

FACCE SURPLUS

Multiple challenges face agriculture of the 21st century. A growing world population demands more food, and simultaneously the need for renewable energy and biobased raw materials is increasing, demanding new approaches and changes in the existing systems. To address challenges in this area, 14 countries have formed the joint European research initiative FACCE SURPLUS aiming at delivering research that can provide a sustainable intensification of agricultural production.

Innovation in biomass production and utilisation along the entire chain

In collaboration with the European Commission the partner countries have launched a call for joint European research projects with an indicative budget of 16 million Euros. The final results of the call will be presented in the end of 2015, and the funded projects are expected to start in 2016.

FACCE SURPLUS is meant to leverage national research into joint innovation in biomass production and utilisation along the entire value chain. The selected projects will therefore incorporate a systemic approach, combining field and laboratory research with modelling, scenario techniques and pilot application.

The scientific scope of the call for proposals addresses collaborative projects in three research areas, which are incorporated into the following three subthemes of the call:

- Spatial targeting of land use to increase biomass production and transformation, stimulating the growth of systems for the efficient utilisation of green (plant) biomass cascading through novel transformation.
- Developing markets for a wide range of products and services generated through integrated food and non-food systems.
- Sustainable intensification of integrated food and non-food agricultural systems, by developing integrated, systems-based approaches to land management.

In other words: The range of projects extends from research in primary production to innovative biorefinery systems and development of new markets for bio-based products.

In cooperation with FACCE-JPI, FACCE SURPLUS strives to create a European school of thought and innovation on sustainable biomass production and utilisation that may serve as a role model at national and international levels.

Further joint activities that go beyond this co-funded call, including further joint calls, are planned, in order to contribute to the establishment of a renewable bioeconomy in the ERA.

Welcome to the future

The world as we know it faces a number of opposing challenges. The global population is expected to grow to 9.5 billion people in 2050, challenging the existing agricultural systems and the industries to produce significantly more food. At the same time the available agricultural area is decreasing, and climate changes will increasingly affect the conditions under which the production takes place. Agriculture must also diminish its environmental impact – and society as a whole needs to reduce the use of fossil raw materials.

In other words, there is a need for an increased and intensified agricultural production with a reduced environmental footprint. Welcome to the future.

These challenges are recognised worldwide, and no single country or region has the capacity to tackle these issues alone. They require collaborative action, and to do this research needs and gaps must be identified and national strategies and priorities aligned.

In the light of this growing realisation, 21 countries have joined forces and formed a partnership within the frame of the Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI).

FACCE SURPLUS (Sustainable and Resilient agriculture for food and non-food systems) is the name of this new joint initiative, committed to improve collaboration across the European Research Area in the range of diverse, but integrated, food and non-food biomass production and transformation systems, including biorefining.

The overall objectives of FACCE SURPLUS will be:

- To improve collaboration and cooperation across the European Research Area in the fields of diverse, but integrated, food and non-food biomass production and transformation systems, including biorefining.
- To link up and create a network of research platforms, clusters of enterprises and facilities/research infrastructures across Europe, working on the sustainable intensification of agriculture as well as focusing on innovation for increased, resilient and sustainable biomass production and product transformation processes for added value creation.
- To support innovation and value creation from biomass and biorefineries in synergy with the environmentally sustainable intensification of agricultural and other biomass production taking into account the required economic, environmental and social conditions.
- To fund and organise a joint call between funding bodies from Member States and the European Commission.

Bioeconomy in brief

Bioeconomy is the use of biological resources from the land and sea, as well as waste, as inputs to food and feed, industrial and energy production. It is a holistic approach aiming at overcoming challenges and making the most of opportunities and resources.

What is FACCE-JPI?

Joint Programming is an intergovernmental process defined by the European Commission in 2008 as part of the building of a European Research Area (ERA). The overall aim of Joint Programming is to pool national research efforts in order to make better use of research and development resources and to tackle common European challenges more effectively.

The objective of the FACCE-JPI is to bring together European countries to identify, prioritise and deliver the research needed for agriculture to meet the demands of a growing population in terms of both food sufficiency and safety within the context of climate change.

FACCE SURPLUS is an ERA-NET CoFund formed in the frame of FACCE-JPI.

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

The consortium consists of 23 partners and is led by JÜLICH (on behalf of Partner BMBF, Germany).

Belgium

- Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology, (IWT)
- Research Foundation – Flanders, (FWO)
- The National Fund for Scientific Research, (FNRS)

Cyprus

- Research Promotion Foundation, (RPF)

Denmark

- Innovation Fund Denmark
- Danish Centre for Food and Agriculture, Aarhus University, (DCA)

Estonia

- Ministry of Agriculture, (EVPM)

Finland

- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, (MAM)

France

- French National Institute for Agricultural Research, (INRA)
- The French National Research Agency, (ANR)

Germany

- Forschungszentrum Jülich, (JÜLICH)
- Federal Ministry of Education and Research, (BMBF)
- Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, (BLE)
- Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, (BMEL)

Italy

- The Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, (MIPAAF)
- The Ministry of Education, Universities and Research, (MIUR)

Norway

- The Research Council of Norway, (RCN)

Poland

- National Centre for Research and Development, (NCBR)

Romania

- Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding, (UEFISCDI)

Spain

- The National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology, (INIA)

The Netherlands

- Ministry of Economic Affairs, (EZ-DAK)
- Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, (NWO)

United Kingdom

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA)

FUNDING ORGANISATIONS

Belgium – Flanders

- Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology – Flanders, (IWT)
- Research Foundation – Flanders, (FWO)

Belgium – French-speaking Community

- Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique, (FNRS)

Cyprus

- Research Promotion Foundation, (RPF)

Denmark

- Innovation Fund Denmark

Estonia

- Ministry of Agriculture, (EVPM)

Finland

- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, (MAM)

France

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- The French National Research Agency, (ANR)

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- Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, (BLE)

Italy

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