

agri-food chain  
coalition



# Food for Thought

Priorities for the  
EU institutions  
2019-2024





By 2050, the global population is expected to reach 9.7 billion people. Arable lands and pastures continue to decrease due to urban expansion and new infrastructure. More frequent extreme weather situations will become a major challenge for livestock and arable farming. Sufficient availability of quality food in the regions where a significant population growth is expected can only be achieved through the optimal use of resources and continuous investment in developing sustainable innovative technologies.

In Europe, the need for a common policy framework for **agriculture** and **innovation** promoting the uptake of **smart farming technologies** and strengthening the links across the food supply chain to **reduce food waste** will be key.

The Agri-food sector is the engine of European food systems and it contributes significantly to Europe's **growth** and **jobs**. Nowadays, the agri-food chain industries are not only expected to provide food for all but also to **drive innovation** and to help Europe achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals**. Furthermore, agri-food systems will play a key part in delivering the EU's ambition of a **carbon-neutral economy** by 2050 through reduced emissions and, especially, through mitigation efforts and **increased biomass production**.

This brochure highlights the challenges facing the agri-food chain, and calls on the EU Institutions and Member States to develop and adopt common policies to **unleash the great potential of the European agri-food chain**.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# Challenges and opportunities

Europe has the ambition to become a net zero emission economy by 2050 and to promote circular economy & bioeconomy as a means to combat climate change, increase resource efficiency and minimise environmental footprint.

- Between 1990 and 2016, emissions from EU agriculture fell by 22%. Partners along the Agri-food chain coalition can contribute not only by further reducing emissions in agriculture but also by applying mitigation technologies.
- The agri-food systems are ideally placed to improve current circularities and create new resource loops.
- The agriculture sector can act as a carbon sink through better soil management, by producing the increased amount of biomass needed as well as by reducing production losses and waste along the chain.



# Policy recommendations

- **Ensure** that the EU retains a leading role in innovation along the agri-food value chain.
- **Ensure** that EU acts as a champion of resource-efficient and sustainable production in circular processes.
- **Support** development of technologies and methods that drive the move towards a competitive low carbon economy both in crop and animal derived food systems.
- **Incentivise** creation of new links and loops to increase the share of circular economy and bioeconomy in sustainable development.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reflect the ambition of humankind to improve the conditions under which we live by addressing current global challenges. European agri-food systems are committed to addressing these challenges by promoting innovative and sustainable practices that will help transform the agriculture and food sectors.

- Sustainability is a common effort towards shared goals. The entire EU agri-food system continuously fosters collaboration and generates successful efforts and initiatives supporting the SDGs implementation.
- The challenge is to identify and implement socially accepted practices to boost sustainability and provide consumers with safe, nutritious, affordable and high-quality food.



- **Include** agri-food systems in strategies to deliver on UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Provide** all those working in the sector access to the necessary skills & technology to advance farming practices and efficiency in the chain.
- **Promote** the creation and maintenance of jobs in the agri-food sector, with particular focus on youth employment.
- **Improve** farmers income and their living standards to secure a sustained generation renewal of the sector.
- **Enhance** the role of women in EU farming by facilitating access to agricultural education, vocational training and financing.

The use of IT and the data has grown immensely in agriculture, and especially in precision farming, plant and animal breeding, feeding, the monitoring of plant and animal health. Further developments will follow, making agriculture and farming more modern, smarter and innovative, thus, leading to a more efficient and sustainable use of resources.

- The challenge is to offer all relevant actors the necessary tools to support the uptake of new techniques and technologies, modern agricultural machinery and IT-systems and to further improve farm advisory services to that effect.
- Innovative technologies, satellite technology, digital farming and big data applied from breeding to harvesting both in plant and in livestock production can play a pivotal role in enabling the most efficient, sustainable and socially acceptable use of natural resources.



- **Ensure** a science and evidence-based approach all along agri-food systems to guarantee food safety and drive innovation.
- **Position** research aimed to spur innovation in agri-food systems in the core of EU agricultural policy.
- **Encourage** and incentivise the further uptake of latest (bio)technology in European breeding and farming and promote precision and digital farming technologies.
- **Promote** knowledge transfer and farm advisory services that can improve sustainability and competitiveness.
- **Support** the concept of smart villages and promote vibrant rural areas.
- **Build** a strong and modern EU legal framework to boost innovation and competitiveness of the agri-food sector.

# Who we are

The Agri-Food Chain Coalition (AFCC) is a joint initiative representing 12 leading associations across the agri-food system. Members represent European farmers, cooperatives and companies from agriculture and livestock sector, farm equipment, plant and animal breeders, fertilizers, crop protection, animal health, feed and biotechnology-based products and the agricultural trade.

# What we stand for

The Agri-Food Chain Coalition is united in their call for sustainable, solution-orientated and innovative policy that benefits the EU citizens and economy. The AFCC is committed to addressing the dual challenge of climate change and a growing population and is encouraging innovative solutions for a more sustainable agri-food system in Europe.

# Our members



[www.animalhealtheurope.eu](http://www.animalhealtheurope.eu)



[www.celcaa.eu](http://www.celcaa.eu)



[www.cema-agri.org](http://www.cema-agri.org)



[www.coceral.com](http://www.coceral.com)



[www.copa-cogeca.eu](http://www.copa-cogeca.eu)



[www.effab.info](http://www.effab.info)



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