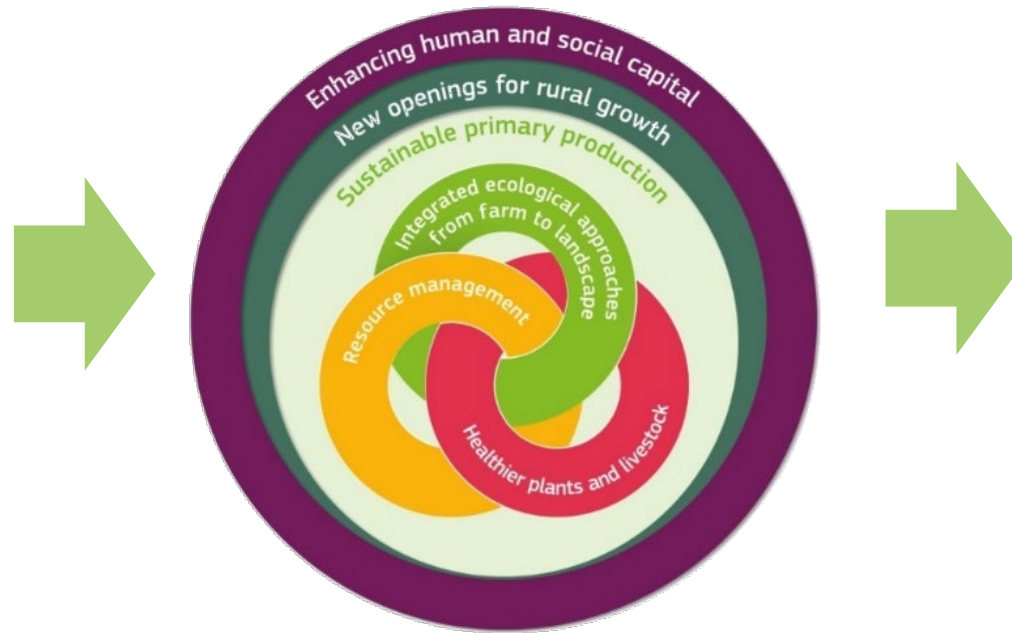
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# Strategic approach to agricultural R&I



## Five strategic priorities





# Strategic approach to agricultural R&I



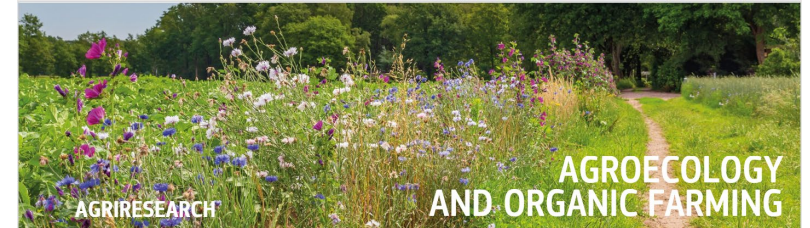
Horizon Europe  
Strategic Plan 2021-2024

## Expected Impacts of Cluster 6

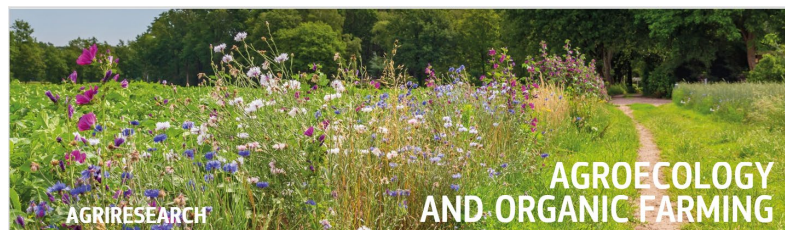
**Biodiversity** is back on a path to recovery, and **ecosystems and their services** are **preserved and sustainably restored** on land, inland water and at sea through improved knowledge and innovation.

**Food and nutrition security for all within planetary boundaries** is ensured through knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and food systems, which are **sustainable, resilient, inclusive, safe and healthy from farm to fork.**

Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources,  
Agriculture and Environment

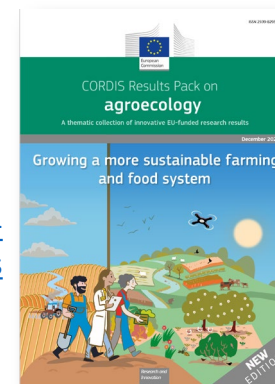


# Agrobiodiversity for healthy cropping systems: Horizon 2020\*



Agroecology, organic farming  
**55 projects**      **€ 316 million**

[CORDIS Results Pack on Agroecology: research for resilient, sustainable, climate-, ecosystem- and social-friendly farming systems](#)



Plant health, integrated pest management, plant pests  
and diseases, pesticides reduction  
**37 projects**      **€ 189 million**

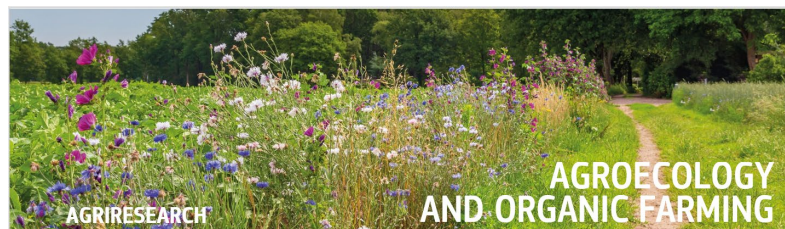
[CORDIS Results Pack on plant health: Keeping plants healthy while protecting the environment](#)



Plant breeding, animal breeding, genebank management,  
diversifying agriculture and forestry, genetic resources  
**40 projects**      **€ 233 million**



# Agrobiodiversity for healthy cropping systems: Horizon 2020\* and Horizon Europe\*\*



Agroecology, organic farming

55 projects

€ 316 million

59 topics

€ 490 million\*\*\*



Plant health, integrated pest management, plant pests  
and diseases, pesticides reduction

37 projects

€ 189 million

27 projects

€ 144 million



Plant breeding, animal breeding, genebank management,  
diversifying agriculture and forestry, genetic resources

40 projects

€ 233 million

21 projects

€ 125 million

More info about these  
R&I areas here ↓





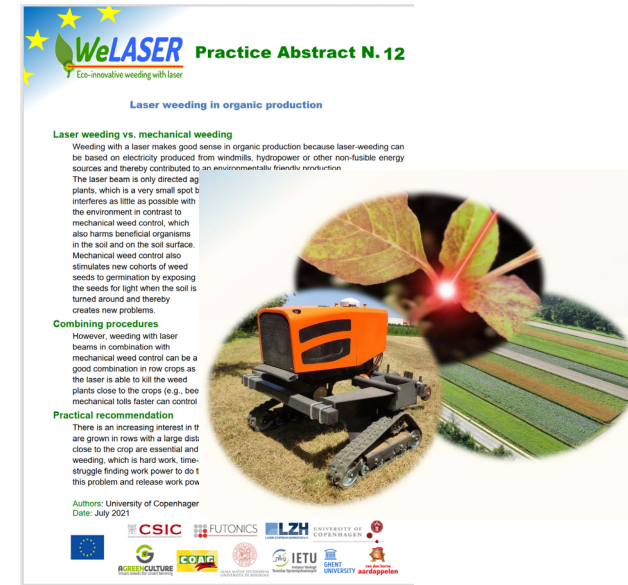
# Controlling weeds with reduced use of chemical pesticides



Riemens et al., (2022)



[remix-intercrops.eu/](https://remix-intercrops.eu/) / [Cordis Project 727217](https://cordis.europa.eu/project/727217)



[WeLaser-project.eu/](https://welaser-project.eu/) / [Cordis Project 10100256](https://cordis.europa.eu/project/10100256)

[IWMpraise.eu/](https://iwmpraise.eu/) / [Cordis Project 727321](https://cordis.europa.eu/project/727321)



# Controlling weeds with reduced use of chemical pesticides



[IWMpraise.eu](http://IWMpraise.eu) / [Cordis Project 727321](#)



[remix-intercrops.eu](http://remix-intercrops.eu) / [Cordis Project 727217](#)



[WeLaser-project.eu](http://WeLaser-project.eu) / [Cordis Project 101000256](#)



## Workshops:

‘Innovative arable crop protection - using pesticides sustainably’

‘Cropping for the future: networking for crop rotation and crop diversification’

## Focus group:

Non-chemical weed management

## Operational Group:

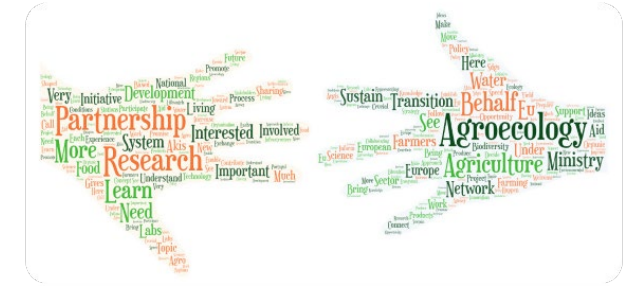
‘HortInf’ (PT) Operational Group: [weed control with non-chemical alternatives](#)



# Instruments and actors to boost agroecology and plant health

## Research & Innovation Cluster 6 Work Programmes

## EU co-funded partnerships

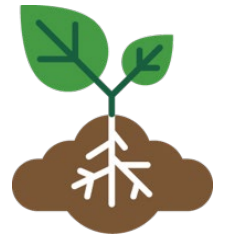


## Innovation & Knowledge exchange

## Missions

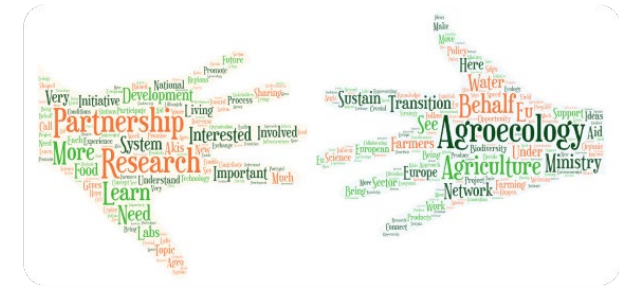


## 'A Soil Deal for Europe'



- Horizon 2020 / Horizon Europe
- Common Agricultural Policy

# Agroecology Partnership



**What:** Promote agroecology as an approach that can help achieve the environmental, economic, climate and social challenges of farming sector -> uptake of agroecological practices -> **key instrument to reduce and phase out the use of pesticides in agriculture**

**Who:** Co-funded by EU, with Member States, Associated Countries and regions in the lead, involving several key stakeholders (farmers, researchers, advisors, policy makers, NGOs, industry, consumers, etc.)

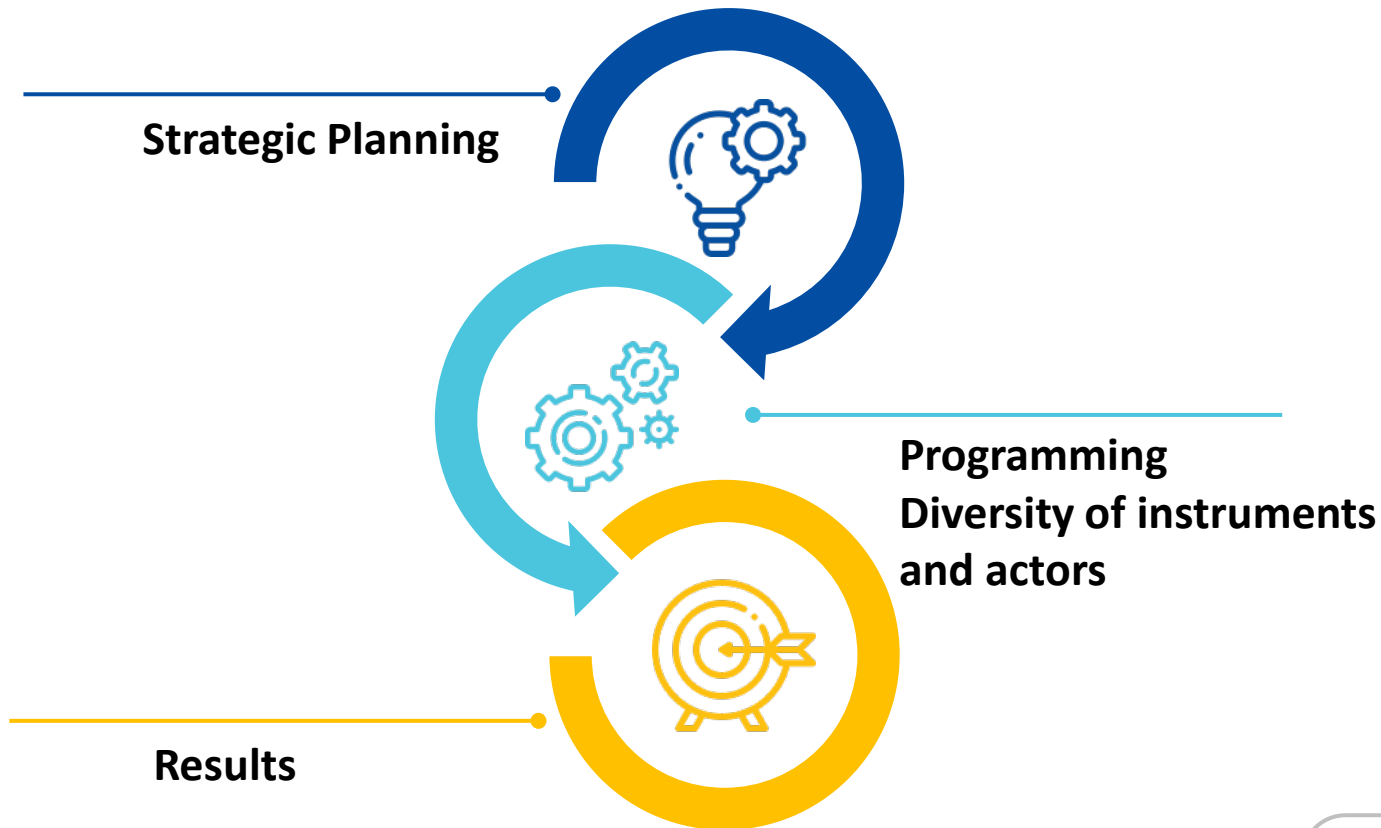
**Where:** Europe-wide and context-specific

**How:** calls for projects, co-creation in living labs, research infrastructures, etc.

**How long:** 7-10 years duration



# To sum up



**Your ideas are  
essential for Horizon  
Europe and beyond**



[Funding opportunities](#) available in  
Mission “A Soil Deal for Europe” Work  
Programme 2023 and Cluster 6 Work  
Programme 2024



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## Panel discussion

**Dr. Benjamin Sanchez Gimeno**  
Spanish Funding Agency for Innovation

**Prof. Marta Vasconcelos**  
Universidade Católica Portuguesa

**Ms. Claudia Fusco**  
European Commission, DG ENV

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## Co-creation discussion



*Participants, have your say!*



# Your ideas are essential for Horizon Europe and beyond



**Strategic Plan 25-27**

**Work Programme(s)  
2025 to 2027**

**Next EU R&I Programme and CAP  
after 2027**



# Co-creation: Question 1

WHAT

What are the research needs in this area?



Individually provide at least with 2 needs

1 idea per 1 sticky note  
CAPITAL LETTERS



Present 1 key idea  
& discuss together with the group



Each person 3 dots

Vote with a dot on the priority idea

**Optional:** Indicate your email address at the back of the sticky note to contact you in case of questions

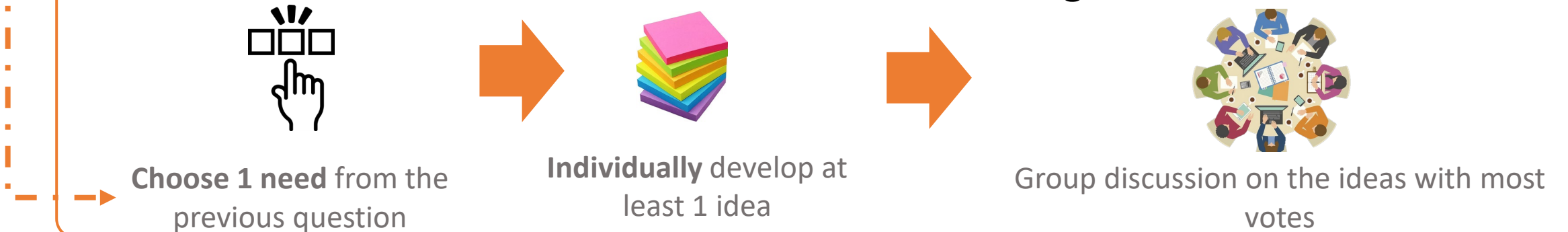
**Facilitators** to **mark** (numbers, letters) **the most voted ideas** to easily identify them for Question 2

# Co-creation: Question 2

**Question 1: What are the research needs in this area?**



**Question 2: How should those needs be delivered through research and innovation?**





# Meaning of 'how'

Consider in your reply the following elements, *for example*:

- Basic research, innovation?
- Standardisation, communication and networking, align research agendas?
- If technological developments expected, what level of maturity? Experimental proof of concept, validation/testing in the lab or related real environment, prototyping...
- Involve other actors beyond researchers/innovators? Which ones?
- International collaboration is key and if so with which regions?
- Other major initiatives to be aware of for consideration and/or collaboration?
- New ideas?



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