

The mission of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR)

From a joint European vision to joint action

The Green Deal has put Europe in a favourable position to be a groundbreaker in the transition to sustainable agriculture, forestry, and food systems. European research and innovation (R&I) in these areas play a key role in accelerating the European Green Deal agenda.

- SCAR advises the European Commission (EC), EU Member States and Associated Countries on R&I priorities to address Europe's challenges in agriculture, fisheries, food systems, forestry, and the wider bioeconomy.
- SCAR co-creates impactful R&I strategies, working closely with the European Commission.
- SCAR inspires R&I through foresight studies and by providing recommendations.
- SCAR strengthens the European Research Area. It is a key platform for co-creating Horizon Europe Partnerships: ambitious instruments that align EU and national R&I agendas to achieve actionable results in key Green Deal priority areas.





A powerful structure to shape European research & innovation

The Plenary Meeting is the SCAR's governing body. It brings together delegates representing more than 35 countries. The Plenary Meeting decides on the actions that should be taken to achieve its goals, including the creation of new Working Groups and approving their mandates. It also discusses and advises on proposals made by the Working Groups, and it reports to the EC and European Parliament about its decisions.

The Steering Group and the SCAR Secretariat prepare the plenary meetings and align the agenda with the current EU Presidency priorities. In doing so, they ensure alignment with the Horizon programmes.

The Working Groups are the backbone of the SCAR. Focusing on specific priority areas, they provide policy advice, highlight priority R&I topics based on needs and gaps, and develop strategic R&I agendas. Three kinds of Working Groups exist: Collaborative Working Groups, with a focus on thematic coordination, and Strategic Working Groups with a focus on strategic policy advice. If necessary, the Plenary Meeting can also create Ad-hoc Working Groups to tackle specific challenges.

Key themes at the core of the Green Deal covered in 9 Working Groups

- SCAR Agroecology
- SCAR AKIS, Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation Systems
- SCAR ARCH, European Agricultural Research towards greater impact on global Challenges / International Facility
- SCAR Bioeconomy
- SCAR FISH, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research
- SCAR Food Systems
- SCAR FOREST, Forests and Forestry Research and Innovation
- SCAR SAP, Sustainable Animal Production
- SCAR European Animal Health and Welfare Research

A Foresight Group to flag long-term research and innovation needs

The SCAR Foresight Group continuously scans the horizon for future opportunities and challenges to develop an integrated European Research and Innovation Agenda. Every few years, the Group publishes a report that analyses a specific challenge that the wider bioeconomy is facing, and that provides recommendations to tackle it. The foresight report feeds the strategic planning of research and innovation and is a source of advice for policy-making. The SCAR foresight process has paved and will continue to pave the way for joint activities between Member States to proactively solve future challenges.

Become (more) active in the SCAR community!

Build the future research agenda

The SCAR Working Groups form an inspiring network of motivated peers. They offer unique platforms to develop R&I agendas, co-construct European R&I partnerships, and exchange experiences and best practices. Moreover, being a member of the SCAR helps delegates and scientists implement national research priorities at the European level, and helps align national and European R&I agendas.

Are you...

...already a member of the SCAR community, and interested in helping it grow? Take up an active role in the Working Groups or Plenary Meeting, motivate your research community to join the SCAR Working Groups, and disseminate the results in your country to increase the SCAR's impact.

...a scientist, eager to meet peers to exchange knowledge and learn from them? Contact your country's SCAR delegate and request to join one of the Working Groups.



Find out more through: • scar-europe.org • RTD-SCAR@ec.europa.eu

This publication was produced by the SCAR Support Team commissioned by the European Commission, DG RTD, March 2022 - pictures: pexels.com

