

Plant ETP Statement on the EU Action Plan for Resilience, Strategic Autonomy and Sustainability of the EU Protein System (2026)

Brussels, 16th of July 2026

Plants for the Future ETP welcomes the European Commission's Action Plan for Resilience, Strategic Autonomy and Sustainability of the EU Protein System. At a time of increasing geopolitical uncertainty, climate pressures and supply chain vulnerabilities, the Action Plan provides a framework to strengthen Europe's protein autonomy, resilience and competitiveness while supporting a more resilient and sustainable EU protein system.

We welcome the Action Plan's recognition that expanding sustainable EU protein production requires coordinated action across research and innovation, farming systems, value chains and market development. References to crop innovation, plant breeding and seed development, alongside recognition of the potential of New Genomic Techniques (NGTs), reflect the importance of research and innovation in strengthening EU protein crop production.

We also welcome the Action Plan's support for expanding European protein crops, including legumes, pulses and soybean, alongside measures to strengthen processing capacity, infrastructure, regional value chains and circular bioeconomy solutions. These actions resonate closely with the Plant ETP Protein Strategy¹ and have the potential to create new opportunities for farmers and increase the value derived from biomass and agricultural co-products. The Action Plan recognises the importance of knowledge transfer, advisory services and collaboration across the value chain.

It also acknowledges the role of collaborative projects, advisory networks, producer organisations and other stakeholders in supporting knowledge exchange and the wider adoption of innovation across the protein system. Many of these priorities align closely with the research and innovation needs identified in the Plants for the Future ETP Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)², particularly in the areas of plant resilience, breeding innovation, nutritional security, bioeconomy development and the effective translation of innovation from research to market.

While welcoming the vision and its overall direction, we remain concerned that it might lack sufficiently concrete measures. In addition, Europe needs a coherent long-term commitment to research and innovation in plant protein production, and dedicated support to promote European agricultural products in domestic and international markets.

Looking ahead, Plants for the Future ETP encourages the European Commission and Member States to ensure that Horizon Europe and its successor framework programme continue to support plant breeding research, protein crop innovation, enabling technologies such as NGTs, and collaborative research and innovation initiatives. We stand ready to support the implementation of the Action Plan through our multi-stakeholder network and to contribute to a science-based, innovation-driven transition towards a more resilient, sustainable and competitive European protein system.

¹ Plants for the Future ETP (2025). An Implementation Strategy for Increasing European Plant Protein Production and Uptake. Brussels: Plants for the Future ETP.

² Plants for the Future ETP. Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda (SRIA), 2025.