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24-25 March 2021
EIP-AGRI Workshop "Towards carbon neutral agriculture"



EIP-AGRI workshop 'Towards carbon neutral agriculture'

EU policy framework

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European Commission

Agriculture and rural development

Research and innovation

24 March 2021



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- **The European Green Deal and main initiatives**
- **Tools to support the transition:**
 - **Carbon farming**
 - **CAP**
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The European Green Deal

The Green Deal



Farm to fork strategy: Establish a sustainable food system that:



- **has neutral or positive environmental impact** of food production:
 - preserving and restoring the land and sea-based resources;
 - mitigating climate change and adapting to its impact;
 - reversing the loss of biodiversity

EU carbon farming initiative



*“...boost sustainable practices, such as precision agriculture, **agro-ecology** (including organic farming), carbon farming and agro-forestry...”*



- ensures food security and public health
- preserves the affordability of food



Biodiversity strategy: Put Europe on the path to ecological recovery by 2030



- Restoring degraded ecosystems at land across the whole of Europe by:
 - ✓ increasing organic farming and biodiversity-rich landscape features on agricultural land

-> at least 25% of agricultural land is under organic farming management, and the uptake of agro-ecological practices is significantly increased.



- ✓ halting and reversing the decline of pollinators
- ✓ reducing the use and harmfulness of pesticides by 50% by 2030
- ✓ planting 3 billion trees by 2030...



- Establishing protected areas for at least 30% of land in Europe



- Of the 25% of the EU budget dedicated to climate action, a significant proportion will be invested in biodiversity and nature-based solutions

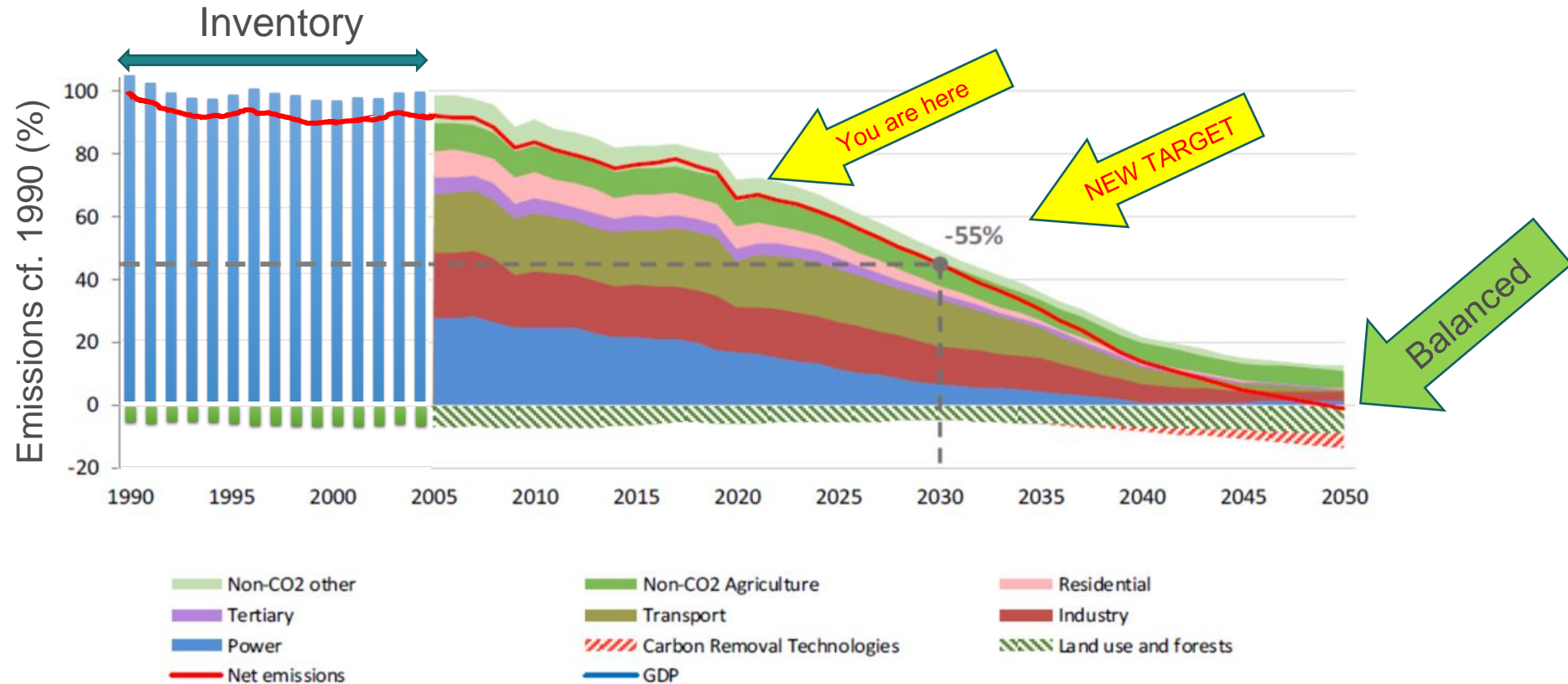


Proposal for a Climate Law: write into law the goal for Europe to become climate-neutral by 2050



- Achieving **net zero greenhouse gas emissions** for EU countries as a whole
- **All EU policies and all sectors** must contribute to this goal
- Legally binding target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050
- **A new EU target for 2030 of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55%** compared to levels in 1990
- A process to include in the Climate Law the updated 2030 emissions reduction target
- Measures to keep track of progress

Climate Target Plan: a more ambitious emission reduction path for the next 10 years



- New EU 2030 target of reducing net emissions by at least 55% compared to 1990 (previously: 40%)
- Ongoing revision of all climate policies to make them “Fit for 55%”

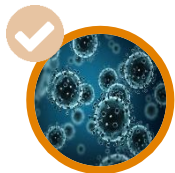
Key role for farmers, foresters and rural communities



-50%



-50%



-50%



25%



+10%



+3 bln



-55%



100%

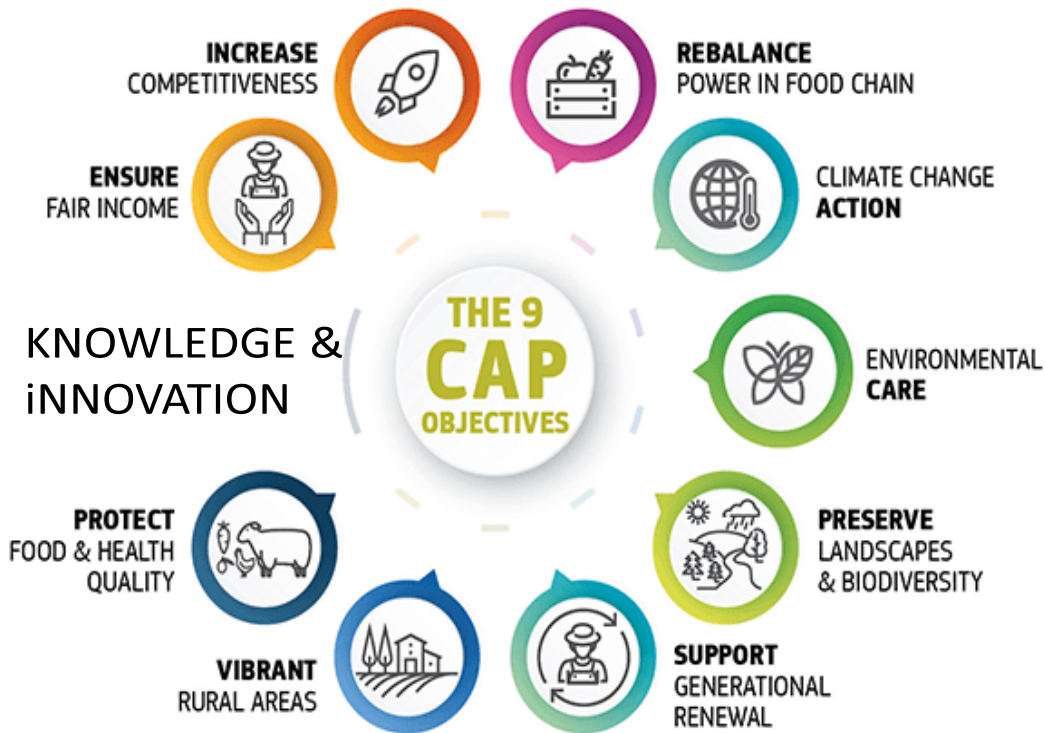


Tools to support the transition

Carbon Farming

- The Farm to Fork Strategy => launch in 2021 of a new **EU Carbon Farming initiative** to promote carbon sequestration as new green business model
- Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) => initiative on a regulatory framework for certification of carbon removals (2020)
- **Examples of carbon farming:**
 - Enhancing soil organic carbon in depleted arable land
 - Afforestation, forest restoration, improved forest management
 - Supplying biomass for the production of long-lasting bio-based products
 - Protecting carbon-rich soils, such as grasslands and peatlands
- **Commission actions in 2021:**
 - Guidance Handbook on Carbon Farming
 - Pilots with LIFE projects
 - Mapping and farm-level GHG tools
 - Stakeholder inputs

The future common agricultural policy (CAP)



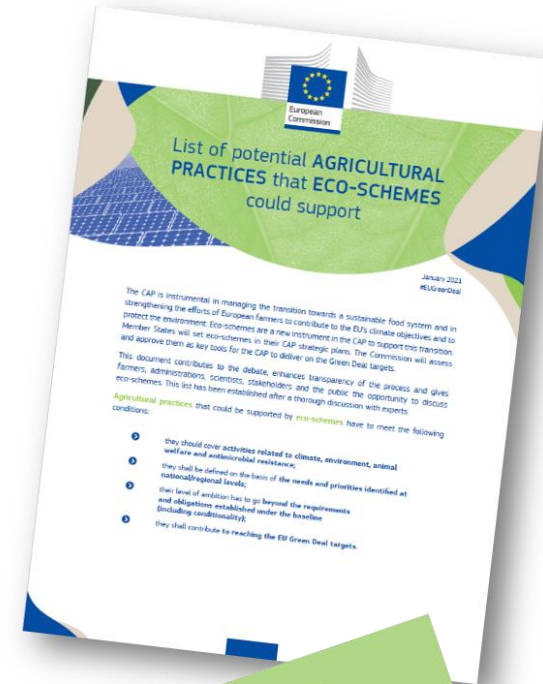
40% of budget climate-relevant

- New green architecture
- Enhanced conditionality
- CAP Plans

Eco-schemes:

- cover **climate-related** activities
- contribute to the **Green Deal targets**

Organic farming practices
IPM, agro-ecology, agro-forestry,
carbon farming, etc



Under negotiation!

EU approach to agricultural R&I



2016

50% of projects are climate-relevant

Common agricultural policy (CAP)



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AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

27 Member States

R&I programme (Horizon 2020)
315 projects
1,9 bn€



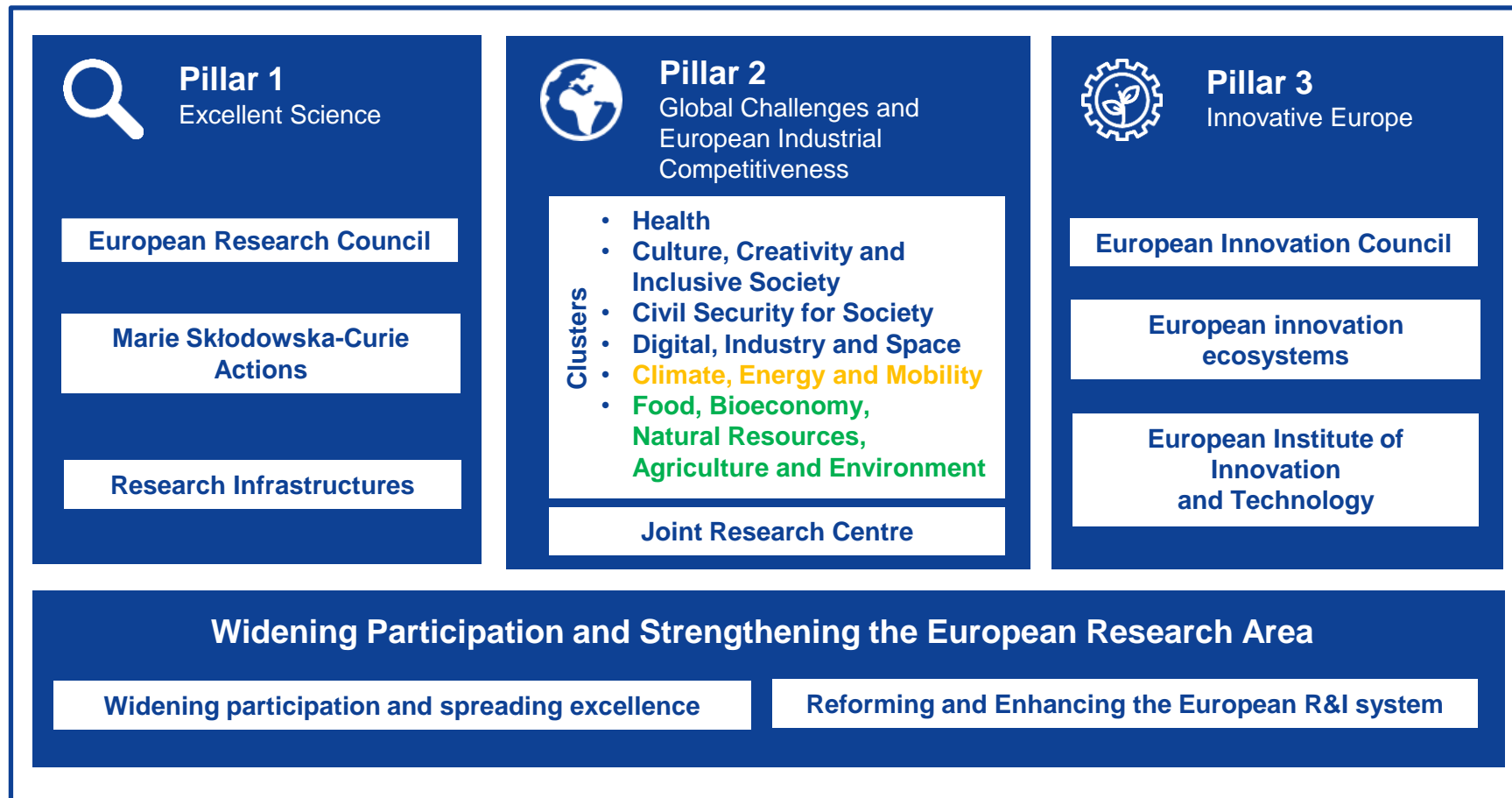
Local innovation projects (EIP-AGRI Operational groups) (+/- 2000)

EU EIP-AGRI networking activities:
- Focus groups
- Knowledge exchange
- Web platform

Transnational R&I (multi-actor) projects
190 – 1 bn€

Transnational Thematic networks
40 – 80 M€

Horizon Europe: structure



Around 9 billion € for Cluster 6

Various instruments to power the transition

Destination 5



Large-scale portfolio of coordinated actions to reach a bold and inspirational objective

Soil health: « Caring for soil is caring for life »

Role for agroecological approaches, organic farming and agroforestry

Work programme 2021-2022 (April/May 2021)



Concerted R&I efforts with EU and Associated countries and/or private sector, foundations or stakeholders

→ ***'Accelerating farming systems transition: agroecology living labs and research infrastructures'***

Conclusions

- The Green deal sets the path to **climate neutrality by 2050**
- **Opportunities and challenges** for our farming, forestry and rural areas
- **Crucial role for our farmers, foresters and rural communities**
- **Several tools at our disposal** to support the transition: CAP, Carbon farming, R&I, other EU policy initiatives (e.g., new EU Forestry strategy) and national policies!
- Green Deal is a revolutionary project that requires an **innovative vision**:

What research and innovation are needed to accelerate the progress towards climate neutrality by 2050?

How to maximise the impact of R&I on the ground supporting farmers, foresters and rural communities in this transition?



Thank you



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EIP-AGRI workshop

Towards carbon neutral agriculture

Online 24-25 March 2021

All information about the workshop available on

www.eip-agri.eu

on the event webpage

<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/event/eip-agri-workshop-%E2%80%98towards-carbon-neutral>



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