

PRESS RELEASE

6 MAY 2026

European Technology Platforms Call for Stronger Recognition of Agriculture and Food in EU Competitiveness and Research Policy

Five European Technology Platforms (ETPs) including Plants for the Future, together with 9 signatories from the agri-food sector, call on the European Parliament and the Council to recognise agriculture and food systems as a strategic and enabling sector within the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) and the 10th EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme (Horizon Europe).

In the context of geopolitical instability, climate pressure and economic uncertainty, agriculture and food systems are essential to Europe's competitiveness, resilience and food security, and provide the foundation for key bio-based and manufacturing value chains.

The ETPs warn that these sectors risk being underrepresented in emerging competitiveness instruments. Although seemingly technical, such choices have clear strategic implications, as EU programme framing determines priorities and political visibility.

ETPs and signatories therefore urge EU institutions to explicitly include agriculture, bioeconomy and food systems in the title of Policy Window 2 of the European Competitiveness Fund and Horizon Europe, and to ensure adequate funding and balanced stakeholder representation.

The signatories remain available to support policymakers with further dialogue and technical input.

Read the joint statement [here](#).

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.