

## **Thematic Workshop 2:**

# **Effective strategies for science-policy knowledge transfer to support climate action in the European agri-food system**

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Language of workshop: English

Climate change is a major environmental and societal challenge of our time. The global agri-food system emits about one third of all green-house-gas emissions globally indicating a substantial role for climate change mitigation. Agricultural land use offers opportunities to sequester carbon and to provide renewable energy resources. Climate change impacts on agricultural land use and livestock husbandry on the other hand call for adaptation strategies to maintain production in the long run. The key role of land use in the earth system, e.g. to safeguard biodiversity, requires both mitigation and adaptation strategies to be carefully planned and operationalized in order to maintain long-term resilience.

Societal change, e.g. expressed by civil society movements such as Fridays For Future, requires politics to take action but decision making is difficult due to the wicked nature of the climate change – land use nexus.

Therefore, the European Joint Programming Initiative for Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE JPI) initiated the science-policy knowledge forum MACSUR SciPol. This pilot project shall support the strategic design of climate change adaptation and mitigation responses in the European agri-food sector. The forum synthesizes scientific knowledge for evidence-based policy support to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, adapt to climate change and understand synergies and trade-offs in achieving these targets (for further details see <https://macsur.eu>).

This workshop will utilize knowledge and resources from MACSUR SciPol to elaborate on the opportunities and challenges of science-policy knowledge transfer in the agri-food system. Its objective is to reveal promising strategies, typical pit-falls and research needs taking into account experiences from both the Austrian and Slovenian agri-food system.

The structure of the workshop will be as follows:

1. Introductory presentation of MACSUR SciPol and first results of the science-policy knowledge forum (10').
2. Presentation of experiences in science-policy exchange related to climate change from representatives of Austria and Slovenia (20').
3. Focus group discussions (1-3 groups) of the following key questions (50'):
  - a) What are the information requirements, i.e. contents, for evidence-based climate change policy design in the agri-food sector?
  - b) What are major obstacles for evidence-based policy design and enforcement? How can science contribute to overcome these obstacles?
  - c) What are best-practice formats of knowledge transfer?
4. Conclusions on the key questions (10')

Results of the workshop will feed into a policy brief to inform the MACSUR SciPol network.

We encourage scientists, policy makers and planners, and any other practitioners from the agri-food system to contribute with applied knowledge and experiences.

The workshop is planned as physical meeting. However, we may involve researchers from the MACSUR network via a video conference.