The EU B@B Platform agriculture workshop has gathered representatives from companies and sectoral associations to present best case studies, discuss the principles of best practice implementation and among other topics discuss criteria for benchmarking and acknowledging them.

The main expectations of the participants were to find best practices, share experience and knowledge and learn from each other in order for their sector to help enhance biodiversity in Europe.

Syngenta and Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform presented best case studies.

Syngenta’s presentations showed that important results can be achieved in producing biodiversity in combination with intensive agricultural practices. SAI Platform presentation focused on the importance of sustainable agriculture and biodiversity for global food companies. It also highlighted the need for practical guidance on what biodiversity means and it should be clear how it can be measured.

The B@B Platform is expected to help and guide in that and to foster the better understanding on biodiversity. The Sectoral Guidance Document has to be as practical as possible linking agriculture to biodiversity in positive terms. The local adaptation of rules, regulations and agriculture practices are crucial for success. The bottom-up approach and listening to stakeholders / local actors was emphasized.

Regarding the benchmarking, the participants have underlined that such a tool has to be applied on the scale of farms. Labels and certification schemes already exist for the sector and can be used as benchmarking tools. The participants have highlighted the need for indicators for the sector.

The participants do not see the Award Scheme as a priority for the Platform, although it can be part of a toolbox. It is good as a communication tool and might help to improve the process, but an overarching indicator needs to be found for it to be objective.