SU-EATABLE LIFE - Reducing carbon emissions in the EU through sustainable diets
LIFE16 GIC/IT/000038

Project description

Environmental issues
 Beneficiaries
 Administrative data

Contact details:

Contact person: Riccardo Valentini
Email: riccardo.valentini@external.barillacfn.com

Project description:

Background

The food we produce and consume has a significant impact on the environment, generating greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions. It is especially in the EU, where the food chain is carbon-intensive, accounting for 30% of all EU GHG emissions. The food sector also exploits land and water resources, contributes to pollution and the depletion of phosphorus, and uses harmful chemical herbicides and pesticides. It has been widely shown that diets based on a high intake of animal-derived products, and the related intake of saturated fats and red meats above dietary recommendations, are responsible for high CO2 emissions. Furthermore, food waste is responsible for at least 170 Mt CO2 eq per year. Awareness to the problem is lacking. While food is acknowledged to be a key factor affecting health, the impact that food production and consumption has on global resources is less well known. The Europe 2020 Strategy foresees that by 2020 incentives for healthier and more sustainable food production and consumption will be widespread and will have driven a 20% reduction in the food chain’s resource inputs and that disposal of edible food waste would have been halved across the EU.

Objectives

The SU-EATABLE LIFE project will demonstrate the possibility of engaging EU citizens to adopt a sustainable and healthy diet, leading to a substantial reduction in GHG emissions and water consumption. A series of experimental measures will be carried out in the canteens of the University of Manchester and
the University of Portsmouth, reaching around 59,000 students, as well as at Baxter Storey and Bennet Hay canteens reaching 7,000 employees.

EU citizens will also be encouraged to use a simple IT system, the GreenApes engagement platform, which will allow them to understand more about sustainable food, while monitoring the impact of their dietary changes on CO2 emissions and water saving. The project could thus significantly contribute to reaching the European Commission target of achieving a 40% reduction in GHGs by 2030.

Expected results: Sustainable diets in Europe would lead to:
- Saving of up to 2,900 grammes of CO2 eq per day per person;
- A potential reduction of GHG emissions of up to 535 Mt of CO2 eq per year;
- A potential water savings of up to 200 billion cubic metres of water;
- Increased awareness of food waste; and
- Reduction in the use of chemical substances in food production leading to reduction of nitrogen emissions of up to 40%.

Engaging at least 5,000 people leads to:
- A saving of around 5,300 tonnes of CO2 eq.; and
- A saving of around 2 million cubic metres of water.

Results

Top

Environmental issues addressed:

Themes

Climate change Mitigation - GHG reduction in non EU ETS sectors
Information - Governance - Environmental training - Capacity building

Keywords

decision making support, public awareness campaign, emission reduction, food production, greenhouse gas

Target EU Legislation

- Water
- Waste
- Climate Change & Energy efficiency
Natura 2000 sites

Not applicable

Beneficiaries:

Coordinator: BARILLA CENTER FOR FOOD & NUTRITION FOUNDATION

Type of organisation: NGO-Foundation

Description: The Barilla Centre for Food & Nutrition Foundation (BCFN) is a non-profit association that was founded by the Barilla Group with the purpose of gathering, researching, developing and disseminating knowledge on food and nutrition, including the relationship with the environment.

Partners: The Sustainable Restaurant Association, Italy
Wageningen University, The Netherlands
GreenApes srl, Italy

Administrative data:

Project reference: LIFE16 GIC/IT/000038

Duration: 01-SEP-2018 to 31-AUG-2021

Total budget: 1,672,056.00 €

EU contribution: 1,003,232.00 €

Project location: Emilia-Romagna (Italia) Groningen (Nederland)
Friesland (Nederland) Drenthe (Nederland)
Overijssel (Nederland) Gelderland (Nederland)
Flevoland (Nederland)
Noord-Brabant (Nederland) Limburg (Nederland)
Utrecht (Nederland) Noord-Holland (Nederland)
Zuid-Holland (Nederland) Zeeland (Nederland)
North (United Kingdom) Yorkshire and
Humberside (United Kingdom) East
Midlands (United Kingdom) East Anglia (United Kingdom)