



## 3. Meeting of the Bioeconomy Strategic Working Group

Johanna Kohl, Luka Juvančič, Martin Behrens  
Co-Chairs SCAR BSWG

04.09.2026



# Bioeconomy Strategic Working Group

Johanna Kohl, Luka Juvančič, Martin Behrens

4<sup>th</sup> Mandate

# Opening of the meeting

Martin Behrens

# Agenda



| Time          | Programme item                                                     | Speaker         |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 12:55 – 13:00 | Login                                                              |                 |
| 13:00 – 13:05 | Opening of the meeting (agenda, minutes of the last meeting)       | Martin          |
| 13:05 – 13:15 | Tour de Table (new members)                                        | all             |
| 13:15 – 13:35 | News from the Commission                                           | DGs present     |
| 13:35– 13:45  | Presentation of the Poly Crisis Policy Brief                       | Luka            |
| 13:45 – 14:00 | Outlook from Global Bioeconomy Summit (Dublin) 20-21. October 2026 | Patrick Barrett |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | Plans for 2026 -2027: What should be next on our agenda?           | Martin, All     |
| 14:30 – 14:45 | CBE JU Working Group on Primary Producers Action Plan              | John Brosnan    |
| 14:45 – 15:00 | AOB                                                                | all             |
| 15:00         | End of Meeting                                                     | all             |



# Tour de Table (new members)

All new members



# News from the Commission

DGs present



# EC policy update

European Commission  
DG Research & Innovation  
DG Agriculture & Rural Development

*SCAR Bioeconomy Working Group meeting – 4 September 2026*

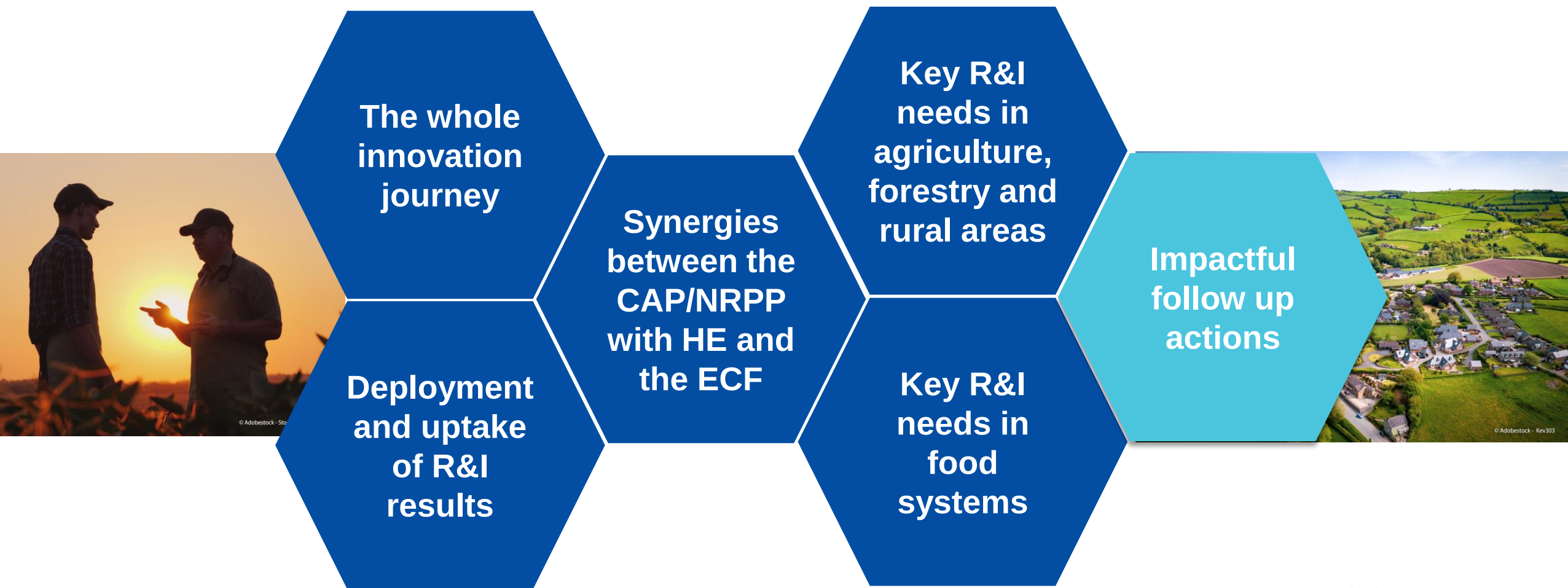


# EU Research & Innovation on bioeconomy for agriculture, forestry and rural areas

**May HOBEIKA**, Policy Officer  
Research & Innovation (AGRI.F2)  
European Commission, DG Agriculture & Rural Development

*SCAR Bioeconomy Working Group meeting – 4 September 2026*

# 9 New R&I Strategic Approach for agriculture, forestry, rural areas and food systems (September 2026)



# EU AgRI 2040 CONFERENCE

Brussels,  
24 - 25 September  
2026

Webstream available  
[here](#)

Future-proofing  
**EU Agri-Food**  
through **research**  
and **innovation**



# Recent & upcoming policy initiatives

## 2026 EU Fertiliser Action Plan

**Scale-up alternatives to conventional inorganic fertilisers:** decarbonised, bio-based and circular home-grown fertilisers; nutrient recycling; phosphorus/nitrogen recovery; biomethane; digestates; microbial solutions

## 2026 EU Livestock Strategy

Reducing dependencies on imported inputs by relying more on **locally grown feed**

Supporting the development of **circular bioeconomy**

## 2026 EU Protein Plan

Integrating a **bioeconomy perspective** is key to sustainable resource use and unlocking the full potential of EU protein sources in line with the efficient use of biomass principle

## CBE JU Working Group on Primary Producers

**Action Plan** being finalised and will be presented at the Global Bioeconomy Summit in October 2026 in Dublin

## CAP Network activities

Focus Group on **Innovative on-farm fertiliser strategies**

How can innovative on-farm fertiliser management strategies enable farmers to reduce fertiliser dependency and nutrient losses while maintaining crop productivity?

First meeting: 28-29 October 2026



# Implementing the EU Bioeconomy Strategy

**Wim HAENTJENS**, Head of Sector  
Bioeconomy & Food Systems Unit (RTD.B2)  
European Commission, DG Research & Innovation

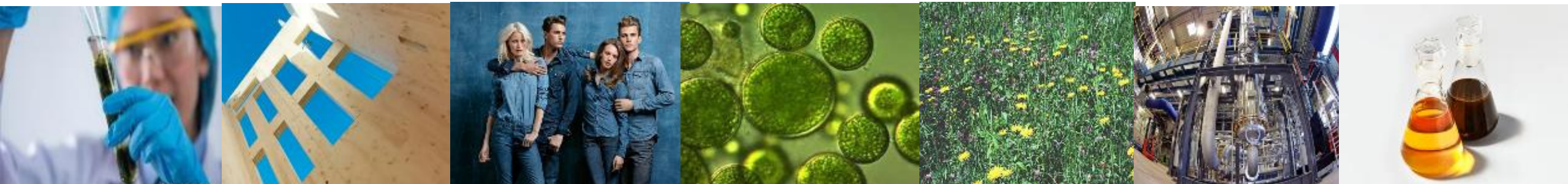
*SCAR Bioeconomy Working Group meeting – 4 September 2026*

# Bioeconomy: innovating on nature's power for a sustainable future!

The bioeconomy is defined as the activities that deliver sustainable solutions based on biological resources to create added value.

These include:

- **products, services, science and technologies** benefiting sectors ranging from
  - **agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture**
  - to **value chains** based on biomass processing, biomanufacturing and biotechnologies such as
  - in **food, health, energy, industry, ecosystem and other services.**
- 
- Biological resources **include genetic resources**, as well as **primary and secondary biomass**, such as by-products and residues, and **biogenic carbon captured** through innovative technologies.





FOSSIL-BASED  
ECONOMY

# Pillars of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy

## *A Strategic Framework for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy*



BIOECONOMY

Scaling up  
Innovation and  
Investments:  
from Lab to  
Deployment



Developing  
Lead Markets (1)  
for  
Materials and  
Technologies



Securing Long-Term  
Prospects for the  
Bioeconomy:  
Sustainably Sourced  
Biomass



Harnessing Global  
Partnerships and  
Opportunities



**Joining forces for delivery: with Member States, industry, investors and civil society**

# Bioeconomy Action Plan – selected actions



Build on the experience of Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking (new MFF)

Bioeconomy Investment Deployment Group / finance for start-ups, scale-ups

Support the development of industrial symbiosis valleys and bioeconomy hubs

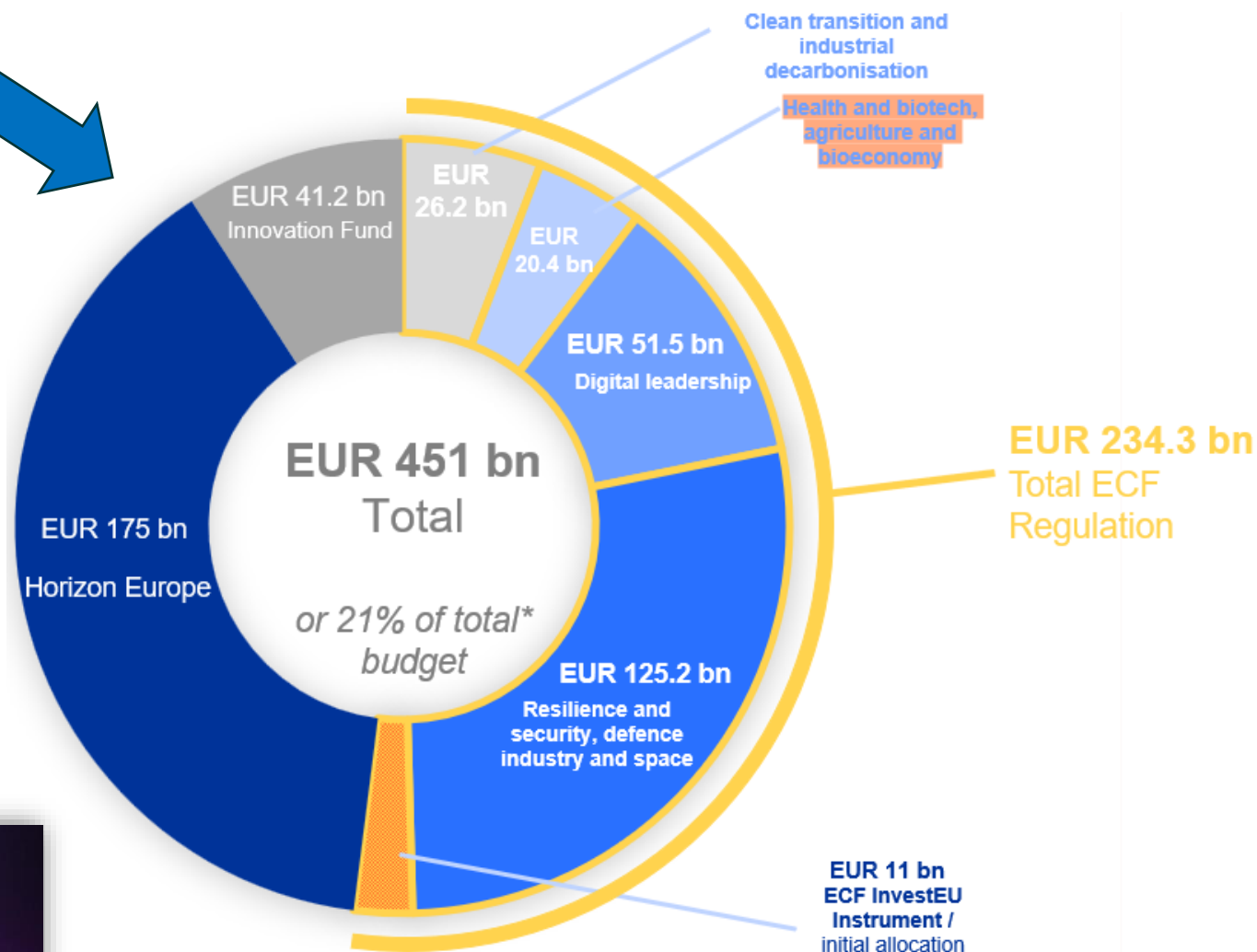
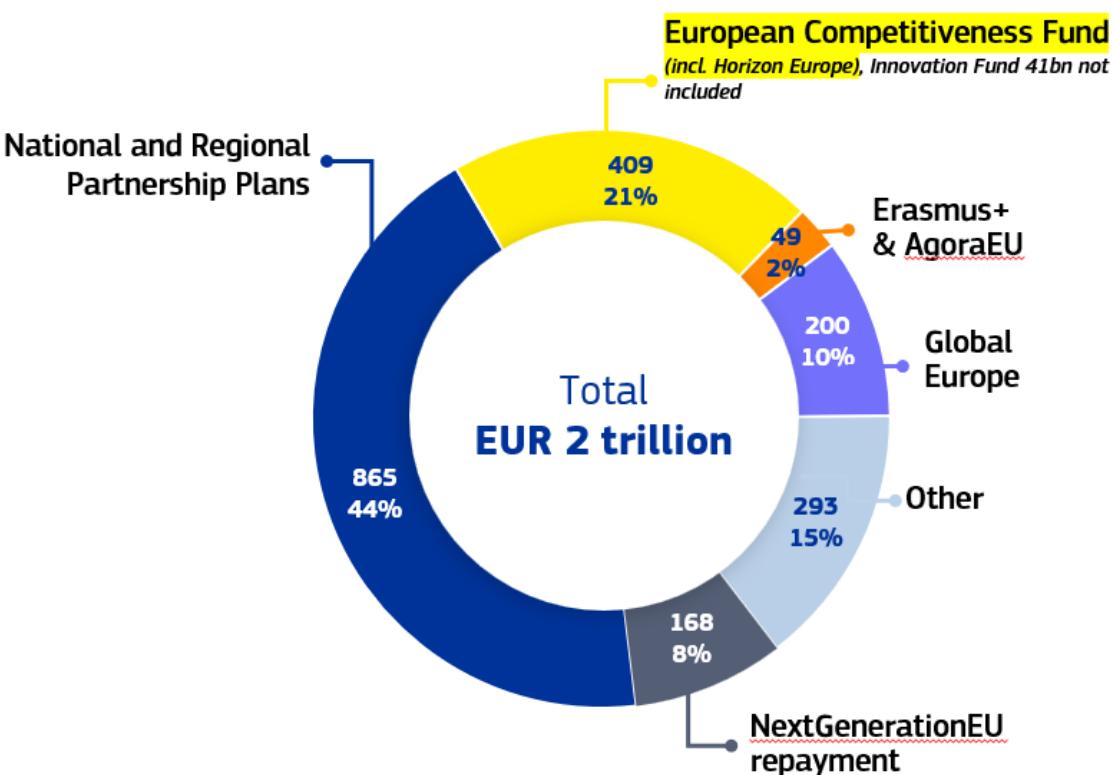
Regulators and innovators forum – Biotech Acts

Launch a R&I initiative to develop and deploy sustainable bioeconomy solutions in regions with high biomass potential

Monitor and forecast biomass availability

Bioeconomy Stakeholder Platform

# R&I tools and budgets proposed under new MFF



European  
Innovation  
Council  
Fund

Home > EIC Fund > Scaleup Europe Fund

## Scaleup Europe Fund

Unlocking the power of Europe's breakthrough technology champions with growth capital that delivers strong returns and long-term strategic value for Europe

# Implications for R&I planning

- The move towards the next MFF 2028-2034 includes an early reflection on **research and innovation needs** to inspire:
  - Strategic documents covering HE and ECF should identify the most important investment priorities
  - Work programmes
- This should
  - Help identify **research and innovation needs for the bioeconomy**
  - Help improve alignment between research, demonstration, scale-up and deployment needs.

# Bioeconomy R&I needs

- The **EU Bioeconomy Strategy** is inherently **cross-sectoral**, so related research and innovation priorities should not be viewed narrowly through one part of the programme architecture
- In the future framework, this means looking beyond today's cluster logic and taking account of the **broader set of instruments and intervention areas** that can support bioeconomy objectives
- In particular, bioeconomy-related R&I can extend beyond thematic areas corresponding to former HE clusters and also be relevant for other instruments



## THE BIOECONOMY

Innovative Solutions  
for a Sustainable  
Future



- Thank you!
- [Bioeconomy research and innovation](#)
- [Wim.HAENTJENS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Wim.HAENTJENS@ec.europa.eu)

**CORDIS Results Pack on  
microbial  
blueprints for  
bioeconomy**

Microbiomes  
and holobiomes  
as drivers of a  
sustainable circular  
bioeconomy





**CORDIS Results Pack on  
innovative  
bioeconomy  
solutions**

Strengthening the  
EU's prosperity  
through sustainable  
and circular  
bioeconomy  
innovations







# Presentation of the Poly Crisis Policy Brief

Luka

# A Nine-Month Co-Creation Journey

*Led by the SCAR Bioeconomy Working Group, with contributions from the SCAR Forest and ARCH Working Groups*

**Sept–Nov 2025**

## **Setting the Scene**

First mapping of RDI gaps in governance, data and value chains

**7 Nov 2025**

## **Scoping Workshop**

Scoping workshop framing key terms (eg. polycrisis, resilience), underlying factors, and actions to mitigate negative consequences

**5–6 Mar 2026**

## **Co-Creation Workshop**

Breakout groups explore system failures across three crisis scenarios (plant health, geopolitical shock, value-chain disruption)  
Two-day expert workshop translating gaps into RDI priorities; dot-voting prioritisation with policy, research and practice experts

**Mar–Sep 2026**

## **Drafting & Synthesis**

SCAR Bioeconomy Co-chairs consolidate findings into the final Policy Brief, feedback (BSWG members, co-Chairs SCAR Forest, ARCH, EC DG RTD)



# Why Resilience Matters: Bioeconomy in the Polycrisis

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- ✦ **Interacting shocks:** Europe faces a polycrisis — climate change, biodiversity loss, geopolitical instability and market volatility interact and reinforce one another, creating cascading impacts across sectors
- ✦ **A dual role:** the bioeconomy is a strategic solution — linking biological resources to food, materials, energy and ecosystem services — yet is itself highly exposed to disruption
- ✦ **An efficiency trap:** current systems are optimised for lean supply chains and just-in-time production — effective when stable, but poorly equipped for prolonged, interacting shocks
- ✦ **The brief's focus:** identifying where research and innovation can best strengthen resilience — the systemic capacity to anticipate, absorb, adapt to and mitigate cascading shocks



# Three Structural Weaknesses Limiting Resilience

## Governance, Coordination & Decision-Making

Responsibilities fragmented across sectors, levels and Member States

No transparent framework for prioritising competing biomass uses under scarcity

Weak stress-testing of governance against multi-shock scenarios

## Data, Monitoring & System Understanding

Data infrastructures fragmented along sectoral and national lines

Limited real-time, system-wide intelligence on biomass flows and risks

Early-warning signals disconnected from decision-making processes

## Actors & Value-Chain Resilience

Value chains optimised for efficiency, not redundancy or diversification

Weak incentives for early risk-reporting and resilience investment

Uneven adaptive capacity across regions, SMEs and producers

# Priority Research & Innovation Actions

## Governance & Coordination

Crisis-ready, multi-level governance frameworks tested via simulation

Biomass prioritisation and allocation decision-support tools

Interoperable cross-border crisis-coordination mechanisms

## Data & Monitoring

EU-wide real-time bioeconomy monitoring platforms

Modelling of cascading, cross-sector risks

Action-linked early-warning systems and resilient data infrastructures

## Actors & Value Chains

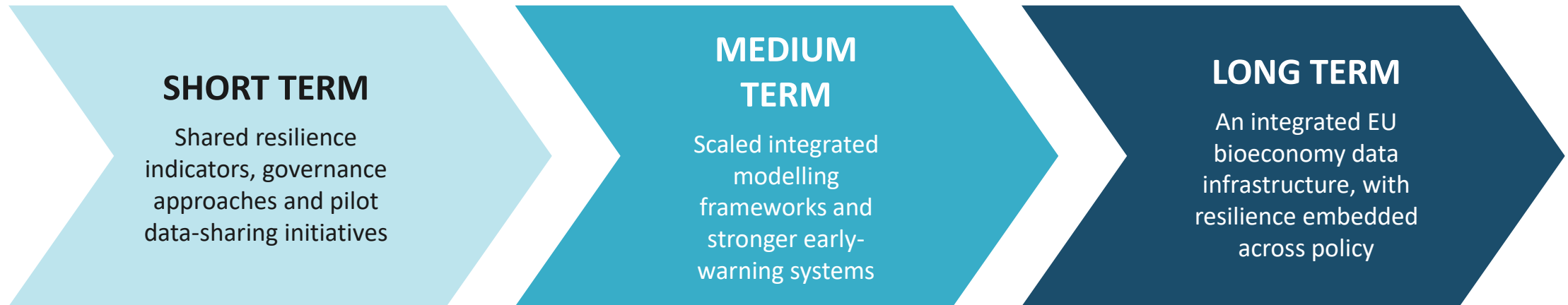
Adaptive, diversified and modular value-chain models (incl. biorefineries)

Incentives for early risk-reporting and risk-sharing

Regional contingency planning and living-lab experimentation

# Aligning with EU Instruments & the Way Forward

- ✦ **FP10 (Horizon Europe 2028–2034):** systemic R&I — integrated modelling, governance innovation, large-scale living labs
- ✦ **European Competitiveness Fund:** deployment and scaling of resilient bioeconomy solutions, reducing external dependencies
- ✦ **National Recovery & Resilience Plans:** regional implementation — infrastructure, skills and innovation ecosystems



# Dissemination & Exploitation Plan

| Target Audience                                                      | Dissemination Channel                                                                                                            | Expected Outcome                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>EU policymakers &amp; funding bodies</b>                          | DG RTD / DG AGRI, Council, national ministries                                                                                   | Findings inform FP10, the European Competitiveness Fund and Bioeconomy Strategy priorities                                 |
| <b>International bioeconomy community</b>                            | ✓ Confirmed — Workshop at the Global Bioeconomy Summit 2026, Dublin (20–21 Oct): “The Global Bioeconomy in Times of Poly-Crisis” | Stress-tests findings against a global scenario; gathers regional adaptations and priorities for international cooperation |
| <b>Research &amp; innovation community</b>                           | Publication on scar-europe.org; circulation via SCAR Working Groups and Horizon Europe networks                                  | Shapes future R&I proposals, consortia and pilot design aligned to identified gaps                                         |
| <b>Regional/national authorities &amp; value-chain actors</b>        | NRRP implementing bodies, regional innovation ecosystems, SCAR national delegates                                                | Uptake into regional pilots, contingency planning and investment programmes                                                |
| <b>Partner SCAR Working Groups (Forest, ARCH) &amp; EU platforms</b> | Joint dissemination through SCAR structures                                                                                      | Cross-fertilisation and coordinated follow-up on polycrisis resilience research                                            |

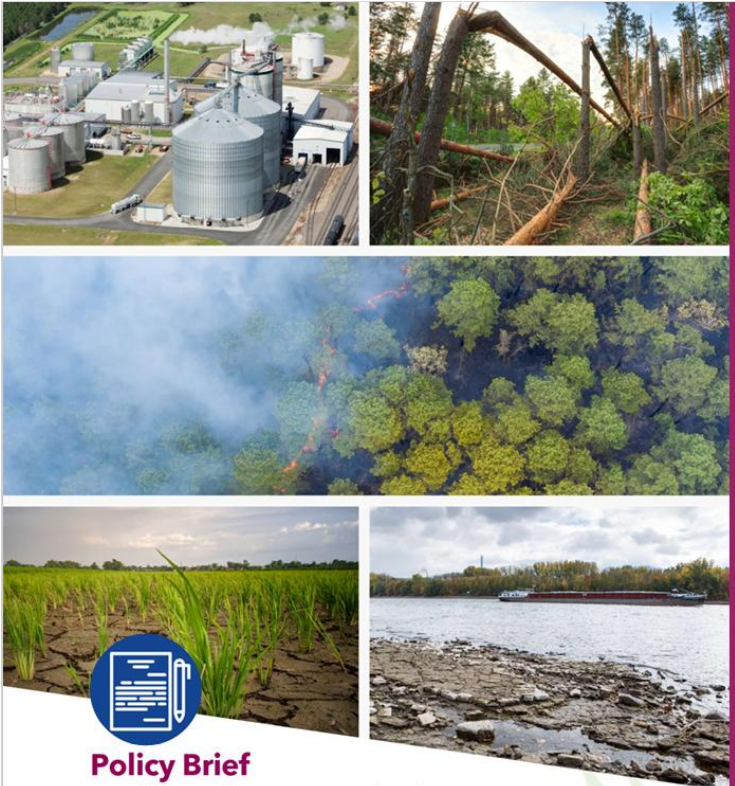
# Thank you.

## ✦ Authors

✦ Johanna Kohl · Luka Juvančič · Martin Behrens (SCAR Bioeconomy)

## ✦ Acknowledgements

- ✦ participants of the two co-creation workshops (Nov 2025, Mar 2026) - speakers, facilitators and active contributors, with particular thanks to:
- ✦ Patrick Barrett, Jesús Escudero, Sophie Thoyer, Spyridon Mantzoukas, Krystian Butlewski (SCAR Bioeconomy)
- ✦ Daniela Biervert-Lüth, Marek Veselsky (European Commission, DG RTD)
- ✦ Tony Quinn (SCAR Forest)
- ✦ Emmanuel Albina, Siegfried Harrer (SCAR ARCH)
- ✦ Órlaith Ní Choncubhair (RefreSCAR)



**Policy Brief**  
**Resilient Bioeconomy in the Context of Polycrisis**  
SCAR Bioeconomy Working Group

**SCAR**  
Standing Committee  
on Agricultural Research

**SCAR Bioeconomy**  
Working Group

# Outlook from the Global Bioeconomy Summit

Patrick Barrett



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

# Global Bioeconomy Summit 2026

Friday, 4 September 2026 - Online

SCAR Bioeconomy Working Group

# Global Bioeconomy Summit 2026: Dublin, Ireland



## Key points:

- 20–21 October 2026, Convention Centre Dublin.
- Organised by the International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy with the Government of Ireland.
- Part of Ireland's Programme for the Presidency of the Council of the EU.
- Opportunity to position the bioeconomy as a practical delivery tool for climate, nature, food, energy, industry and rural/regional development.

## Key Message:

- GBS 2026 is a Presidency platform to move from bioeconomy ambition to delivery.
- **Registration | Global Bioeconomy Summit 2026**



# Bioeconomy: from policy ambition to implementation



## Key points:

- EU and Member States are seeking scalable biobased solutions and technologies for competitiveness, resilience and sustainability.
- Bioeconomy links agriculture, forestry, marine, food, biotechnology, biomanufacturing, circularity and regional, rural and coastal development.
- Ireland will use GBS 2026 to showcase national and European leadership.
- The Summit aligns with the launch of Ireland's new National Bioeconomy Strategy and EU-level bioeconomy implementation.

## Key Message:

- The bioeconomy connects EU Green Deal, competitiveness, food security, innovation and regional transformation agendas.
- 5 plenary session, 24 workshops & gala dinner (20-21<sup>st</sup> October), 8 site visits (22<sup>nd</sup> October), over 20 satellite events (19<sup>th</sup> October)



# GBS Programme themes for impact



## Key points:

- Innovation from discovery to scale.
- Bioeconomy solutions for global crises and sustainable development.
- Policy, markets and metrics to scale biobased solutions.
- New European and Irish bioeconomy strategies, including global partner perspectives.
- Workshops, networking, exhibition, site visits and demonstration of real-world solutions.

## Key Message:

- The programme is designed around implementation, discovery, investment and uptake, and global vision 2040, not just discussion.



# Ireland as a living bioeconomy demonstrator



## Key points:

- Focus on agri-food, marine, forestry, wool, circular nutrients, biobased materials and industrial biomanufacturing.
- Regional and place-based demonstration initiatives.
- Research, innovation and enterprise pipeline.
- Bioeconomy as a route to rural, coastal and regional opportunity.
- Practical examples such as grass, biochar, fisheries by-products, Irish wool, food waste valorisation and biobased agricultural plastics alongside biomethane.

## Key Message:

- Ireland can show how natural resources, science and enterprise can be connected into sustainable value chains.
- Visit to concrete bioeconomy implementation across the island of Ireland.



# Invitation for EU MS to engage in GBS 2026



## Key points:

- Send senior policy, research, enterprise and stakeholder delegations.
- Use GBS 2026 to share national bioeconomy strategies and implementation models.
- Support cross-border collaboration, investment and market development.
- Engage in workshops, site visits, exhibition and Presidency-linked discussions.
- Help shape practical outcomes for the global and European bioeconomy beyond 2026.

## Key Message:

- Member State participation will be central to turning GBS 2026 into a delivery-focused Presidency milestone.





**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara**  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

# Thank you

Friday, 4 September 2026 - Online  
SCAR Bioeconomy Working Group



# Plans for 2026: What should be next on our agenda?

Martin Behrens



# CBE JU Working Group on Primary Producers Action Plan

John Brosnan



# Action Plan

## CBE JU Working Group on Primary Producers

4 September 2026

John Brosnan (WGPP Chair)

# Why this Working Group?

The WGPP builds on the CBE JU's growing support for the primary sector (€185M invested since 2022).

It was established following a [participatory workshop](#) held on **28 February 2024** in Brussels, which served as a consultation on the proposed objectives, activities, and future membership of the working group.

A [concept note](#) defines the scope, objectives, tasks, 2 main goals and composition of the working group.

A [Decision of the CBE JU Governing Board](#) sets out the [process for the establishment](#) of the WGPP.

## Goal 1

Ensure that primary sectors benefit from the economic, technical, social and environmental opportunities offered by circular and bio-based innovations and solutions supported by long-term sustainable and feasible business models

## Goal 2

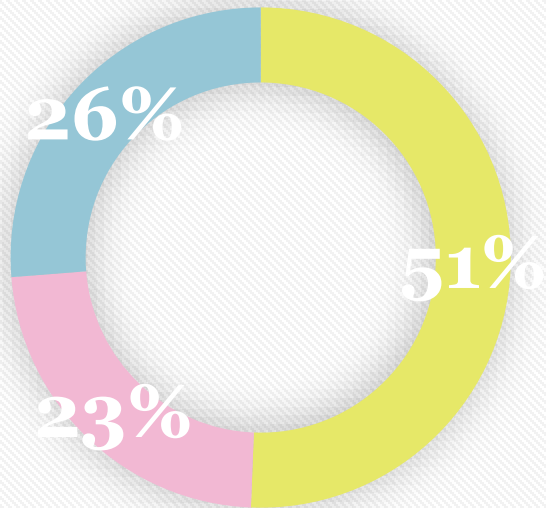
Enhance the role and support an effective and rewarding engagement of primary producers along the circular bio-based systems and value chains

The WGPP was established on 11 June 2025 during its inaugural meeting in Warsaw, Poland.

It is a complementary body (limited to 3 years) to focus on practical challenges and opportunities faced by the primary sector (currently 79 entities involved)

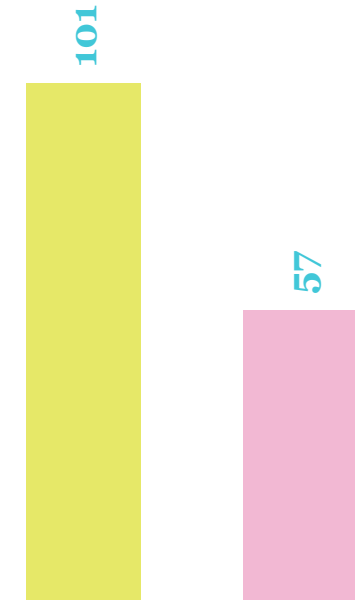
# WGPP Establishment

WGPP composition per sector



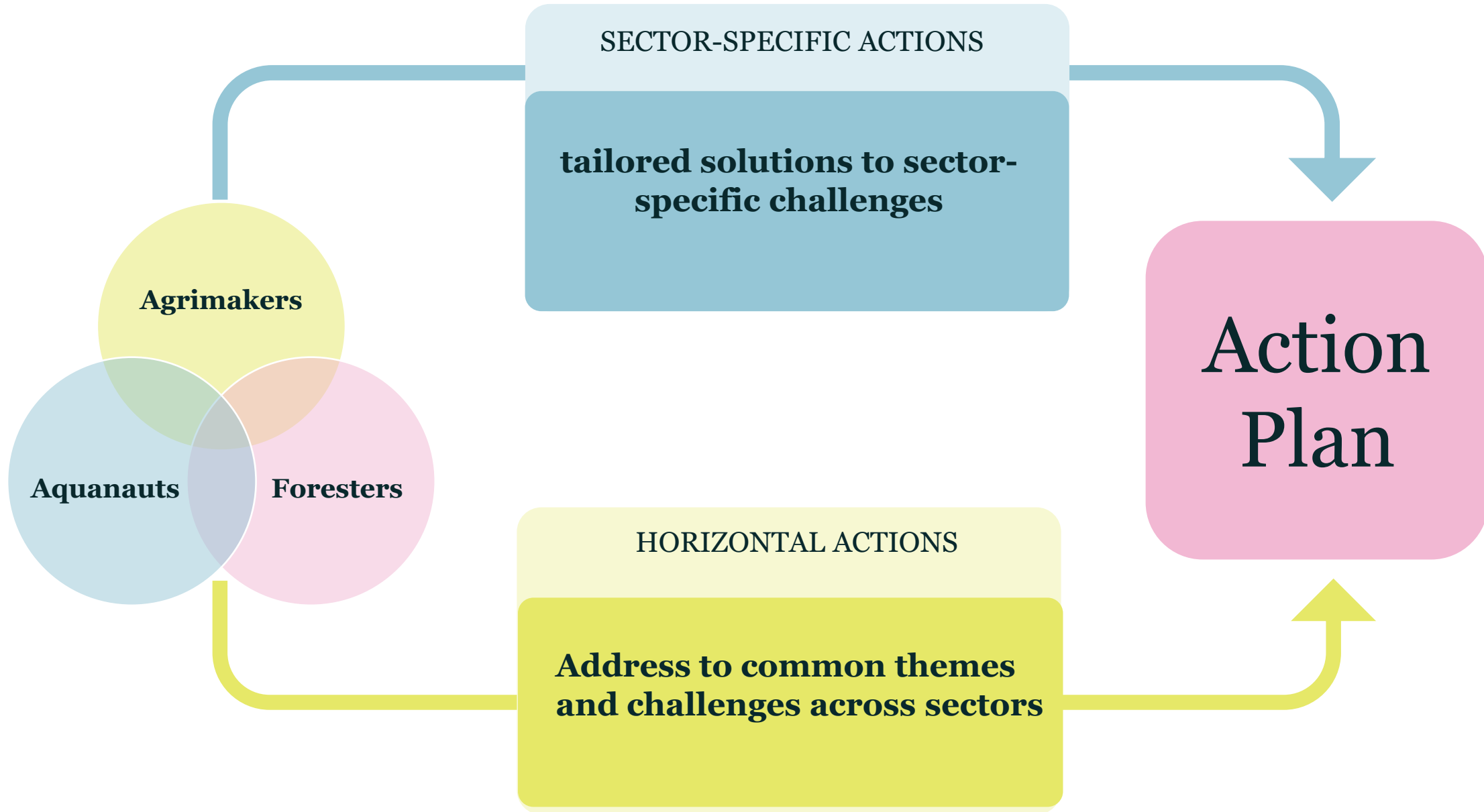
GENDER BALANCE

■ Male ■ Female



- **78 members** (counted as entities) **from 24 countries**
- **17 members are PP or cooperatives of PP**, with the remainder working closely with the sectors
- Gender Balance: **36% female** and **64% male**

# Co-creation logic and objectives



# Main Achivement: Action Plan co-created

|                 |                                           | Agriculture                                                              | Fisheries and Aquaculture                 | Forestry                                           |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| sector-specific | Supporting tools for business development | A1 –Agri Bioeconomy Self-Assessment Guide and Demo Initiative            | B1 – Aquatic Bioeconomy Solutions Toolkit | F1 - Forest Biomass Valorisation and Business Hub  |
|                 | Knowledge sharing and collaboration       | A2 –Access Pathways to Joint Agriculture - Bio-Based Industrial Projects | B2 – Aquatic Bioeconomy Connect Series    | F2 - European Forum on the Forest-Based Bioeconomy |
| horizontal      | Integrated advisory services              | H1 –Circular Bioeconomy Advisory Hub                                     |                                           |                                                    |
|                 | Models of organisational cooperation      | H2 - From Individual Producers to Collective Power                       |                                           |                                                    |

RootLinks supports the development and implementation of the Action Plan from April 2025 to March 2029.



# Action Plan: Cross-cutting principles

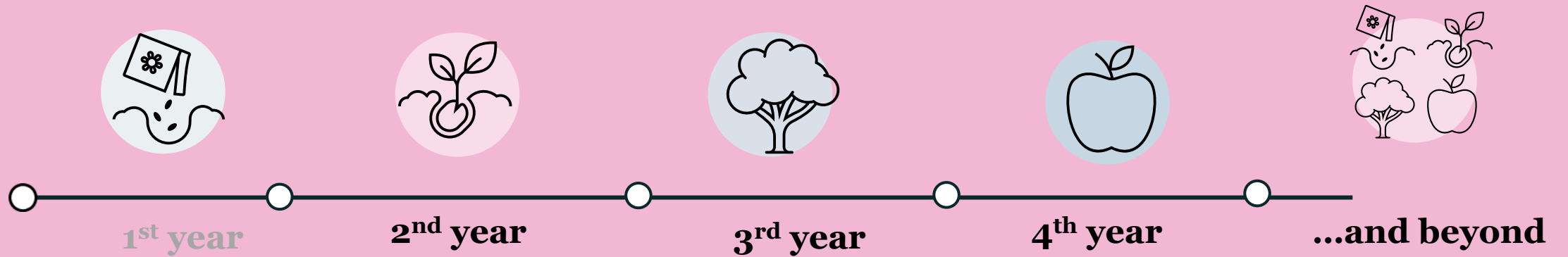
|                               |                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Synergies</b>              | Links actions to existing initiatives, networks and events to build on existing knowledge, avoid duplication and increase reach. |
| <b>Balanced participation</b> | Involves primary producers across sectors, regions and climatic zones, while identifying representation gaps.                    |
| <b>Widening participation</b> | Strengthens involvement from underrepresented countries and regions in line with the CBE JU Widening Strategy.                   |
| <b>Long-term access</b>       | Develops practical, replicable outputs and make them available through RootLinks and relevant external platforms and networks.   |



# Practical outcomes of the Action Plan?

| Action                                                                           | Practical Outcome/ Impact                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>H1 – Circular Bioeconomy Advisory Hub</b>                                     | Training programme, expert workshops, and a practical advisory toolkit for primary producers |
| <b>H2 – From Individual Producers to Collective Power</b>                        | Capacity-building workshops, peer-learning activities, and collaboration toolkit             |
| <b>A1– Agri Bioeconomy Self-Assessment Guide and Demo Initiative</b>             | Self-assessment guide and online repository of bioeconomy best practices                     |
| <b>A2 – Access Pathways to Joint Agriculture - Bio-Based Industrial Projects</b> | New partnerships and replicable cooperation models                                           |
| <b>B1 – Aquatic Bioeconomy Solutions Toolkit</b>                                 | Practical toolkit and permanent online resource for blue bioeconomy opportunities            |
| <b>B2 – Aquatic Bioeconomy Connect Series</b>                                    | Matchmaking events, strengthened stakeholder networks, and long-term online resources        |
| <b>F1 – Forest Biomass Valorisation and Business Hub</b>                         | Knowledge hub for underutilized forest biomass pathways and decision-support tool            |
| <b>F2 – European Forum on the Forest-Based Bioeconomy</b>                        | European knowledge-sharing and networking platform                                           |

# Timeline



- WGPP gives inputs & insights..
- WGPP comments and validates
- Consultation with regional bodies
- Consultation with industry

- **Endorsement of Action Plan by CBE JU**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Workshop at GBS 2026, Dublin**
- **Start: Implementation Oct 2026**

**Uptake and longterm ownership: Call for Financial Support of Third Parties**



# AOB (e.g. News from the Members & Member States)

Martin Behrens

# End of Meeting