



Knowledge, innovation and skills for sustainable horizons

31 May-1 June 2023, The Square, Brussels

31 May

Innovating with impact, what's next for Research and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas?

12:00	Opening registration	
12:00 – 13:30	Welcome Coffee	
	The opening plenary will be hosted by Magda Kopczynska , Deputy Director General, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural development, European Commission	
13:30 – 14:45	High-level opening: Research and innovation enabling sustainable transition in agriculture, forestry and rural areas	
	High-level opening	Janusz Wojciechowski , European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
	Short inspirational talk	Rogier Schulte , Chairholder, Farming Systems Ecology, Wageningen University and Research (WUR)
	Panel discussion <i>How can research and innovation effectively support the EU policy agenda?</i>	Peter Kullgren , Minister for Rural Affairs of Sweden and Chair of the EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council Luis Planas Puchades , Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in Spain Norbert Lins , Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, European Parliament Marion JANSEN , Director of the Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD

14:45 – 16:00	Research and innovation and Sustainable Development Goals: Are we on track for 2030? What's next?	
	<p>Keynote speech</p>	<p>Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</p>
	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p><i>Feeding the world and saving the planet: can Research and innovation meet both ambitions?</i></p> <p>What are the key challenges and opportunities for farmers, foresters and rural communities to be more sustainable, resilient and climate-smart?</p> <p>Slido Q&A</p>	<p>The Honourable Penny Wensley AC, National Soils Advocate of Australia</p> <p>Elisabeth Claverie de Saint Martin, CEO, French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)</p> <p>Alice Ruhweza, System Board Member, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)</p> <p>Diana Lenzi, President, European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA)</p> <p>Teresa Pinto Correia, Vice-Chair of the Mission Board "A Soil Deal for Europe" and Professor at MED-University of Évora, Portugal</p>
16:00 – 16:30	Networking coffee and Poster session	
16:30 – 18:00	Research and innovation enabling farmers, foresters and rural communities to become more resilient, sustainable and climate smart	
	<p>Setting the scene</p>	<p>Sjoukje Heimovaara, President of the Executive Board, Wageningen University & Research (WUR)</p>
	<p>Panel discussion:</p> <p><i>What are we learning from the climate and geopolitical crises? How can R&I enable farming and rural communities to be more sustainable, resilient and climate smart?</i></p> <p>Slido Q&A</p>	<p>Gilles Saindon, Assistant Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Canada</p> <p>Frank O'Mara, Director, Agriculture and Food Development Authority (TEAGASC), Ireland</p> <p>Dóra Drexler, Coordinator, BIOEAST Thematic Working Group on Agroecology and Sustainable Yields</p> <p>Stefania Avanzini, Director, One Planet Business for Biodiversity (OP2B), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)</p> <p>Mateusz Ciasnocha, young farmer, member of the Board of the EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe"</p>
18:00 – 18:15	Setting the scene for the breakout sessions on Day 2	
18:15 – 19:30	Networking cocktail	End of day 1

1 June

Building on achievements to shape the future

08:30	Welcome coffee		
09:15 – 11:45	1st round of parallel sessions: Research and innovation delivering for sustainable, climate-smart agricultural and forestry systems		
1 Sustainably managed natural resources for agricultural production and the EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe"	2 Agrobiodiversity for healthy cropping systems	3 Challenges and opportunities for healthy and sustainable livestock systems	4 Sustainable management for multifunctional forests
12:00 – 13:00	Networking lunch		
13:00 – 15:30	2nd round of parallel sessions : Research and innovation enabling a people-centred green and digital transition		
5 Digital and data technologies in agriculture: R&I for sectoral transformation	6 Rural opportunities	7 Bridging the gap between R&I and practice: tools and skills for today's and future generations	8 Social Sciences and Humanities for resilient and sustainable agriculture and forestry
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break		
15:45 – 17:30	Concluding plenaries		
	Reports from the parallel sessions	Kerstin Rosenow , Head of Unit Research and innovation, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural development, European Commission	
	EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe" – International cooperation with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Magda Kopczynska , Deputy Director General, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural development, European Commission Neil Watkins , Deputy Director, Program Advocacy and Communications	
	Concluding remarks	Marc Lemaître , Director General for Research and Innovation at the European Commission Wolfgang Burtscher , Director General for Agriculture and Rural development at the European Commission	
	Inspiring take-home message	Sadhguru , Save Soil movement	
17:30	End of conference		

2 June

Field visits 'Innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas in practice'

The EIP-AGRI Support Facility will organise a series of field visits near Brussels, with the support of the Flemish Rural Network. Field visits are optional for the conference participants and will show how research and agriculture, forestry and rural challenges are bridged in EIP-AGRI Operational Group projects and other innovative projects.

The field visits will be closely linked to the discussion themes of the Conference.

[More information about the field visits](#)