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Public consultation on Horizon 2020 'Food Security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy' Work Programme 2018-2020

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

HORIZON 2020 SOCIETAL CHALLENGE 2 STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATION 2016

Building on the first two Horizon 2020 work programmes 2014-2015 and 2016-2017, this consultation will feed into the preparation of the next work programme.

This will enable a more integrated approach, particularly important for areas that cut across different Horizon 2020 parts and for linking key enabling technologies to their application in addressing societal challenges and vice versa.

In particular, the consultation is aimed at providing input towards the priority setting for EU research and innovation funding on the most relevant and urgent challenges for Food and Nutrition Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research as well as the bio-based industries and the Bioeconomy in the coming years, identifying the main opportunities and bottlenecks, as well as highlighting possible outputs and defining criteria to measure success.

Stakeholders should quote where relevant any available evidence such as foresight and other assessments of research and innovation trends and market opportunities.

With regard to agricultural research (activity 2.1 of the specific programme for Societal Challenge 2), the present consultation will be complemented with results obtained through recent stakeholder engagement via online surveys and events, notably in the context of a major conference held in January 2016[1].

[1] Conference: "Designing the path: A strategic approach to EU agricultural research and innovation", 26 – 28 January 2016

Information about the respondent

*1 Are you responding to this questionnaire on behalf of/as:

A network of organisations

*2 Please enter your name or the name of your organisation:

Text of 1 to 300 characters will be accepted

Martina Conton, Policy Advisor answering on behalf of the European Biogas Association (EBA)

*3 Please enter your e-mail address (this data will not be made public):

conton@european-biogas.eu

*4 Please indicate the type of organisation represented:

Non-research commercial sector including SMEs

*6 Transparency Register ID

If you are answering as an organisation/institution, please provide your Register ID number. If your organisation/institution responds without being registered, the Commission will consider its input as that of an individual and as such, will publish it separately.

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*7 Have you or your organisation applied for funding under the current and/or any previous EC Framework Programmes for Research (e.g. H2020, FP7, FP6)?

Yes

*8 If so, please specify under which programme(s) (e.g. FP7 - KBBE)

H2020, IEE

*9 Please enter your country of residence or where your organisation is based.

Belgium

*11 Language of your contribution

English

*12 Do you agree to your contribution being published under your name or the name of your organisation?

Note that whatever option is chosen, your contribution may still be subject to requests for 'access to documents' under Regulation 1049/2001[1]

Explanations about the Protection of Personal Data are available on: http://ec.europa.eu/geninfo/legal_notices_en.htm#personaldata

My contribution can be published including my personal information / name of my organisation

*13 Gender (this data will not be made public but used for statistical purposes only)

Female

*14 Year of birth - e.g. 1975 (this data will not be made public but used for statistical purposes only)

1986

Open questions

15 What are the challenges in the areas covered by Societal Challenge 2 that require urgent action under the Work Programme 2018-2020?

1,000 character(s) maximum

Resource efficiency and climate mitigation: When applied to the agricultural and bioenergy sectors, the concrete challenges ahead are the emissions mitigation from agroresidues and wastes, avoidance of soil depletion, lower application of fossil inputs in fertilisation and energy, increase of rotations through all year round fields covering. Anaerobic digestion (AD) contributes to the complex task of balancing climate mitigation, resource efficiency in sustainable agriculture and energy supply thanks to a decentralised valorisation of organic content of waste, generation of renewable energy and use of digestate as an organic fertiliser. Investigation on recycling process, especially on the development of technologies and innovative processes which enlarge the spectrum of substrates suitable for biogas are needed. The adaptation of catch crops, sequestration process and mineralisation to the different composition of soils and typicality of climates across EU are equally to be tested.

16 What are the desired output and long term-impacts that could be foreseen for Societal Challenge 2? Which innovation aspects would be needed to respond to our societal needs and market development within the next 5-7 years?

1,000 character(s) maximum

Industrial symbiosis: To fully integrate innovative process of recyclability, sustainable energy generation and efficiency in the long term, industrial symbiosis needs to be supported. This means engaging traditionally separate industries and processes in a collective approach to take mutual advantage. The application of biogas and biomethane in heating, electricity and transport sectors is a successful example. They contribute to decarbonise the transportation modalities which do not have any electrification alternative, compensate fluctuations from power supply, facilitating the RES and power-to-gas technologies penetration. There is research potential on next generation upgrading techniques, on added value processes linked to biomethane facilities as well as on energy efficiency measures enhancing cost-efficiency. A huge potential lies on changes in organic waste collection systems, reducing food waste and removing organic materials from inefficient landfilling and thermal treatment.

17 In the areas covered by Societal Challenge 2, which gaps (scientific and technological, innovation, markets, policy, societal) and potential game-changers, including the role of the public and private sectors in accelerating changes, need to be taken into account?

1,000 character(s) maximum

Stakeholders as game-changers: Societal participation through involvement of all stakeholders as responsibility takers will steer the change and remove those obstacles to deploy innovation. Stakeholders not only need to be informed, but should instead be consulted to deliver input to the process and, in some extent, be co-decision makers. This participatory process has strong positive spillovers, especially in terms of removal of technical and non-technical barriers and filling-in the gaps to allow full potential deployment. In the case of Anaerobic Digestion and gasification this refers to public acceptance of biogas production at local level and reduction of fragmentation, especially in developing EU regions. It also relates to the need of a common European market for grid injection and internal borders trading of biomethane as transport fuel. In addition, the current European mass-balancing requirements do not take into account the specifics of the gaseous biofuel.

18 Which of the areas covered by Societal Challenge 2 could benefit from integration of horizontal aspects such as the social sciences and humanities, responsible research and innovation, gender aspects, and climate and sustainable development?

1,000 character(s) maximum

Climate and sustainable development for a long-term and stable growing process: Supporting R&D to improve the production and use of biogas and biomethane means supporting several benefits across EU economy and environments thanks to the increasing share of sustainable bioenergy and organic fertiliser issued from sustainable agricultural techniques. Biomethane is a domestically produced energy source that revitalises rural areas with green jobs. It can be produced from any organic material contributing to the EU climate targets and improving air quality while fossil fuels are replaced, particulate and NOX emissions are reduced. Social aspects: Our sector puts a lot of efforts on constant dissemination and education by involving young generations, students and young farmers in training and growing trials. This is part of the wider involvement of stakeholders and strong sector commitment not only to optimise processes, but also to give them correct implementation through its operators.

Closed questions

19 Agriculture is a crucial sector when it comes to tackling major challenges such as food security, safeguarding natural resources, protecting climate as well as the development of food/non-food industries and rural areas. A number of cross-cutting issues are suggested to implement a broad research agenda which takes into account the numerous challenges as well as the diversity and different needs of the agricultural sector. Please categorise the following list of issues according to their relevance for delivering innovations in agriculture and rural areas (1= low relevance; 2= relevant; 3 = highly relevant):

| | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Focus on "systems approaches", i.e. taking into account dynamic interactions of the different components of systems and value chains (e.g. agro-ecosystems, food value chain) at various temporal and spatial scales. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Focus on "smart" innovations, i.e. delivering tailor-made solutions and capitalising on specificities of local conditions (e.g. taking advantage of novel ICT driven tools) | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Promote co-creation of knowledge as well as new mechanisms and models of knowledge exchange (i.e. partnerships between science, farming, other businesses, consumers) | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Promote Open data to drive knowledge creation, management and sharing | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Foster science-policy and science- societal interfaces at all stages of the research and innovation cycle (agenda setting, activity implementation, outreach activities) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Foster international cooperation | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

20 What is the most pressing marine challenge to be addressed through research and innovation in the next Work Programme:

Upscaling and commercialising innovations from marine products and services?

21 Food and nutrition security is about building sustainable 'Food systems', which include the entire 'value chain' from inputs (land, soil, water), to primary production (agriculture, aquaculture & fisheries), harvesting, storage, processing, packaging, distribution, waste streams, to consumer intake - and back. Food and nutrition security goes beyond the production of sufficient food for all, but also respond to the need to provide safe and nutritious food for healthy and sustainable diets. Please rank each of these food and nutrition security priorities in order of importance with respect to future research and innovation needs (1= most important; 2= highly important; 3= slightly important; 4= least important):

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Reducing hunger and malnutrition, addressing food safety and diet-related illnesses, and helping citizens adopt sustainable diets and healthy lives | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| Building a climate and global change-resilient primary production system | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

| | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Implementing sustainability and circular economy principles across the whole food system | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Boosting innovation and investment, while empowering communities | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

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