

EU AgRI 2040

CONFERENCE

Brussels, 24 - 25 September 2026



Future-proofing
EU Agri-Food
through **research**
and **innovation**



DRAFT AGENDA

24 September	
Shaping up a strong EU research and innovation ecosystem	
08:30 – 08:30	Opening registration
08:30 – 09:30	Welcome Coffee and Exhibition Master of Ceremony: Sasha Twining, journalist
09:30 – 10:00	High-level opening: Research and innovation driving the transition of agri-food systems Keynote speakers Christophe Hansen , <i>EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Food</i> Ekaterina Zaharieva , <i>EU Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation</i>
10:00 – 11:00	Enabling the objectives of the Vision for Agriculture and Food through research and innovation High-level panel discussion How research and innovation policies can support the ambition for competitive, resilient and sustainable EU agriculture, forestry and rural areas? Moderated by Sasha Twining Q&A
11:00 – 12:30	Fostering deployment, scaling-up and uptake of research and innovation results in agriculture, forestry and rural areas Setting the scene Diego Canga Fano , <i>Acting Deputy Director-General, Directorate - General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission</i> New strategic approach to R&I for the agri-food sector and AgRI 2040 Panel discussion Elisabeth Werner , <i>Director-General, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission</i> How to bolster opportunities and overcome barriers for deployment, scaling up and uptake of R&I outputs? What are successful examples? Richard Zaltzman , <i>CEO, EIT-Food</i> Adrián Ferrero , <i>EU Mission Soil Board Member</i> Jan van Esch , <i>Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality</i> Iulia Blagu , <i>President, Romanian National Association of Women in Agriculture</i> Moderated by Sasha Twining Q&A
12:30 – 14:00	Networking lunch and Exhibition

14:00 – 15:45	1st round of parallel sessions: identifying needs and shaping up a thriving EU research and innovation ecosystem		
	1 Cropping systems	2 Digitalisation, artificial intelligence and robotics	3 Climate change and biodiversity
15:45 – 16:15	Coffee break and Exhibition		
16:15 – 17:30	2nd round of parallel sessions: identifying needs and shaping up a thriving EU research and innovation ecosystem		
	4 Stronger agri-food value chain	5 Multi-functional Forests	6 Rural areas
17:30 – 17:40	Transition from parallel sessions to plenary room		
17:40 – 18:10	Reports from the parallel sessions 1-6		
18:10-20:00	Cocktail reception and end of Day 1		
25 September Partnering for new R&I opportunities in the EU and globally			
08:00-09:00	Welcome Coffee and Exhibition		
09:00 – 10:45	3rd round of parallel sessions: identifying needs and shaping up a thriving EU research and innovation ecosystem		
	7 Livestock Systems	8 Soil, agri-ecosystems, water and nutrient capital	9 Bioeconomy in agriculture, forestry and rural areas
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee break and Exhibition		
11:15 – 11:30	Reports from the parallel sessions 7-9		
11:30 – 12:45	Partnerships for research and innovation that foster competitive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems in Europe and beyond		
	Panel discussion How to build strong strategic partnerships within the EU and beyond? What are successful examples? Moderated by Diego Canga Fano Q&A	Charles Spillane, <i>Chief Scientist, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)</i> Anna Okello, <i>Director, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)</i> Jean Francois de Saedeleer, <i>Senior Engineer in Bioeconomy, European Investment Bank (EIB)</i> Katariina Kempainen, <i>Chair of the Governance Board, Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC)</i> Ulrike Ziegler, <i>Coordinator, Horizon Europe Partnership ‘Agroecology’</i> Mette Damgaard Nielsen, <i>Senior Scientific Manager, Novo Nordisk Global</i> Valérie Corre, <i>Director European Affairs, Tereos</i>	
12:45 – 13:00	Closing plenary		
	Concluding remarks	Elisabeth Werner, <i>Director-General, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission</i> James Morrison, <i>Director Healthy Planet, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission</i>	
13:00 – 15:00	Networking lunch, exhibition and end of Conference		