

Press release

18th of March 2024

Plants for the Future ETP (Plant ETP)'s Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture releases its Policy Brief "Paving the Way Towards an Innovation-Friendly Environment in the EU - A Case Study on Enabling R&I for Biological Solutions".

This Policy Brief aims to raise awareness of how EU implementation regulation can sometimes contradict high level policy goals, highlighting the example of the challenges faced by biological solutions, as potential low risk alternatives to chemical plant protection solutions.

The EU Green Deal's Farm to Fork Strategy aims to halve the use and risk of chemical pesticides, or plant protection solutions, in agricultural production systems by 2030, with a particular emphasis on promoting low risk plant protection solutions, such as biologicals. Despite this, biological solutions encounter significant challenges due to limited knowledge and understanding of their mode of action, lack of clear definitions and limited capacity for competent authorities, resulting in approval processes that can take up to 10 years. This prolonged process not only restricts the availability of alternative PPS but also creates uncertainty for developers, especially SMEs and start-ups, discouraging investment and stifling innovation in the EU.

While acknowledging the steps that are already being taken by the EU Commission to improve the current situation, Plant ETP suggests a series of strategic recommendations in the short term to streamline the approval process and, in the mid to long term, create a more conducive environment for innovation in the EU.

"This Policy Brief underlines the critical need for more flexible and adaptive regulation in the EU, as well as better interactions between relevant authorities and the researchers and developers. This is essential to keep pace with scientific and technological developments and create an innovation-friendly environment enabling the transition towards more sustainable and resilient agri-food systems in the EU." explains Amrit Nanda, the Executive manager of Plants for the Future ETP.

Download the Policy Brief [here](#).

Plants for the Future ETP

Plants for the Future ETP (Plant ETP) is a multi-stakeholder European Technology Platform representing the plant sector, from the seed and breeding sector, the farming community and academia. Plant ETP brings stakeholders from the plant sector together to consider the challenges and opportunities of agricultural value chains in a holistic way, while developing a vision for future systems spanning food, feed, and biobased raw materials. In this way, Plant ETP provides strategic direction, recommendations of essential research and innovation, and science-based advice for the benefit of policymakers, research funding providers, practitioners, and innovators throughout agricultural value chains.