

NAME OF GROUP:

SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS Strategic Working Group – (SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG)

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGIC WORKING GROUP

The main rationale for the SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG is that the SCAR member states provide strategic advice and support to the EU Research & Innovation (R&I) policy framework **FOOD 2030**^{1*} as well as to the review of the Bioeconomy Strategy in which food plays a central role given the 'food comes first' principle.

Food is defined to be edible products derived from land or sea (including inland waters) destined for human consumption or animal feed. In this sense, food is more than just biomass as input for life support, bio-fuel or bio-based products. Food has relevant historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic dimensions. Currently the EU and global Food systems are affected by major societal and interrelated challenges such as climate change, migration, a growing world population, urbanization, resource scarcity, triple burden of malnutrition (undernutrition, overnutrition, and hidden hunger), ageing and food poverty.

The SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG recognizes that food systems **should not only deliver food security but also nutrition security**. Food Systems are considered to produce and provide sufficient, affordable, safe, convenient, tasty and nutritious food for healthy and sustainable diets for all citizens. Food systems also need to be environmentally sustainable ('resource smart'), implying a sustainable and efficient use of natural resources, and limiting negative environment impacts. In this respect, Food Systems building blocks should encompass the entire value chain in its widest form and their interactions; from ecosystem services, primary production (agriculture, aquaculture & fisheries), harvesting, storage, processing, packaging, distribution, retailing, service sector (e.g. HoReCa, canteens, catering), waste stream management and recycling, food and feed safety, to consumers, nutrition for citizens' health & well-being, and diet related diseases.

To ensure Food and Nutrition Security (FNS), the European R&I policy agenda should focus on future-proofing food systems by making them more sustainable, resilient, responsible, diverse, competitive, and inclusive. This will contribute reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs priorities) by 2030 and it will contribute to the FOOD 2030 priorities: NUTRITION for sustainable and healthy diets, CLIMATE smart and environmentally sustainable food systems, CIRCULARITY and resource efficiency of food systems, INNOVATION and empowerment of communities.

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http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2016/food2030/pdf/food2030_conference_background.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none

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As Research and innovation (R&I) is key to find impactful solutions to future-proof food systems, it is relevant to avoid fragmentation, ensure policy coherence and adopt a whole food system approach to be sufficiently impactful.

For this reason a SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG will provide strategic intelligence and orientation by integrating and analysing the different regional, national, European and international initiatives in place. This will allow for sharing of best practices, knowledge and data, and stimulate the standardization and harmonization of data gathering, monitoring and R&I policy alignment within and amongst SCAR Member States as well as with the non-EU countries that are participating in the EC's International Bioeconomy Forum (IBF).

SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG and FOOD 2030 are timely and relevant, given the recent policy and political developments such as the G7/G20 2015 meetings, EXPO 2015 conclusions, the new 2030 sustainable development goals, the recommendations of the Paris COP 21, and the SCAR foresight reports. Moreover, FOOD 2030 covers Commissioner Carlos Moedas' four selected R&I priorities food, water, energy, and health and, it offers the potential to address the Juncker objective to induce further growth and jobs in the agro-food sector.

1 ORGANISATION

1.1 Coordinator

The SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG is coordinated by France. Responsible contact point:
Monique Axelos

Senior scientist at INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique), working in the scientific direction on "Food, Nutrition and Bioeconomy" in charge of several European initiatives.

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1.2 SCAR contacts/liaison

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1.3 Timeline

Date for the Terms of References to be approved by SCAR Plenary: December 2016.

Duration of the SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG: 3 years from December 2016 to December 2019

Annually the bi-annual work plan will be established/updated and tabled with SCAR Steering Group meetings for discussion and approval.

1.4 Participants

Members States that declared interest to join the SCAR SWG FOOD SYSTEMS are: AT, BE, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, NL, NO, RO, SE, TR, UK.

The SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG is open to all SCAR participating countries. Member states that wish to join the SWG at a later stage should address their request to SCAR SG and the SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG.

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The SCAR SG representative of each participating Member State should inform, in writing, the SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG and the SCAR Secretariat of their national appointed and mandated representative(s) as well as changes that may occur in the lifetime of the SWG.

Joint Programming Initiatives relevant to the FOOD SYSTEMS SWG such as FACCE-JPI, JPI HDHL and JPI OCEANS are welcome to participate in SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG meetings as observers.

Both DG RTD and DG AGRI will actively participate in the meetings of the group. Other EC Services such as for example JRC, DG SANTE, DG CNECT, DG GROW, DG EAC, DG CLIMA, DEVCO, DG MARE, DG ENV may be invited, in agreement with the SCAR SG and SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG, to participate in meetings when deemed relevant or necessary.

1.5 Logistics

Considering the key role of the SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG, 3 meetings per year will be scheduled over a 3 year period. Additional activities will include workshops and annual events. Meetings should alternate in Brussels and other member states. Efforts will be made to meet at different member state locations to see national implementation of Food systems.

Because of its transversal area the SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG will align its work and will collaborate with all relevant SCAR SWG/CWG groups such to avoid overlap and duplication and benefits to their activities. For every meeting a small taskforce will be formed to prepare this meeting and to translate the outcome into deliverables. A possible agenda for a two day meeting could be for example: day 1, creative workshops with external experts on the selected topic, with a concrete deliverable(s) at the end of the day (report, presentation etc.); on day 2 work meeting of the SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG members to discuss results, exchange information and prepare the next steps and the next meeting.

1.6 Resources

Resources from Member States, in cash or in kind. Resources from SCAR CASA for supporting activities (e.g. desk research, mapping, surveying and analyzing of data gathered, expert support, workshops, dissemination events, etc.).

2 **AMBITION, WORK, OUTCOMES**

2.1 Rationale

The SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG will provide strategic advice and support to:

- DG RTD's Food and Nutrition Security Policy Framework "FOOD 2030".
- DG RTD's Bioeconomy Strategy Review as Food plays a key role in the Bioeconomy.
- DG RTD's International Collaborative activities and the International Bioeconomy Forum (IBF) on Food Systems relevant areas.
- the successful implementation of the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the COP 21 commitments.
- the development and shaping of Food System R&I Policy implementation at the level of the European Commission (DG RTD, SANTE, AGRI, JRC, CNECT etc).

The SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG will respond to Member state needs on:

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- informal exchange on national FNS related policies and strategies and their implementation in different action areas (e.g. exchange whether there is a food and/or nutrition security pillar within an existing national Bioeconomy strategy or other strategies,
- exploring and assessing national R&I strategies to future-proofing of Food Systems,
- support MS in their implementation of more efficient R&I initiatives and policy coherence for Food and Nutrition Security.

The SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG will help move towards better FNS R&I policy coherence as well as FNS R&I strategic orientation by integrating and analyzing initiatives and strategies.

There are currently many groups and organizations that have established a range of FNS related strategies and policy developments such as the FAO, OECD, UN, EU or MS coordinated actions (e.g. JPIs, ERA-NETs, EJPs, KICs, ESFRI, GODAN, etc.), industry partnerships, MS ministries and research organizations. Furthermore, the EU, national and regional strategies and policy developments relevant to FNS tend to be fragmented with the risk to become incoherent. The SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG has the ambition to address this by providing strategic input to FOOD 2030, the EC's FNS policy framework to better coordinate, connect, structure and scale-up R&I for future-proofing food systems to ensure Food and Nutrition Security. If requested / needed SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG may provide strategic input for better synergies in future programming.

To achieve our objectives the number of countries participating in the SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG should be enlarged and ideally should encompass all SCAR Member States. Special attention will be given to attract more Member States, by asking their support in the SCAR plenary, by addressing them directly and making a work plan attractive for more countries.

2.2 Planned activities

The group's output will underpin R&I policy development in the EU's member states and at the EU level in order to contribute to policy coherence in the research and R&I area on food systems. The section 'Activities' should be considered as a draft work plan which will be adapted according to the specific needs of the actively involved MS. It is planned that the specific work plan will be shared with SCAR plenary at the beginning of each year.

2.3 Expected results and Output

The SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG will give special attention in the work plan to the type of deliverables that are needed. We strive to maximize the impact of the deliverables by giving attention to timing and targeting.

2.4 Expected target group

Expected target groups are: SCAR and SCAR SG/SW/CW groups, European Commission, IBF, Member States, Regions, FAO, OECD, WHO, EU and national initiatives already in place relevant to the SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG, (Horizon 2020, relevant JPIs such as JPI HDHL, FACCE, OCEANS, relevant ERA-NETs (e.g. Sustainable Food Production and consumption – SUSFOOD2), relevant KICs (e.g. CLIMATE, HEALTH and FOOD), Research Infrastructures, ETPs, EJPs, Art 187, Public-Private Partnerships, PRIMA initiative, BLUEMED initiative, the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance.

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2.5 Risk and risk mitigation

Lack of resources and a relatively small group of member states that are actively involved.

Risk of divergence from the initial work plan because of high pressure towards urgent policy matters.

Mitigation: investigate funding possibilities from CASA and engage in looking for new members.

Risk of duplicating the work of other SCAR SWGs and CWGs. Mitigation: ensure linkages with these groups.

WORK PLAN AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES, THEMATICS, DELIVERABLES.

Activities:

The Detailed work plan will only cover one year but will include an outline of possible activities foreseen for the rest of the mandated period. The work plan will be updated annually.

2016:

- Jointly organize with ARCH and AKIS the ARCH FOOD 2030 conference pre-event on “Consumers and Global food systems” 11 October 2016. (Finalized)
- Uptake of the wide Food Systems definition as used in FOOD 2030 within the ToR of SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG and in the corresponding work plan & deliverables.
- Finalize a detailed work plan for 2017 and provide an outline for 2018. The workplan should be adopted by the SCAR SG and should have ongoing synergies with developments in the FNS policy framework FOOD 2030, the Bioeconomy Strategy review, the International Bioeconomy Forum, the joint activities of JPIs HDHL-FACCE-OCEANS and relevant ERANET Co-funds such as SUSFOOD2, and other SWGs such as BSW group, AKIS, ARCH, and PRIMA.
- Finalise the SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG ToR.
- Present the finalized ToR to the SCAR SG (November 2016). Presentation will be accompanied by an official invitation to all SCAR Member States to also become official members of the SCAR SWG.
- Present ToR that was endorsed by the SCAR SG at the SCAR plenary on 06/12/2016 to obtain approval of ToR and start of SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG

2017-2018:

Main tasks:

1. Provide strategic intelligence (EU 28) including the mapping of funding done at National and regional level related to Food Systems and provide insight into the type of existing policies and strategies that are linked to Food and Nutrition security and the priorities of FOOD 2030.
 - Deliverable: end of March 2017 qualitative mapping done for all 28 countries + pilot countries to do quantitative assessment (accepted by Hungary, Finland and Belgium) – June 2017 quantitative mapping done for all 28 countries. 4th quarter 2017, before SCAR plenary, organize a meeting with relevant stakeholders such as policy makers, academics, NGO, industries to present the analysis of the mapping.
 - Risk: This mapping will depend strongly on the commitment of all EU 28 MS and the capacity among each member state to bring the requisite information together.
2. At the beginning of 2017:

Identify during a workshop in Brussels the most impactful cross cutting Food Systems issues and determine concrete follow-up activities whereby the SCAR SWG FOOD SYSTEMS proposes the best strategies to answer these issues depending on the national situations (*ex: foresight on digitalisation inside the food system, reporting on how to ensure & measure sustainability in food systems or on how to address better emerging risk from the producer to the consumer, workshops on how to build in climate resilience and circularity across whole food system, how to empower the citizens of the future to improve their habits, see annex 1 the list of proposed cross cutting issues to be discussed*). These activities will be developed in synergy with the other SCAR SWGs. Prior to the workshop the list of the most relevant experts to invite will be done.

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Deliverable of this workshop will be an action plan with the list of activities for the SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG for 2017 and an outline for 2018.

3. 4th quarter 2017, before SCAR plenary, deliverable of activities planned during the workshop at the beginning of 2017.
4. Possible tasks/area's where SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SGW could interface pending further R&I policy developments related to FOOD 2030:
 - Potentially provide a statement and reply to the questions of a possible open consultation on FNS as the 'SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG' stakeholder. An open consultation is expected to be launched in second quarter of 2017.
 - Potentially provide strategic input to the FNS pillar of the IBF for themes relevant to the SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG (second half of 2017-throughout 2018). One of the themes on the agenda may be ICT in Food Systems which according to the themes provided by the core group may be of interest to the SCAR FOOD SYSTEMS SWG.
 - Look into a possible Joint activities/workshops with other SCAR SWGs and/or European innovation actors: JPIs, ERA-NET Cofunds, EJPs, EIP-Agri, EIT Food KIC etc. in the area of FNS –Food Systems. Liaise with these actors in order to mutually inform and possibly align the development of Food systems thinking and concepts and integration of all actors in the food systems development.

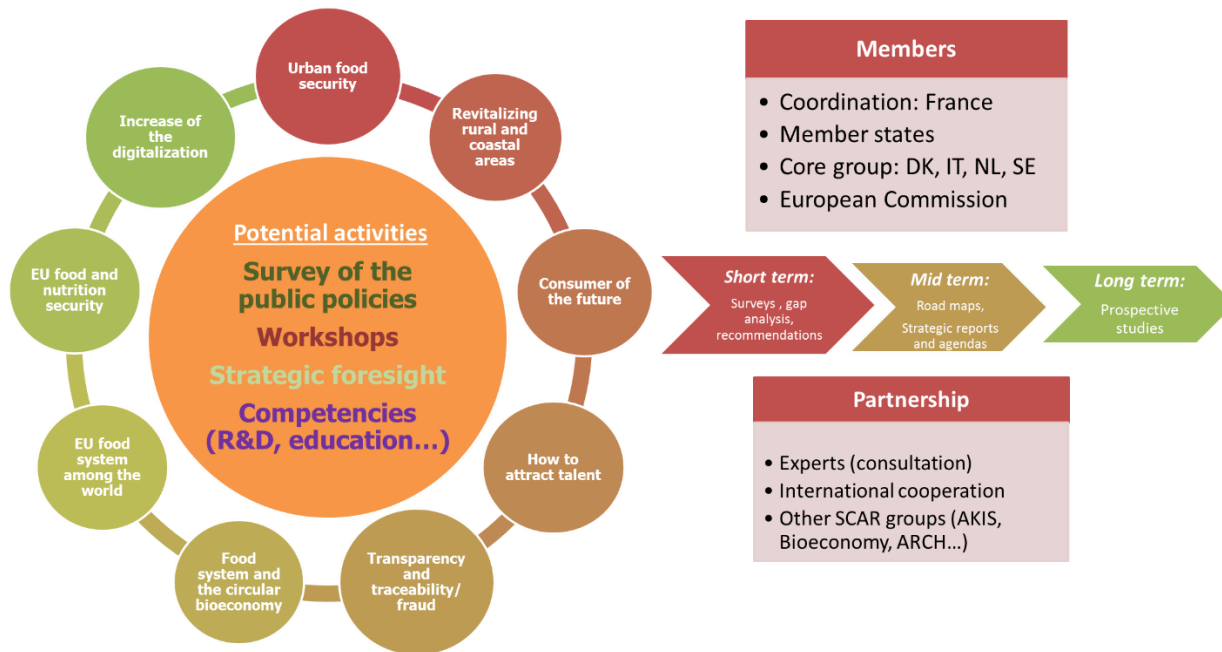
Annex 1:

Proposed cross-cutting issues to be adjusted and prioritized in the workshop at the beginning of 2017

- Digitalisation in Food Systems - open data – e-commerce - robotics - Increase of the Digitalisation and ICT connection – benefits and risk – data stewardship – independence of research actions on risk/benefits.
- How do Food systems affect/relate to climate-nutrition and health of citizens
- Collecting data underpinning accountability with SDGs and COP 21, migration
- RRI in food systems– citizens science -
- EU Food nutrition security – Food poverty – Look into an EU Hunger Index - Affordability /Urban food and nutrition security
- Revitalizing rural and coastal areas (e.g. understanding farm demographics, inter-generational farm transfer, influence of consumer and citizen) – innovation for competitiveness (e.g. farmers risk management strategies) – local food systems and short supply chains in relation with AKIS
- Citizen of the future – helping citizens understand how food systems work, an empowered consumer aware of the impact of their dietary habits on health and sustainability of the food system – balanced diets / improving reliable communication (mistaken belief) / perception of innovations – how to help citizens make the healthy and sustainable choice (labelling? Nudging? Taxation? Incentives for healthy food production?) – How to ensure transparency and traceability?
- How to attract talent in the food system ?– develop life-long learning to be sure that the actors are aware of new technologies, new practices, new business developments– mixing disciplines in education – improving links between social sciences and technology.
- How do Food systems comply with EU Food safety requirements and better address emerging risk analysis needs?
- How to ensure & measure sustainability, build in climate resilience and circularity across whole food system, land and sea connections,
- Food system in the circular bioeconomy – food waste
- Food systems in Europe and the world, their- mutual influence / food systems in emerging countries – competition and synergies Innovative approaches to strengthen the position of all food system actors (e.g. farmers) in value chains of food systems
- How to implement and measure the concept of social innovation
- Catching other emerging topics

Illustration of potential activities and deliverables:

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Annex 2: List of abbreviations:

AGRI: DG Agriculture and Rural Development

CASA = **C**ommon **A**gricultural and wider bioeconomy **r**e**S**earch **A**genda (SCAR coordination and support action)

CSA = Coordination and support action

EIP = European Innovation Partnership

ERA = European Research Area

EU = European Union

FACCE = Food Agriculture and Climate Change

FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

HDHL = A Healthy Diet for A Healthy Life

IBF = International Bioeconomy Forum

JPI = Joint Programming Initiative

KIC: Knowledge and Innovation Communities

MS = Member States

OECD = The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

SANTE = DG Health and Food Safety

SCAR = Standing Committee on Agricultural Research

SUSFOOD = Sustainable FOOD production and consumption

ToR = Terms of Reference

UN: United Nations

WG = Working Group