

PRESS RELEASE

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Plant ETP Contributes to the European Commission’s Consultation on the Future EU Agricultural R&I Strategy

Plants for the Future European Technology Platform (Plant ETP) has contributed to the European Commission’s consultation on the new Strategic Approach to Agricultural Research & Innovation (R&I), which will guide future EU investments to ensure a competitive, sustainable, and resilient agrifood sector.

In our submission, Plant ETP highlighted the essential role of plant science, plant breeding, and innovation driven crop improvement in addressing Europe’s long-term challenges, including climate resilience, food and biomass security, and the transition to a circular bioeconomy. We stressed that a futureproof R&I strategy must fully recognise plant breeding as a key enabler of improved crop performance, resource efficiency, and diversified biobased value chains. Plant ETP underlined that plant breeding is a key driver of sustainable, resilient, and multipurpose crop development, essential for Europe’s food security, sovereignty and biobased value chains. We have also uploaded our Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) and the infographic “*Plant breeding is at the heart of the agrifood value chain*” as supporting documents.

Strengthening Cooperation for Future-Proofing EU Agrifood Systems

As the consultation specifically addresses how to “*futureproof EU agrifood systems through research and innovation*,” Plant ETP emphasised that strong EU level cooperation is essential to achieving this goal. We highlighted the need to build on public–private partnerships, and revalorising European Technology Platforms, which provide stable frameworks for aligning research priorities, sharing expertise, and accelerating innovation across the value chain.

Looking Ahead

Plant ETP will continue working with EU institutions, Member States, and stakeholders to ensure that plant innovation remains central to Europe’s future R&I agenda. Strengthening the role of plant breeding and plant science in upcoming EU strategies will be crucial for delivering resilient agriculture, vibrant rural areas, and a competitive European bioeconomy. The full Plant ETP contribution to the consultation is available to our members in the [Members’ Hub](#).

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 chain.

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