

How can EU R&I projects contribute to EU policy objectives?

Grasslands as carbon sinks: How carbon farming and grass-based business models can contribute to the EU Green Deal

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| EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Overall 2030 milestone: Ensure that Europe's biodiversity will be on a path to recovery for the benefit of people, the planet, climate and our economy



Protect Nature



Enable Transformative
Change



Restore Nature



EU For An Ambitious
Global Agenda



EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

“Develop an EU-wide methodology to map, assess and achieve good condition of ecosystems so they can deliver benefits.”

Nature Restoration Law

Technical guidelines for MS “EU methodology for mapping and assessing ecosystem condition” to be published in September. To also cover the methodological gap related to **grasslands**.

Carbon Farming Initiative

The **EU climate law** states that, for reaching 2030 and 2050 climate targets and for biodiversity restoration, the EU needs to immediately and decisively **restore and grow its natural carbon sinks**.

In December 2021 the Commission adopted the **Communication on Sustainable Carbon Cycles** to address current challenges to carbon farming in order to upscale this green business model that rewards land managers for taking up practices leading to carbon sequestration, combined with strong benefits on biodiversity.

This includes promoting carbon farming practices under **CAP** and other EU programmes such as **LIFE** and **Horizon Europe**, in particular under the **Mission “A Soil Deal for Europe”**, and under public national financing.

R&I, new technologies and business models are expected to unlock the full potential of the Land use and forestry regulation for 2021-2030.

On 27 April 2021, after a [two-year study](#) EC published a [technical handbook](#) on how to set up and implement carbon farming in EU, aimed at helping private actors and public authorities start up carbon farming initiatives. The study pointed out **grasslands management** as one of the most suitable practices for carbon farming via CAP Strategic Plans.



Achieve climate neutrality by reducing GHG emissions, maintaining natural carbon sinks, and enhancing the sequestration and storage of carbon in ecosystems, including by **unfolding the potential of nature based solutions, production systems on land and at sea** as well as rural and coastal areas...

- Assessment of the **potential of carbon farming as a possible future business** for farmers and foresters, and analysis of its potential to contribute to reaching climate-neutrality in a few decades.
- Explore carbon farming techniques and their outcomes, also in terms of better farm management; analyse **costs of carbon farming management practices and revenue possibilities**

2018 European Bioeconomy Strategy

Aim:

- Link the sustainable use of renewable biological resources with the protection and restoration of biodiversity, ecosystems and natural capital across land and water
- With social, environmental and economic SUSTAINABILITY and CIRCULARITY at its core



EU Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan

- SUSTAINABILITY and CIRCULARITY at its core
- SYSTEM-wide approach
- Policies across sectors, addressing trade-offs, co-benefits
- More than research & innovation
- Delivering for the citizens, in particular in rural areas
- A set of 14 well-defined actions including a monitoring system with clear indicators



Circular Economy Action Plan

Circular economy to **reduce pressure on natural resources, create sustainable jobs**, achieve the EU's 2050 climate neutrality target and halt biodiversity loss.

- make sustainable products the norm in EU
- focus on the sectors that use most resources
- ensure less waste
- make circularity work for people, regions and cities



Thank you



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