

Plants for the Future ETP Welcomes the Commission's New Strategic Approach for AgRI 2040 and Food 2040

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The European Technology Platform Plants for the Future (Plant ETP) welcomes the publication of the European Commission's [New Strategic Approach to Research and Innovation for competitive, resilient and sustainable agriculture, forestry, rural areas and food systems](#), which establishes the AgRI 2040 and Food 2040 frameworks to strengthen the competitiveness, resilience and sustainability of Europe's agri-food sector.

As multi-stakeholder platform bringing together the plant breeding and seed sector, academia, farmers and other innovation actors, we are particularly encouraged by the strong recognition of the role of plant breeding, seeds, plant varieties, genetic resources and biotechnology in addressing the challenges facing European agriculture. The strategy highlights the need to support breeding activities and the development of climate-smart, resource-efficient, resilient and diverse crop varieties capable of responding to climate change, resource constraints and emerging plant health threats.

We are also pleased that the Communication explicitly recognises the contribution of European Technology Platforms (ETPs) in strengthening the innovation ecosystem and supporting the deployment of research and innovation results. The acknowledgement of ETPs as important partners for accelerating innovation uptake reinforces the value of stakeholder-driven collaboration in translating scientific excellence into practical solutions.

The AgRI 2040 framework sends a strong signal that research and innovation are central to ensuring Europe's food security, strategic autonomy and long-term competitiveness. In particular, the dedicated focus on cropping systems and the recognition of plant breeding and biotechnology as key innovation tools provide an important foundation for delivering the sustainable crop solutions needed to meet future challenges.

Plant ETP welcomes the strategic direction outlined in the Communication. However, achieving the objectives of AgRI 2040 and Food 2040 will require a clear commitment to sustained investment. Ambitious policy goals must be matched by dedicated funding for plant research, breeding innovation and technology deployment, ensuring that Europe can continue to deliver climate-resilient crops, sustainable productivity gains and global leadership in agricultural innovation. Plant ETP looks forward to working closely with the European Commission and the wider research and innovation community in the co-creation and implementation of these priorities. We remain available to support this process through the expertise and experience of its diverse membership.