

SCAR CONFERENCE

14 JUNE 2022 – Paris, France

Results summary

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SCAR Conference “Humans in transitions: towards agroecological approaches and sustainable food systems”

The conference was organised with the support of the French Presidency of the EU, in Paris, on 14 June 2022. It was built as an interactive SCAR-level event, structured around two key-note speeches and four parallel thematic workshops dealing with 1) Digitalisation and use of new technologies; 2) Genetic resources and Agrobiodiversity; 3) Stakeholders and networks and 4) Skills and Education.

The conference aimed to foster discussion between SCAR members regarding:

- Necessary changes that the agri-food sector needs to undergo in the current crisis context (COVID, climate change, war...) but also opportunities (e.g. animal well-being, promoting more resilient farming and food systems);
- How to manage the transitions (agroecosystems, food systems, knowledge systems...) simultaneously and put the human being at the centre.

Its specific objectives were:

- To share experiences that demonstrate that tools proposed to farmers and other stakeholders can help to prepare the necessary changes if the tools are appropriate;
- Building up on the paths for transitions identified in the 5th SCAR Foresight, identify key contributions from agricultural research.

The main outcomes of the Conference were the following:

Research can contribute to transition, under certain conditions:

- It should consider the big picture and have a holistic approach
- It should involve farmers and citizens in projects from the start
- It should consider trans/interdisciplinarity as an asset and a basic principle and social sciences should clearly be added to the scope.

Additional themes were mentioned by all participants in the interactive workshops:

- There is a need for education and long-life training for all citizens regarding sustainable systems. People must develop their skills.
- Capacity building is key
- The real value of food must be shown

Regarding SCAR application:

- The SCAR should embed the MAA (Multi-Actor Approach) and transdisciplinarity in its vision;
- It should give more support and frame to SWGs and CWGs to work together on cross-cutting issues.