

13 January 2020

**FARM TO FORK STRATEGY ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
DRAFT ACTION PLAN**

The measures presented in this action plan will all need to be taken forward in line with the better regulation principles, including evaluations and impact assessments as appropriate

PART I – ACTIONS RELATED TO THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY	Timetable	N°
Making food production more sustainable		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce dependency on chemical pesticides: <u>Revise</u> the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive with the aim to reduce the use and risk of chemical pesticides and stimulate the take-up of low-risk pesticides and non-chemical alternatives to the use of pesticides; <u>Improve the implementation</u> of the approval and authorisation systems for pesticides and facilitate market access for low-risk and biological active substances and products. 	2020-2022	1.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce dependency on fertilisers: Reduce the use of fertilisers by setting out a strategy on how to optimise the use of nutrients in agriculture, enhance efficiency, reduce losses all along the food chain and enhance circularity, <u>if necessary through legislative measures</u> 		2.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seeds contributing to agricultural biodiversity and climate resilience: <u>Revise</u> the legal framework on the marketing of seeds and other plant reproductive material to facilitate variety registration and light market access of traditional and local adapted varieties contributing to agricultural biodiversity and climate resilience; establish an appropriate variety registration regime for varieties suitable for organic cultivation; extend, as part of the existing registration system of plant varieties, the current criteria on “value for cultivation and use” (VCU) to include elements on sustainability. <u>Revise</u> the Directive on the marketing of forest reproductive material to ensure the availability of forest reproductive material with a high genetic diversity adapted to climate change and ensuring resilient forests capturing carbon gases emitted during agri-food production 	2020-2024	3.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce the use of antimicrobials in agriculture: Adopt EU <u>implementing and delegated acts</u> (under the new medicated feed and veterinary medicinal products Regulations 2019/4 and 2019/6 containing concrete restrictions for prescription and use of antimicrobials for prevention and a complete ban on the use of antimicrobials in animals for promoting growth) to establish a list of antimicrobials reserved for human use and drawing up a list of antimicrobials that cannot be used off-label, limits for residues of antimicrobials in feed, requirements for animals or products of animal origin exported from third countries and methods for data gathering and reporting on the sales and use of antimicrobials. 		4.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve animal welfare: - Evaluate the existing animal welfare legislation and, in the meantime, <u>boost enforcement</u> of existing legislation <u>including through legislative initiatives</u> (tertiary legislation under the Officials Controls Regulation). - <u>Designate a third EU reference centre</u> for the welfare of ruminants and equids. - <u>Scale-up current activities including through CAP tools</u> (conditionality rules and interventions under rural development pillar) and through the development of animal welfare indicators. - Following the results of the evaluation of existing legislation, <u>possibly prepare legislative proposals for improving animal welfare.</u> - Reinforce actions to promote animal welfare at global level. 		5.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stimulate the production of more sustainable feed materials and food: - <u>Revise the Feed Additive Regulation</u> with the aim to authorise more innovative feed additives which improve sustainability of livestock farming. - <u>Adapt Regulations on Feed Marketing, Animal By-Products and Transmissible</u> 	2020-2024	6.

<p>Spongiform Encephalopathies to facilitate the use of more sustainable feed materials including protein feed, such as (by-) products from the bio-economy, new substrates for insects, feed from the oceans, novel animal proteins and biomass from microbial fermentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Revise the legislation on feed labelling to integrate “green claims”.</u> - Adopt the EU Protein Report to examine ways to further develop production and markets of EU-grown plant and other proteins, including aquatic plants (e.g. algae) and insects, for feed and food purposes. - <u>Provide scientific and technical guidance</u> in order to promote production and processing of alternative sources of protein in the EU. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marketing standards: <u>Evaluate and revise</u> the marketing standards for food products, including for fishery and aquaculture products, to enable the EU market to be supplied with sustainable products 		7.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen the ambition of Member States on sustainable food production: Establish an appropriate framework and arrangements under the post-2020 Common Agricultural Policy to ensure that national strategic plans adhere to a concerted and ambitious approach, set ambitious targets and reporting arrangement on delivery on the objectives of the Farm to Fork strategy, including on significant reduction of use and risk of chemical pesticides, on the use of fertilisers and antibiotics, on the use of sustainable practices (such as precision agriculture, organic farming, agro-ecology, agro-forestry) and stricter animal welfare standards. 		8.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organic farming: Support transition and maintenance of organic farming in the EU and develop a new action plan on organics for 2021-2026 to enhance the role of organic farming in fighting climate change, to stimulate the overall demand of organic products and ensure consumer trust, and to stimulate producers to adhere to the scheme. 		9.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support primary producers in the transition: - <i>(To be discussed further/Competition policy)</i> Grant exemptions under Article 101(3) of the TFEU to allow actors in a sector to work together – if their intentions are honourable – for example to promote sustainability in supply chains by discussing how to raise incomes and wages of primary producers. - <u>Revise the legislative framework to strengthen the system of geographical indications</u>, as a key part of maintaining high food quality and standards and ensuring that our cultural, gastronomic and local heritage is preserved and certified as authentic across the world. - <u>Develop an "EU Carbon Farming manual"</u> to quantify emission reductions and carbon removals in farms and forestry systems as a basis for result-based payments (e.g. under CAP support) and for labelling; - <u>Reinforce advisory services to fishers and to farmers</u> for providing technological and scientific advice on sustainable production, including through the development of a Farm Sustainability Data Network, built on the current Farm Accountancy Data Network, aimed at enriching it with environmental data collected on farms, with a view to monitoring not only the economic results of EU farms but also their sustainability results. - Ensure equality of access to education and training as part of the EU Skills Agenda and the European Education Area. 		10.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant health: <u>Strengthen vigilance on imports of plants in the EU: step up monitoring of the Union territory</u> for early detection of dangerous pests through harmonised survey plans; update rules on most dangerous pests (imports, eradication, containment); <u>establish harmonised rules on post-import controls</u>; <u>update rules on the traceability of most risky plants.</u> 	2020-2024	11.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess the potential role of new genomic techniques: <u>Assess</u> the status of new genomic techniques under Union law, including their potential to improve sustainability along the food chain, particularly in primary production and food processing. Subsequently, and <u>if appropriate, follow up by submitting a proposal</u> (accompanied by an impact assessment) or any other measure 		12.

Stimulate sustainable food processing, retail, hospitality and food services' practices		
- Seek commitments for sustainable food processing and retail practices: <u>Develop EU Principles for responsible business conduct</u> in the food supply chain, including commitments for sustainable practices (e.g. limit the use of packaging; increase sustainable sourcing and sustainability of transport and logistics; improve the nutritional contribution of foods (less sugar, salt, fat); reduce the environmental footprint of food; adhere to a marketing code of conduct concerning food high in fat, salt and sugar).		13
- Reduce over-packaging and improve the sustainability of packaging: <u>Reinforce the essential requirements in the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive</u> with a view to reducing over-packaging (reduction target proposal by mid-2021) as well as meeting the Plastic Strategy commitment; <u>Review the EU legislation on Food Contact Materials</u> with a focus on legislative developments aimed at improving their sustainability (new materials, safe recycling) as part of a future-proof system that puts increased responsibility onto industry	2021	14

Promote sustainable food consumption, facilitating the shift towards healthy, sustainable diets		
- Empower consumers to make sustainable food choices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <u>Harmonise front-of-pack nutrition labelling</u> and explore the possibility to make it mandatory o <u>Require origin</u> indication for milk and for milk and meat as ingredient o <u>Develop an EU wide label</u> that reflects the environmental and climate footprint of food products o <u>Consider</u> different ways of informing consumers on animal welfare throughout the food chain beyond minimum legal requirements o <u>Explore</u> the possibility to provide some food information by digital means and, if appropriate, follow-up by adopting the relevant measures as foreseen in the Food Information to Consumers Regulation o <u>Develop a single sustainable food logo</u>, integrating nutritional, environmental and social aspects. 		15
- Sustainable dietary guidelines: <u>Develop EU-wide sustainable dietary guidelines</u> considering both environmental impacts and nutritional quality, based on a life cycle perspective, to support EU policy decisions and design of effective information and educational tools.	2021-2027	16
- Promote healthy and sustainable diets: Promote sustainable food and diets (including consumption of fruit and vegetables), in particular in schools, hospitals and other public organisations, e.g. through <u>review of EU school schemes</u> and effective use of the EU guidance on green public procurement and on public procurement of food for health. Analyse the possibility to define compulsory targets; <u>Revise the Public Procurement Directives</u> (e.g. application of a new Sustainable Public Food Procurement guide, ensuring that other aspects beyond costs can be considered when awarding public contracts).		17
- Health and environmental costs of food: <u>Launch a project</u> in 2014 to quantify in economic terms, the environmental and societal costs associated with the production and consumption of the most important food products on the European market.		18

Reduce food loss and waste		
- Implement the new EU action plan on food loss and waste.	2020-2024	19

Combat food fraud and strengthen enforcement and controls along the agri-food chain

- Implement the EU Action Plan on Food fraud	2020-2024	20.
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Seek commitments to ensure transition to sustainable food systems globally

- Bilateral agreements: <u>Ensure</u> the inclusion of ambitious sustainable food related provisions in all relevant EU bilateral agreements; Ensure that every ongoing and future trade agreement has an ambitious chapter on trade and sustainable development		21.
- International cooperation: <u>Reinforce</u> cooperation on policies and activities on sustainable food systems in international fora (FAO, UNEP, WHO, WTO, OECD, OIE, Codex Alimentarius, IPPC, UPOV and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture), for example actively engage in the FAO/IAEA actions on “Sustainable Animal Production and Health” and shape the global agenda against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as enshrined in the respective One Health Action Plan; Contribute to the global efforts to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in a more holistic way by proposing a recommendation on AMR in plant health to the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention and by including plant health in the scope of the EU One Health Initiative; Communication on ‘Accelerating EU action towards food security for all and ending all forms of malnutrition’ will present concrete actions on international cooperation to promote sustainable food systems.		22.

PART II – ACTIONS RELATED TO THE ENABLERS OF THE STRATEGY
(following selection of the most important actions, this part will be moved to the body of the text)

Inclusive and transparent processes to ensure policy coherence and the multi-level involvement of stakeholders

Governance		
- Establish appropriate governance mechanism to ensure cooperation across governance levels and coordination with Member States, regional and local authorities and other relevant stakeholders		23.
- <u>Develop a scientific framework and methodologies</u> to support policy makers and stakeholders in assessing the sustainability of food products, processes and systems.	2020-2021	24.
- <u>Establish a “virtual One Health/Sustainability Agency”</u> (increased inter-agencies cooperation) to advise on regulatory science with a focus on risk analysis frameworks/methodologies that would be able to address trade-offs (e.g. methodologies for risk-benefit analysis of the impact of options/innovation in human health, environment, climate), thus providing advice to support policy-making		25.
Expertise		
- <u>Establish a high level expert group</u> to advise on designing a coherent EU policy framework to achieve a just and timely transition to sustainable food systems, which enhances synergies, anticipates trade-offs and supports all players (as for Sustainable Finance). <i>[mandate to be further defined in the light of pending SAM advice]</i>	Q2 2020	26.
Analysis and review of existing EU policies relevant to sustainable food systems		
- <u>Develop a Better Regulation tool</u> specific for food products/production to ensure appropriate, comprehensive assessment of the impact of food systems regulations on sustainability objectives as defined in the strategy. Establish a multi-annual plan for the screening and sustainability proofing of food chain legislation		27.
Engagement with communities and citizens		
- <u>Provide support to communities</u> , as key actors for the creation of sustainable food value chains, in the context of the [forthcoming] “European Climate Pact” initiative. Actions on sustainable food systems would aim at (for instance): maintenance of agrobiodiversity including the creation of community seeds banks, agroforestry and agroecology practices, farmer-based knowledge sharing systems, strengthening direct food supply chains from producers to consumers.		28.
Member States		
- <u>Encourage Member States</u> to integrate food sustainability (including food waste prevention) in National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) to support achievement of climate targets		29.
Knowledge sharing, research, innovation and financial investments to provide solutions for sustainable food systems and market opportunities		
Actions on EU R&I funding for sustainable food systems		
- <u>Develop 'Food 2030' R&I actions</u> to be supported under Horizon Europe (2021-2027) and beyond, targeting solutions for (1) climate mitigation and adaptation (e.g. dietary shift and alternative proteins from land and sea, new genomic techniques for climate-resistant crops); (2) environment (e.g. prevention/detection/control tools against pests, agro-ecological approaches); (3) health (e.g. food safety and traceability systems of the		30.

future); (4) circularity (e.g. food waste valorisation, food additives or food contact materials for longer shelf life of food, sustainable packaging); (5) communities (e.g. urban food systems); (6) governance (e.g. building synergies with other funds, education and skills); (7) food fraud (e.g. development of early warning systems and of artificial intelligence tools for better prevention and detection of fraud for food business operators)		
- In addition, <u>develop an R&I roadmap</u> for actions to be supported under Horizon Europe on sustainable food from farm to fork, focusing amongst others on farmers		31.
- Under Horizon Europe, also <u>launch and support</u> the 'Soil Health and Food Mission' aiming to raise awareness on the importance of soils, engage with citizens, create knowledge and develop solutions for restoring soil health and soil functions		32.
- <u>Support under Horizon Europe</u> , a public-private partnership on “Safe and Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet and Climate”, which would provide an important platform for engagement in support of the “Farm to Fork” process		33.
Action to share and communicate R&I activities		
- <u>Create a Commission knowledge management</u> tool (e.g. Observatory, virtual Knowledge Centre) on sustainable food systems to share and communicate the different activities (mainly R&I) that have been done/are being done/will be done contributing to the objectives of the Farm to Fork strategy.	Q2 2020	34.
Action to support the uptake of new technologies		
- <u>Develop and implement</u> an action plan (linking the Digital Education Action Plan, Horizon Europe, CAP and EMFF) to support innovation and the take up of new technology across the food chain, including in the farming sector and to tackle the digital divide		35.
- <u>Support through Horizon Europe</u> , large-scale local demonstrators in areas relevant to food system digitalization and decarbonisation		36.
- <u>Support through Horizon Europe</u> demonstration actions to close nutrient cycles (reduce agricultural losses to air, water and soil) and for sustainable water abstraction for agriculture.		37.
Action on leveraging EU funding and stimulating investments		
- <u>Pursue</u> the further development of synergies between the CAP and Horizon Europe through the European Innovation Partnership AGRI.		38.
- <u>Use the Single Market Programme</u> to support the transition towards sustainable food systems. Examples include actions on dietary guidelines, actions on food loss and waste, actions against animal diseases and plant pests as well as actions to support the safe production of food, improving animal welfare and official controls.	2021-2027	39.
- <u>Provide financial support</u> for sustainable food systems through the structural funds and smart specialisation strategies		40.
- <u>Finance demonstration</u> projects through the LIFE Programme addressing emissions in the food value chain and food production that offers environmental services.		41.
- <u>Direct future calls</u> of the Innovation Fund towards innovative solutions for decreasing emissions and increasing climate adaptation along the food value chain (e.g. transport, installation of renewable energy)		42.
Development of a framework to monitor and evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the strategy including through measurement of the environmental footprint of the food value chain		
- <u>Develop a monitoring framework</u> for the strategy, including benchmarks and milestones to follow on delivery of the strategy’s objectives. The framework would include tools allowing to measure the environmental footprint of the food value chain (e.g. impacts on pollution, natural resources, biodiversity, climate), and key performance indicators.	2021	43.