

WHO IS WHO IN THE SCAR AGROECOLOGY WORKING GROUP



Maria Luisa Tello Mariscal (co-chair) - Spain

PhD in Agricultural Engineering, I have been working on scientific research for more than 30 years. I worked as principal researcher and Research Director at Madrid Institute of Agricultural Research (Madrid, Spain). For the last 14 years, I have been working at the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA-CSIC, Madrid, Spain) as Head of the Coordination in Agricultural and Forestry R&D Areas.

Among my functions are the coordination and monitoring of research activities, scientific project evaluation and scientific-technical advice to Spanish policy-makers, i.e. Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry for the Ecological Transition. In this regard, since 2018 I co-coordinate the scientific evaluation of supranational innovation projects and operational groups of the EIP AGRI. In addition, within EJP SOIL, I have been responsible for the Spanish coordination of WP6 and WP7 and I am currently the National Coordinator. Furthermore, since 2016 I coordinate the Spanish participation in the international Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases, mainly in the Croplands and Integrative Research Groups and the Agroecology and Agroforestry flagship. I also acted as co-chair of the Science to Policy working group and I am a member of the Strategic Plan WG.

Finally, I have been involved in the coordination of other EU initiatives such as EUPHRESKO, PRIMA, ERANETs or FACCE-JPI.



Claire Rogel-Gaillard (co-chair) - France

Claire Rogel-Gaillard is Deputy Scientific Director for Agriculture at INRAE and Deputy Director for Research of the Graduate School Biosphera at Paris-Saclay University. She leads the national program "Agroecology and ICT" funded by France 2030 (2023-2030), in coordination with the French National Institute for Research in Digital Science and Technology (Inria). She accompanies large-scale interdisciplinary research programs that promote sustainability and health of livestock systems. As member of the executive committee of the International Phytobiome Alliance, she leads the group on animal microbiomes in a one World One Health perspective.



Dr. Stefano Canali - Italy

Research Council for Agricultural research and Economics, Rome, Italy

Stefano Canali is a Research Director at the Research Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA) in Rome, Italy. He has been actively engaged in organic farming and agroecology research and innovation since the early 1990s.

Over the years, he has contributed to numerous national, transnational, and European research initiatives funded by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, the Italian Ministry of Research, and the European Union Framework Programmes.

Recently, Dr. Canali was involved in the Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action Agroecology for Europe (AE4EU) and is currently serving as the principal scientist for CREA in the Horizon Europe Agroecology Partnership. In addition, he coordinates the riflAEssi project, the Italian National Mirror of the Agroecology Partnership, funded by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests (Masaf).



Susanne Johansson - Sweden

Susanne Johansson holds a PhD in agronomy from the Swedish university of agricultural sciences (SLU) and is a senior research officer at the Swedish research council Formas. As such, her main focus areas are working with international research and innovation collaborations on agricultural sciences. At present Susanne is a national expert for the EU Mission A soil deal for Europe, as well as Vice Chair of the Governing Board of the EU partnership AGROECOLOGY –

Accelerating farming systems transition through agroecology Living Labs and Research Infrastructures. In addition to SCAR Agroecology group, she is also member of SCAR ARCH which focus on internationalisation outside Europe within SCAR's areas and represents Sweden in SCAR Steering Group. Moreover, she is a representative for Sweden in The Nordic Joint Committee for Agriculture and Food Research (NKJ).

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Professor Lidia Sas-Paszt - Poland

Head of the Department of Microbiology and Rhizosphere of The National Institute of Horticultural Research in Poland, has extensive, 35 years, experience in coordination of research and development projects carried out in collaboration with outstanding academic and industrial partners in Poland and abroad. She is specialized in mineral nutrition of horticultural plants, root&rhizosphere research, agroecological cultivation technologies and bio-friendly nutrient management strategies. Developed under the supervision of Prof. Lidia Sas-Paszt biofertilizers and biopreparations, based on Beneficial Microorganisms, are of significant importance for agroecological plant cultivation technologies in agricultural practice. She is working as an expert evaluator of the European Commission(2002-2025). She was a member of the Management Committees & Working Groups of the EC five COST Actions (2000-2020). Author/co-author of 18 implementation offers, 8 patents, 55 biopreparations, 184 scientific publications, 20 book chapters, 409 reports at conferences, 82 popular science publications



Dr. Vasileios Gkisakis - Greece

Agronomist – researcher in ELGO – DIMITRA, Institute of Olive, Subtropical crops & Viticulture (IOSV). Specializing in pomology, olive production, agroecology/organic & sustainable farming systems. Scientific coordinator for several international & regional research projects focusing on agroecological approaches in Mediterranean crop systems. Board member of Agroecology Europe Association. Visiting professor in CIHEAM-MAICh (Sustainable Agriculture MSc programme) and other academic institutions.



Dr Jaswinder Kaur - United Kingdom

Dr Jaswinder Kaur is the Head of Evidence and Analysis at Defra, where she leads multiple teams delivering on the UK Government's strategic commitments related to net-zero, land use and climate change, farming, agroecology, and international partnerships. She serves as the UK delegate to the Global Research Alliance, AIM4C, and the Green ERA Hub.

With over 27 years of experience, Dr Kaur has held roles as the Head of Strategic and International Engagements, Lead scientist, Consultant, Senior Policy Advisor and Team Leader across the environment, farming, fisheries, construction, chemicals, pesticides and hazardous waste sectors. Her contributions have been pivotal to major initiatives including the Fisheries Bill, Environment Bill, UK-EU fisheries negotiations, Nutrient Management Programme, Land Climate Programme, Tetrapartite Working Groups, and Environmental Land Management Schemes that support Environment Act targets and climate objectives.

Dr Kaur chairs ethnic and faith diversity networks across Defra group and represents Defra across the UK Civil Service forums championing equity and inclusivity in diversity. She is advisor to the national and international charities focused on emergency response and rescue operations, including those addressing floods, earthquakes, epidemics and pandemics. Her ethical leadership and public service have been recognised through numerous honours and awards, including Defra awards and invitations to the EU COST actions, Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee, Royal Garden Party, and King Charles III coronation.

A scholar sponsored by Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and Agri-Food Bioscience Institute (AFBI) Northern Ireland, Department for International Development UK, Royal Society of Chemistry, and Society of Chemical Industry, Dr Kaur holds a BSc (Hons) in Agriculture, an MSc in Natural Resources, and a PhD on the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in Northern Ireland



Rosie Beevor - United Kingdom

Science Officer in Agri-Food science team at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Rosie Beevor is a Higher Scientific Officer in the Agri-food Science Chain at Defra. She commissions and oversees the delivery of research to support policy development, with a particular focus on land use, agroecology, and farming resource use efficiency to reduce fertiliser inputs. She is the co-ordinator on international science partnerships for the Agri-Food science team. In past, she supported the Marine Evidence team at Defra.

Rosie holds a BSc (Hons) in Animal Behaviour and Welfare from the Harper Adams University, England.

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Stefano Grando - Italy

Stefano Grando holds a MSc in European Regional Development at the Cardiff University and a PhD in Agrarian Economics at the University of Basilicata. As a lecturer and researcher, he has been working in several EU-funded projects since 2001 with various Universities and research centres in the fields of rural development, agricultural economics and food studies. He has also experience in the field of technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation of regional programmes funded by EU structural funds. Currently he works for the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food Sovereignty and Forests (MASAF) in the coordination of research policies for agriculture, food and bioeconomy, also as deputy national delegate to the SCAR - Standing Committee on Agricultural Research – and member of various SCAR Working Groups.



Kadri Kask - Estonia

Environmental scientist and policymaker focused on agroecology—biodiversity in agricultural landscapes, semi-natural grasslands and grazing, pollinators, and the nature–agriculture interface. Science Adviser at the Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture of Estonia; formerly Chief Specialist for Biodiversity and, for over a decade, Lecturer in Environmental Protection at the Estonian University of Life Sciences. Bridges science, practice, and policy to deliver sustainable solutions for rural areas.

Focus areas

- Agroecology and biodiversity in agricultural landscapes
- Semi-natural grasslands and grazing management
- Indicator species and pollinators
- Landscape ecology and ecological networks (incl. Natura 2000)

Education

- PhD, Estonian University of Life Sciences (2015) — habitats and distribution of the Clouded Apollo butterfly



Ines Pohajda - Croatia

Ines Pohajda, Ph.D., is a Croatian expert in the field of Agriculture and environmental protection. She is the head of the Agroecology and Plant Production Service at the Directorate for Agricultural Land, Plant Production and Markets in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Republic of Croatia. She is the author and co-author of scientific and professional papers on agroecological topics. She has substantial experience in agroecological lectures and agricultural extension, as well as expertise in developing agroecological practices in Croatia within the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy.



Dr Emmanouil N. Reditakis - Greece

Dr EMMANOUIL N. RODITAKIS is Head of Department and Professor of Agricultural Entomology and Pharmacology in the Department of Agriculture, School of Agricultural Sciences at Hellenic Mediterranean University, Stavromenos, Greece. He is currently working on:

- Integrated Management of key pests of the Mediterranean region with emphasis on novel synthetic or green insecticides.
- Evaluation of efficacy levels linking laboratory bioassays to field performance via full toxicological profiling and semi-field trials.
- In depth investigation of insecticide resistance phenomena and establishment of resistance management tactics.
- Development and establishment of alternative pest control approaches, including fauna conservation, side effects on beneficial, entomopathogens, pheromones, minerals, plant extracts etc.

He has a wide network of collaborators and has received funding from industry, EU and National resources for the development of novel pest management solutions. In addition, he has been a member of the European Congress of Entomology Presidium and in 2018 was assigned to chair the 12th European Congress of Entomology.

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Aykut Ordukaya - Turkey

Aykut Ordukaya serves as an EU Expert within the Biodiversity and Genetic Resources Working Group under the Department of Horticulture Research at the General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye.

His professional focus includes international frameworks and treaties governing genetic resources, specifically:

- ITPGRFA: International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- WG PGR: Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (under the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture).
- ECPGR: The European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources.
- CBD & Nagoya Protocol: The Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing.

He is currently responsible for Project Management on behalf of TAGEM within the European Partnership on Accelerating Farming Systems Transition through Agroecology Living Labs and Research Infrastructures (Agroecology Partnership).



Dr Wiebke Müller - Germany

Dr Wiebke Müller is the head of the National Contact Point Bioeconomy and Environment in Germany. In this function, she and her team are contracted by the German federal research ministry to aid applicants to gain funding in Horizon Europe, specifically in Cluster 6 and the Soil Mission. She also works closely with that ministry in matters pertaining to European Research funding. Wiebke Müller gained a BSc Biological Sciences and a MSc Integrative Biosciences from Oxford University, UK, and holds a PhD in Molecular Ecology from Christchurch University, New Zealand. She has been working for Project Management Jülich since 2009. She is also a member of the SCAR Agroecology and AKIS Groups.



Dr Andrea Svoradová - Slovakia

Dr Andrea Svoradová works as a researcher at the National Agricultural and Food Centre – Research Institute for Animal Production in Nitra, Slovakia. Her scientific work focuses on animal biotechnology, cryopreservation and protection of animal genetic resources.



Joseph Trottmann - European Commission

Joseph Trottmann works at the European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, Unit B.2 (Bioeconomy and Food Systems). He holds a Master's degree in Agronomical Sciences and Agroecology and has experience in agricultural innovation, biodiversity projects and environmental education. His work focuses on agroecological transitions, sustainable food systems, and the interface between research, policy, and practice.

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Richard Lange - Germany

Richard holds a PhD in biology with a focus on crop sciences. Working for the German National Contact Point Bioeconomy and Environment, he advises stakeholders from academia and industry on funding opportunities within Horizon Europe's Cluster 6. Furthermore, he provides support to the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) in strategic matters related to bioeconomy, agriculture and other sustainability topics. In September 2025, Richard joined the Programme Committee of Cluster 6 as an expert-level member.



Jan Moudrý - Czechia

Assoc. prof. Ing. Jan Moudrý, Ph.D. works as head of the Department of Agribusiness and Rural Development of the Faculty of Agriculture and Technology of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, where he is also guarantee of MSc. Course Agroecology, a lecturer at the Farming School and a researcher within the Agroecology partnership at Tomas Bata University in Zlín. He has been dedicated to agroecology and sustainability in agriculture and food, including the implementation of organic food and local food in public catering for a long time. He also works as the chairman of the thematic working group Application of local food in public catering established under the State agricultural intervention fund, vice-chairman of the Czech Technology Platform for Organic Agriculture and chairman of the Association of Social Farming. He is a member of the working committees of the Ministry of Agriculture for the development of social agriculture and for the action plan for organic agriculture in the Czech Republic and the interdepartmental working group STRAVA focused on sustainable public catering. He is a founding member of the European organization Agroecology Europe and a member of the ENOAT (European Network of Organic Agriculture Teachers), the Advisory Board of TP Organics and the Climate Change Task Force of IFOAM EU.



Dragana Miladinović - Serbia

Dragana Miladinović is a principal research fellow at the Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, National Institute of Republic of Serbia, Novi Sad, Serbia, since 2007, head of the Center of Excellence for Innovations in the Breeding of Climate-Resilient Crops - Climate Crops of the Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops since 2021, and representative of Serbia in the SCAR Committee since 2019. Her research is mainly focused on crop improvement and the application of biotechnological methods for creation of new genotypes of crops tolerant to stresses caused by changing climatic conditions.



Stéphane BELLON - France

Stéphane BELLON, Scientific Manager at ANR (part-time), EERB Department, Paris, France. Areas of expertise include Agroecology, Organic Farming, Integrated Production, Ecologisation of Agriculture, Functional analysis of cropping and production systems, Use of rangelands, silvopastoralism, forage systems, agroforestry, development and evaluation of research and R&D projects. Stéphane has over four decades of experience in agricultural research and development, serving primarily as a Research Engineer at INRAE from 1991 to 2025 and transitioning to a project manager role thereafter. His career includes earlier roles in R&D, international technical expertise, and project management, supported by formal agronomic training in crop production. He has also held numerous leadership and advisory positions in agroecology and organic agriculture networks, including presidencies, steering committees, and international research programs. He also actively contributes to the field through long-standing roles on editorial boards of major agroecology and organic agriculture journals.

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Alexander Wezel - France

Alexander Wezel is an agroecologist and landscape ecologist, which dealt in the beginning of his career with various topics related to land use and resource conservation in the Tropics and Subtropics. In the last 18 years his research is focussed on analysing world-wide interpretations and definitions of agroecology and agroecological practices, as well as on different topics dealing with agroecosystems analysis and management. He particularly deals with the issues management of biodiversity, water quality, ecological corridors, and conservation biological control. Alexander works since 2006 for ISARA, Lyon, France. Before, he was engaged at the Universities of Hohenheim and Greifswald in Germany. He also carried out consultancies and different expertise in Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, Slovenia and Italy, and for the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome, Italy. He is co-author of the High Level Panel of Experts report of the UN Committee on World Food Security on Agroecology and other innovative approaches. He is also senior advisor of the MSc Agroecology at ISARA, which is carried out with different international partners in Europe.



Vincent Dauby - Belgium

Vincent Dauby is the research manager at Agroecology Europe, and represents the organisation in the SCAR agroecology group, alongside with some members of Agroecology Europe.

Vincent has been around in the agroecology bubble for 10 years now. It all started when he decided to turn his career around and to get more involved in the local and social alternative activities in his Belgian city of Liege. He met peasants and activists and was introduced to agroecology and food sovereignty. After being part of various agroecological initiatives in Belgium and abroad (vice-president of a union of small farmers, part of the coordination team of Agroecology in Action, wwoofing, participation in the Nyeleni ECA Forum 2016, etc.), Vincent started a Master in agroecology. With his new diploma in hand, Vincent worked for a Belgian NGO as the food and sovereignty officer where he coordinated the Belgian Coalition against Hunger. His last job brought him to the international level of agriculture where he took part in negotiations on climate and agroecology, on finance for agroecology, on global food governance.



Pavel Saska - Czech Republic

Pavel Saska is the head of Functional Biodiversity and Precision Farming research group at the Czech Agrifood Research Centre (formerly Crop Research Institute) in Prague, Czech Republic, and associate professor at the Department of Ecology, Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague (part time). His current research interests are directed towards enhancing farmland ecosystems and farming sustainability, and they include: 1) the impact of farming practices on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and evaluating and co-developing measures to promote biodiversity in farmland; 2) weed seed predation; 3) ecology and biology of natural enemies (mainly carabid beetles) and pests (mainly cereal aphids). He is intensively interacting with farmers during his work on research projects.