

EIT Food Position on the EU Action Plan for resilience, strategic autonomy and sustainability of the EU protein system

Recommendations

1. Broaden the Protein Action Plan into a whole-food-system approach.

Europe needs to develop a diversified and competitive protein system spanning food and feed, primary production and biomass, processing, infrastructure and biotechnology, through to market creation, growth and consumer uptake. By extending the 2035 target for EU-produced animal feed protein from 25.8% to 35% and including human consumption, the Plan can unlock greater agricultural resilience, food security, and long-term value creation for farmers.

2. Put farmers at the heart of protein diversification by directly linking primary production to higher-value food and bio-based markets.

Integrating protein crops and biotechnology solutions into resilient farming systems could go hand-in-hand with de-risking the transition, ensuring farmers capture fair value, reduce fertiliser dependency, and secure profitable, predictable demand across the entire value chain.

3. Launch an EU Protein Value Chain Partnership.

Bring together farmers, processors, innovators, food and feed actors, researchers, technology providers and investors to identify gaps, develop investable roadmaps and accelerate solutions to scale.

4. Bridge the gap from innovation to scale.

Secure adequate R&I investment in food processing, AI and biotechnology to maintain Europe's innovation leadership. Connect research, skills and entrepreneurship with real-world experimentation, Living Labs and regulatory sandboxes, demonstration and scale-up facilities, and stronger public-private partnerships to build the capacity needed to scale commercially viable agrifood solutions.

5. Build markets alongside scale-up by moving beyond purely voluntary measures.

To create predictable demand and accelerate market uptake, R&I could be complemented with concrete targets for sustainable public procurement, alongside corporate and foodservice commitments, demand aggregation, consumer engagement, and offtake agreements.

6. Connect the EU protein plan with the Biotech Act II and the Fertilizer Action Plan and the wider Vision for Agriculture and Food and Bioeconomy Strategy.

Integrate biosolutions, advanced biotechnology and fermentation to valorise European protein crops, biomass and side-streams, expand food-grade ingredients, support sustainable and healthy diets, and strengthen Europe's strategic autonomy.

WHO WE ARE

EIT Food is growing Europe's food innovation ecosystem to build a healthy, sustainable and resilient food system. We empower innovators and entrepreneurs. We invest in ideas and talent. We create space for science, research, industry, and policymakers to accelerate systemic change across the food sector. Supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology ([EIT](#)), a body of the European Union, EIT Food has been at the forefront of food system innovation in Europe since 2016. We are Europe's largest food innovation ecosystem.

These recommendations have been drafted in collaboration with three EIT Food's Think and Do Tanks (TDTs), focusing on Protein Diversification, Resilient Agriculture and Healthy Ageing. Think and Do Tanks bring EIT Food partners together to understand emerging trends, tackle shared challenges and develop common solutions through joint activities and projects across the agri-food sector.

- **EIT Food Protein Diversification Think and Do Tank**- established in 2022- brings together stakeholders from across the food system, including industry, research, innovators and civil society. The TDT fosters structured dialogue and collaboration to overcome barriers to protein diversification. They co-create evidence-based roadmaps, recommendations and actions. Its mission is to bring **protein diversification to the forefront of relevant policies** and accelerate innovation and adoption across Europe.
- **EIT Food Resilient Agriculture Think and Do Tank** – established in 2025- aims to accelerate the transition towards more resilient agriculture across Europe, contributing to food security, environmental sustainability and viable farmer livelihoods. It brings together stakeholders to identify the **environmental, social and economic barriers and enablers** shaping this transition, while recognising the trade-offs and synergies between these objectives. The Think and Do Tank co-designs practical interventions to enable wider adoption, with a particular focus on **policy action, innovation and transition finance**.
- **EIT Food Healthy Ageing Think and Do Tank** – established in 2024- brings together experts and stakeholders from across Europe to accelerate food system transformation in support of healthier and more active ageing. It identifies gaps, barriers and opportunities and co-creates evidence-based roadmaps, recommendations and actions. Its ambition is to better align the food system with the needs of an ageing population, using food and nutrition to prevent age-related non-communicable diseases and support health and wellbeing throughout life. The Think and Do Tank connects research and innovation, education, policy and advocacy, and cross-sector collaboration to translate knowledge into scalable and accessible solution.