

LIVESTOCK ARE MORE THAN FOOD



R&I for sustainability and competitiveness in Europe's livestock sector

Ana Sofia SANTOS
Secretary General of the
Animal Task Force



The Animal Task Force (since 2011)

- A European Public-Private Platform (PPP) promoting Research and Innovation with research, farmers' & private sector organisations
- Promoting a sustainable and competitive animal production sector in Europe;
- By fostering knowledge development and innovation in Europe;
- Covering the whole animal production chain.



ATF Board & Secretariat

- **Frank O'Mara – President** (since Nov.2020 – until Nov.2025)

Director of TEAGASC



- **Charlotte Lauridsen – incoming President** (starting Nov.2025)

Head of Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, Aarhus University



- **Giuseppe Bee, research organisations** (since Nov.2021)

Head of the Swine Research Unit of Agroscope, Switzerland



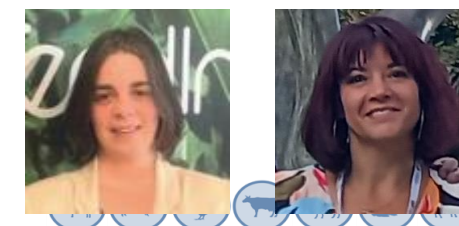
- **Ana Granados-Chapatte, industry organisations** (since Nov.2020)

General Secretary FABRE-TP



- **Ana Sofia Santos – Secretary General**

- **Susana De Magalhaes – Assistant to Secretary General**



Who we are?

Industry & farmers representative organisations



Knowledge providers



In Close cooperation with



What do we do?

**Members
(Research & private sector)**

- Provide input for EU research and innovation agendas
 - Engage in dialogue on sector innovation with key stakeholders in EU
- Enhance cooperation in EU research & innovation
- Enable knowledge exchange and act as a source of expertise

**EU authorities
NGOs and stakeholders**



How we do it?

2020 : *What livestock has to offer to biodiversity and healthy soils*

2021: *Going beyond the feed vs food competition: crops and animals together to address food and nutrition security*

2022 : *Livestock emissions and the COP26 targets*

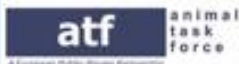
2023 : *'Sustainable livestock systems' – what does that mean?*

2023: *The role of meat in society: presenting the Dublin Declaration of Scientists*
ATF-BAMST symposium



The role of meat in society: presenting the Dublin Declaration of Scientists

Brussels – 12 April 2023



Year 2024

Livestock are more than food

4th one-day symposium of the ATF
& EAAP commission on Livestock
Farming Systems

EAAP Annual Meeting, Florence, Italy
Sunday 01 September 2024

14th ATF Seminar

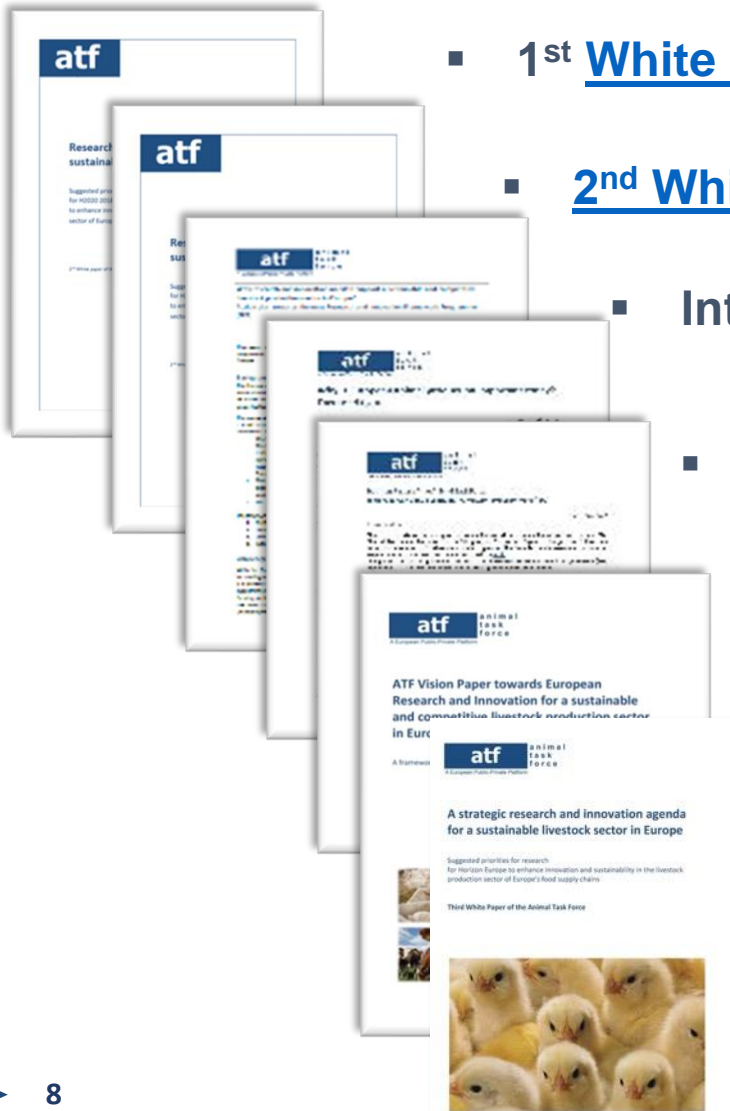
Brussels

Wednesday 20 November 2024



Input to EU R&I agenda Horizon Europe

- 1st [White Paper](#), 2013 + [Addendum](#), 2014
- [2nd White Paper](#), 2016
- Internal Action plan / next R&I Framework Programme (FP9), 2017
- [Facts & figures - Why EU animal production is important today?](#) 2017
- [Position paper towards FP9](#) - 2018
- [Vision Paper](#) – A framework for suggested priorities for R&I within Horizon Europe, 2019
- [Strategic Research and Innovation agenda](#) - Suggested priorities for R&I within Horizon Europe, 2021

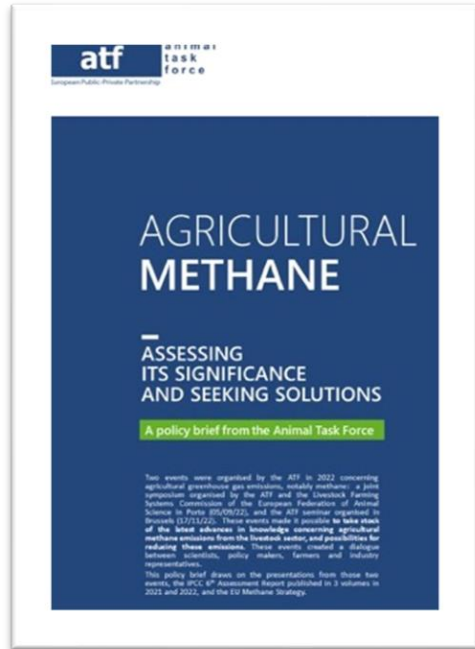


Input to EU R&I agenda Horizon Europe

Policy brief on biodiversity 2021



Policy brief on agricultural Methane, 2023



Vision Paper 2024



Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda 2024



Input to EU R&I agenda Horizon Europe

Policy brief on biodiversity 2021



Policy brief on Met



Vision Paper 2024

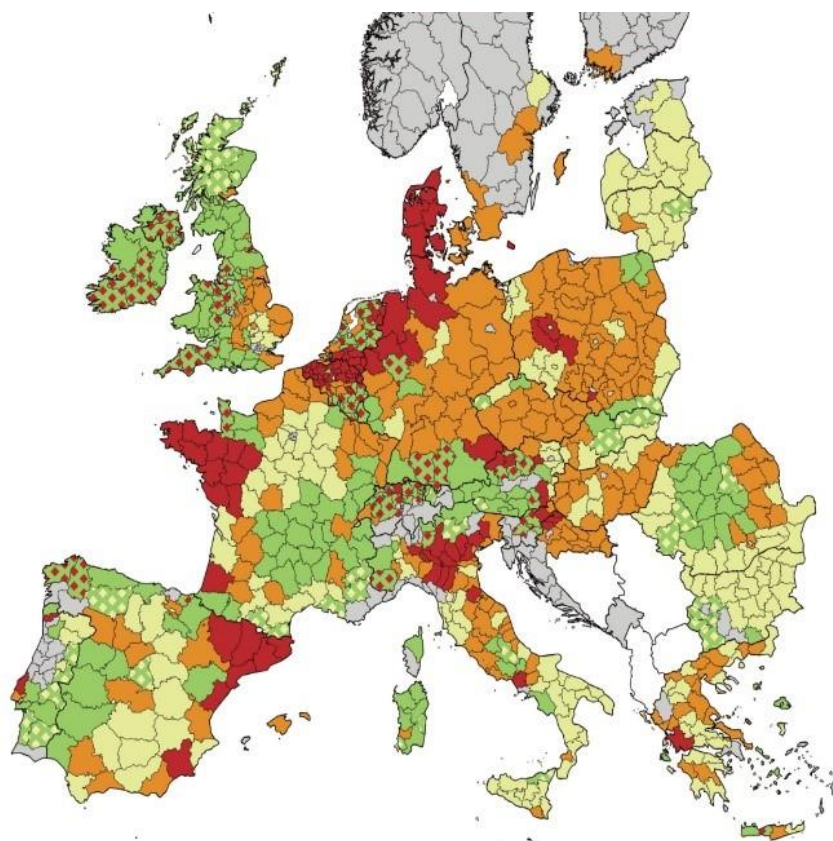


Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda 2024



Our Vision

Livestock4All



- Low proportion of grassland in agricultural area, high animal density
- High proportion of grassland in agricultural area, high animal density
- High proportion of grassland in agricultural area, medium animal density
- High proportion of grassland in agricultural area, low animal density
- Low proportion of grassland in agricultural area, corps and animals
- Low proportion of grassland in agricultural area, low animal density
- Less than 20% of agricultural area in total area

	AA (% total)	LU (% total)	LU/ha
■	10.5	29.5	2.15
■	6.7	14.6	1.70
■	19.3	18.5	0.75
■	6.8	2.1	0.25
■	31.6	26.6	1.20
■	25.0	8.6	0.30

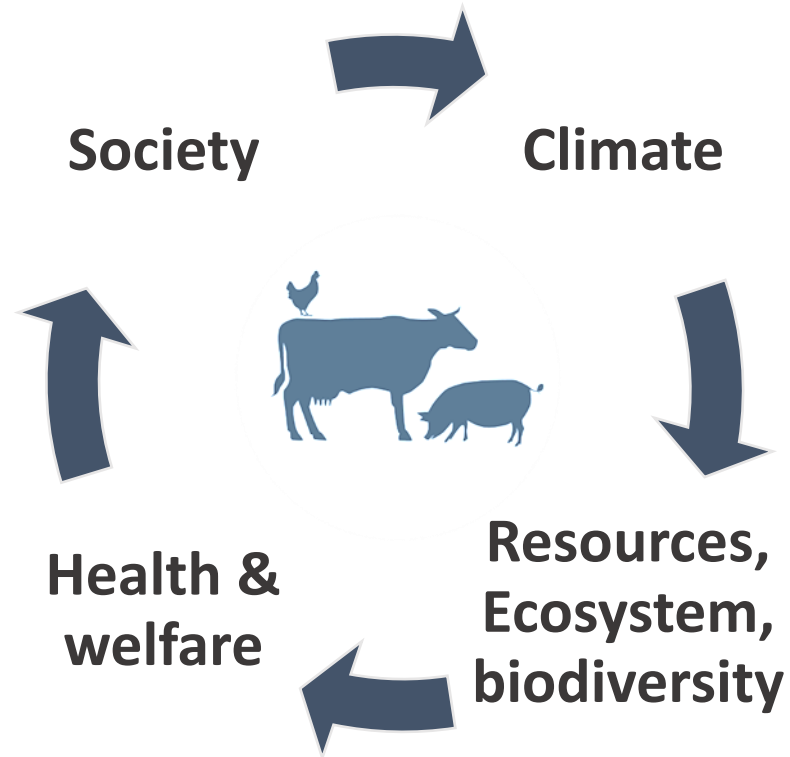
Figure 2. Diversity of livestock systems in Europe²⁴ (AA: agricultural area, LU: livestock unit)

We recognise all types of livestock farming systems in European countries

- Varying according to local economic, geographical & sociological contexts
- For which the solutions are different

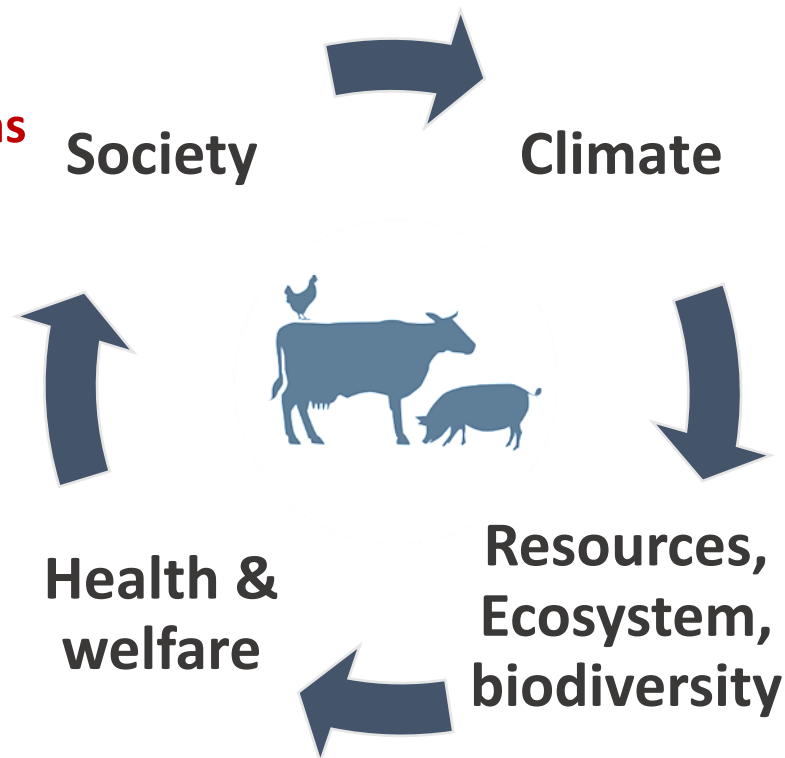


Challenges and drivers of changes



Challenges and drivers of changes

- Farmer income
- Generation renewal
- Perception of farming systems
- Consumption of ASF
- European economy
- Rural vitality
- Cultural issues
- Landscape preservation
- Animal welfare
- Zoonosis & epizootics
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Consumption of ASF



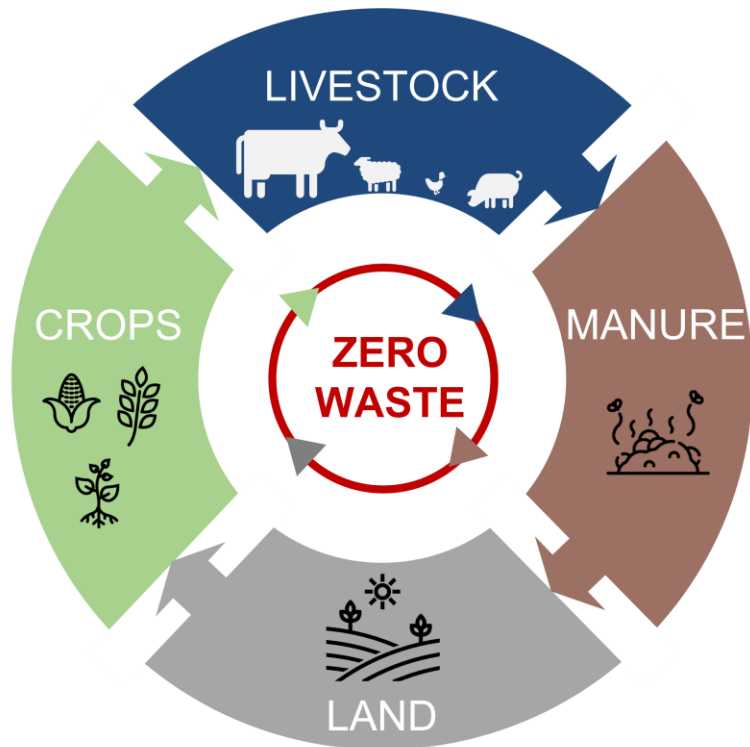
- GHG emission
- Adaptation to climate change
- Soil C sequestration
- Feed/food competition
- Use of biomass, Land & water
- Ecosystem degradation
- Recycling non-edible plant biomass
- Value from non-cropping area
- Landscape management
- Closing nutrient cycle

Livestock sector should reduce its own impacts ... but it is also part of the solution having positive contributions that should be enhanced.



Looking to the future

- Redesigning the place and role of livestock within sustainable agri-food systems, with livestock as a key component of the solution



- Livestock are key as they are recyclers by nature
 - Recycling non-edible biomass into food chain
 - Providing nature based organic fertilisers to close the nutrient cycles
 - Providing by products for pharma, biofuel, textiles, feed
 - Providing ecosystem services
 - Enhancing crop diversification with additional benefits

- How can we increase the net social and environmental benefit of livestock, while ensuring the costs are distributed equitably

Looking to the future

Key figures about EU farm demography *(Anne-Charlotte Dockès)*

17
millions
farm
workers

8 millions
Full Time
Equivalent

58%
> 55
years old

10% full
agricultural
training

30%
female
farm
managers

85%
family
work

12%
< 40
years old

12% of EU farmers being below the age of 40 and nearly half of those being between 35 and 39 years old



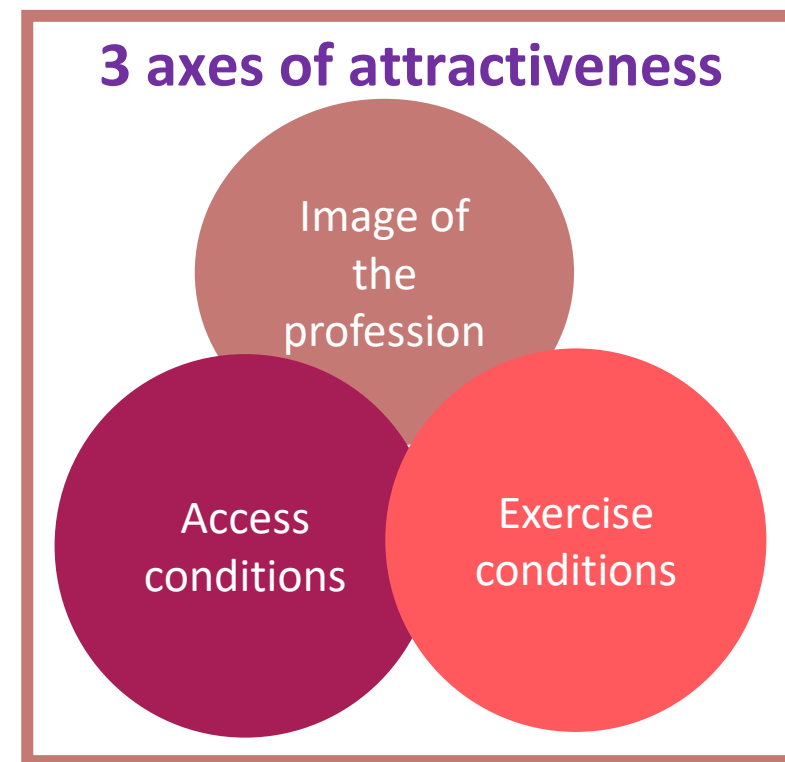
Source : EUROSTAT



“The representations and attractiveness of livestock farming professions under the influence of societal issues” *(Anne-Charlotte Dockès)*

LIVESTOCK FARMING FACES THE CHALLENGE OF WORKFORCE RENEWAL

- Farmers are ageing, many retirements are underway
- Need of farmers and farm employees
- Enhancing the attractiveness of farming activities: a necessity and 3 challenges



Responsible livestock

By **responsible livestock** we mean livestock farming in circular and resilient agriculture **ensuring** food security **while**:

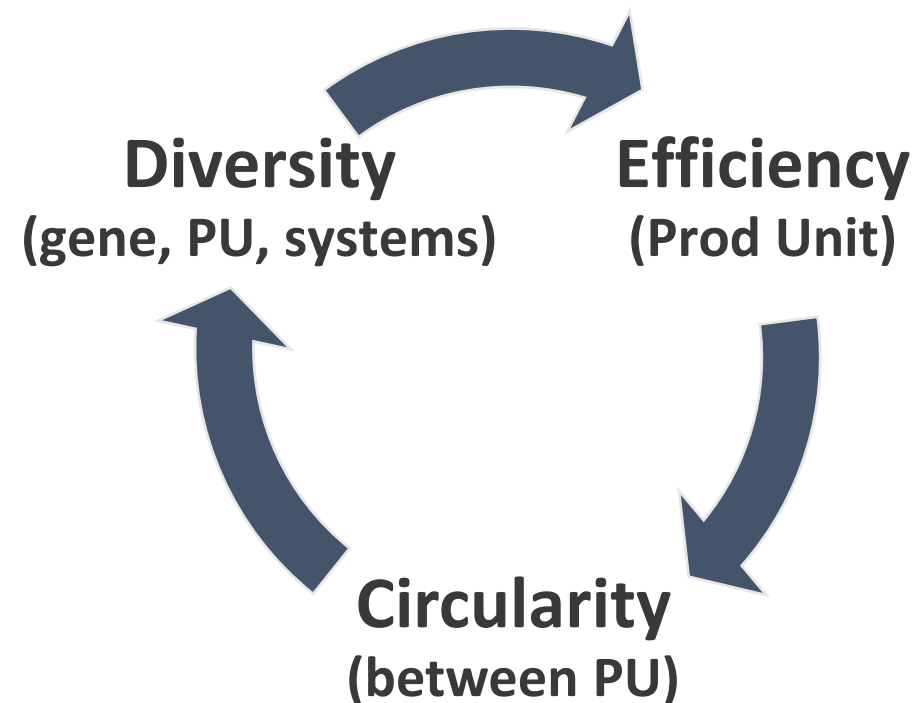
- keeping **resource use within the planetary boundaries**,
- promoting the **provision of ecosystem services and biodiversity**,
- **reducing the negative net environmental impact** associated with that production,
- providing **high welfare standards for livestock and wellbeing for farmers**,
- providing **better human health and well-being**,
- contributing to a **vibrant rural livelihood**,
- **increasing the ability of the sector to withstand** physical or financial shocks.



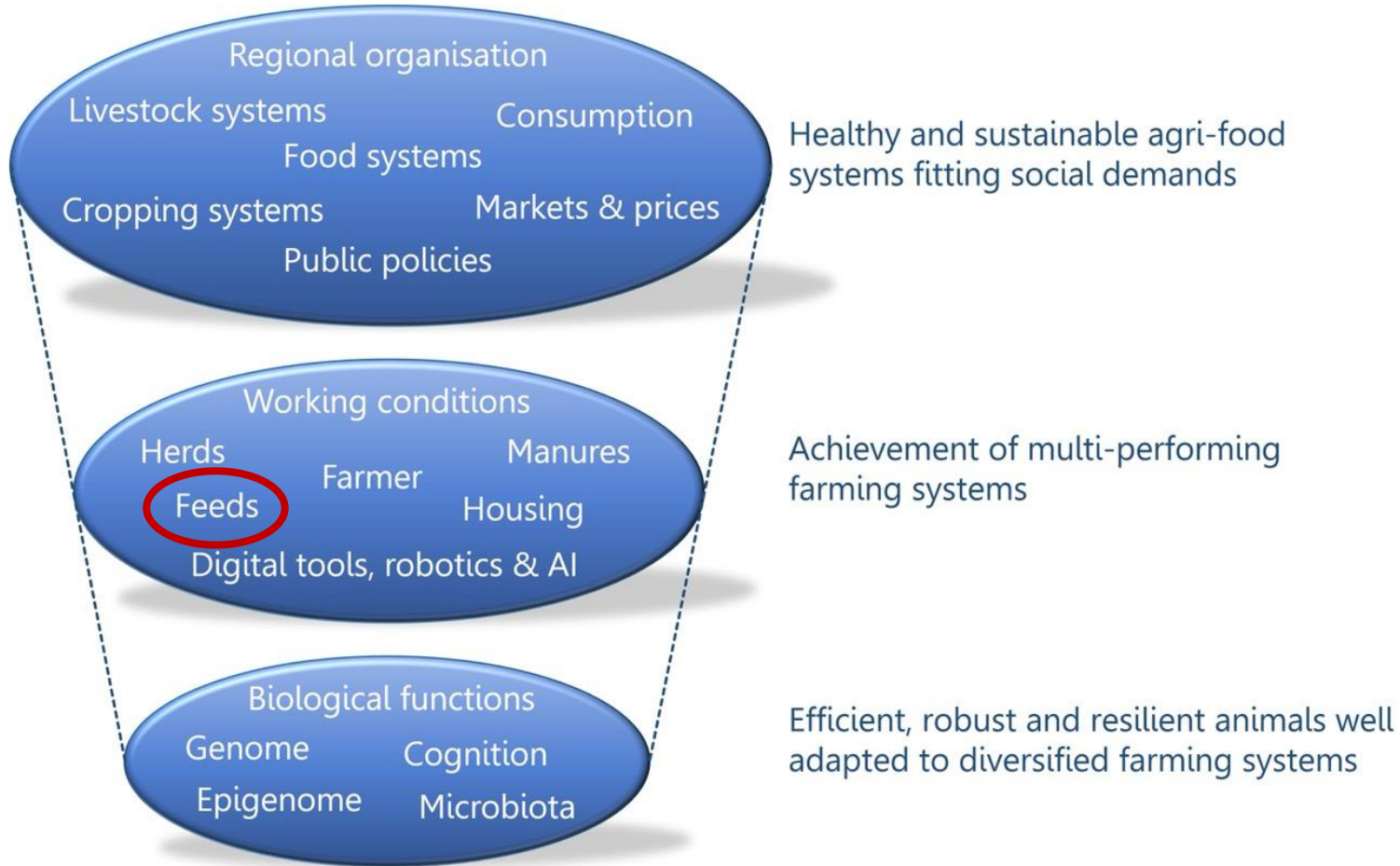
Three pathways of progress

That should be investigated simultaneously

- **Efficiency:** improving biological efficiency to preserve resources
- **Circularity:** promoting exchanges between PU at different scales to minimize waste and regenerate ecosystems
- **Diversity:** (Bio)diversity is a key component for ecological, social and economic performances of agri-food systems including resilience



R&I for a competitive and responsible livestock sector

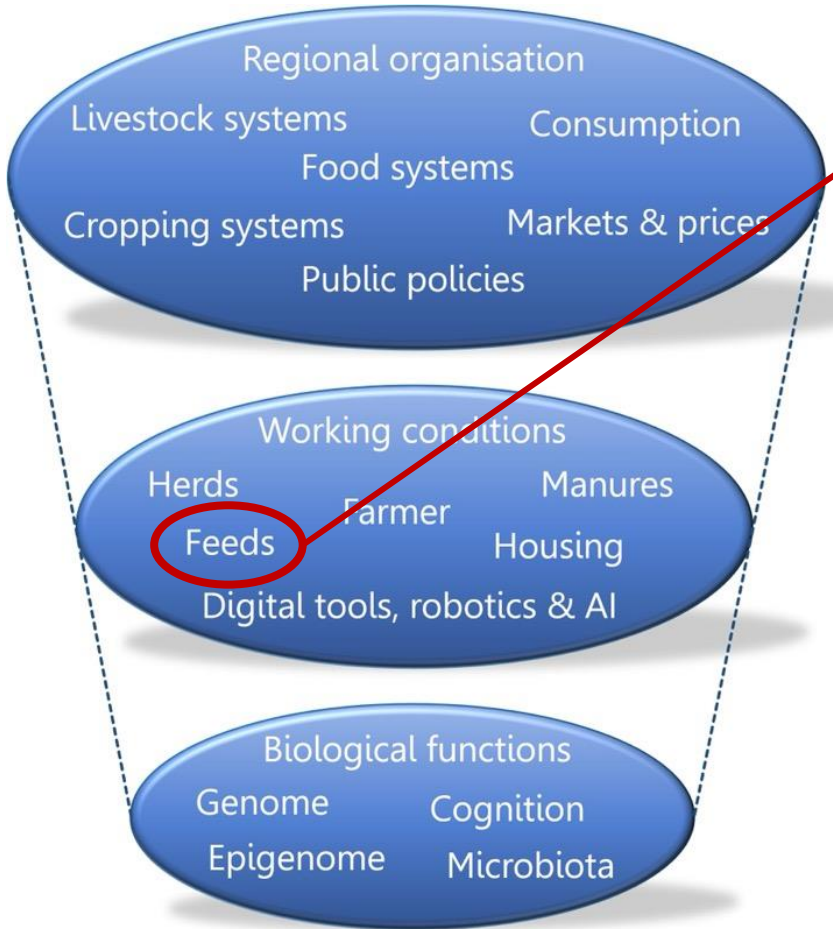


A coordinated, integrated, inclusive and interdisciplinary research

- Horizontal joint activities between different Horizon Europe clusters and pillars
- Vertical alignment between the EU and national/regional fundings
- Meet expectations of the different stakeholders
- Integrate all the production systems



R&I for a competitive and responsible livestock sector



“New” (protein rich) feed sources:

The development of circular approaches should make it possible to develop “new” protein sources for feed which would not be in competition with human food.

former foodstuffs, **insects**, algae, single cell protein, processed animal proteins

Contribution for the circular development of the EU feed & livestock chain.

Their potential use needs a comprehensive risk assessment, covering animal health, human health and the environment to ensure their safe use in the feed chain.



A strategic research and innovation agenda for a sustainable livestock sector in Europe

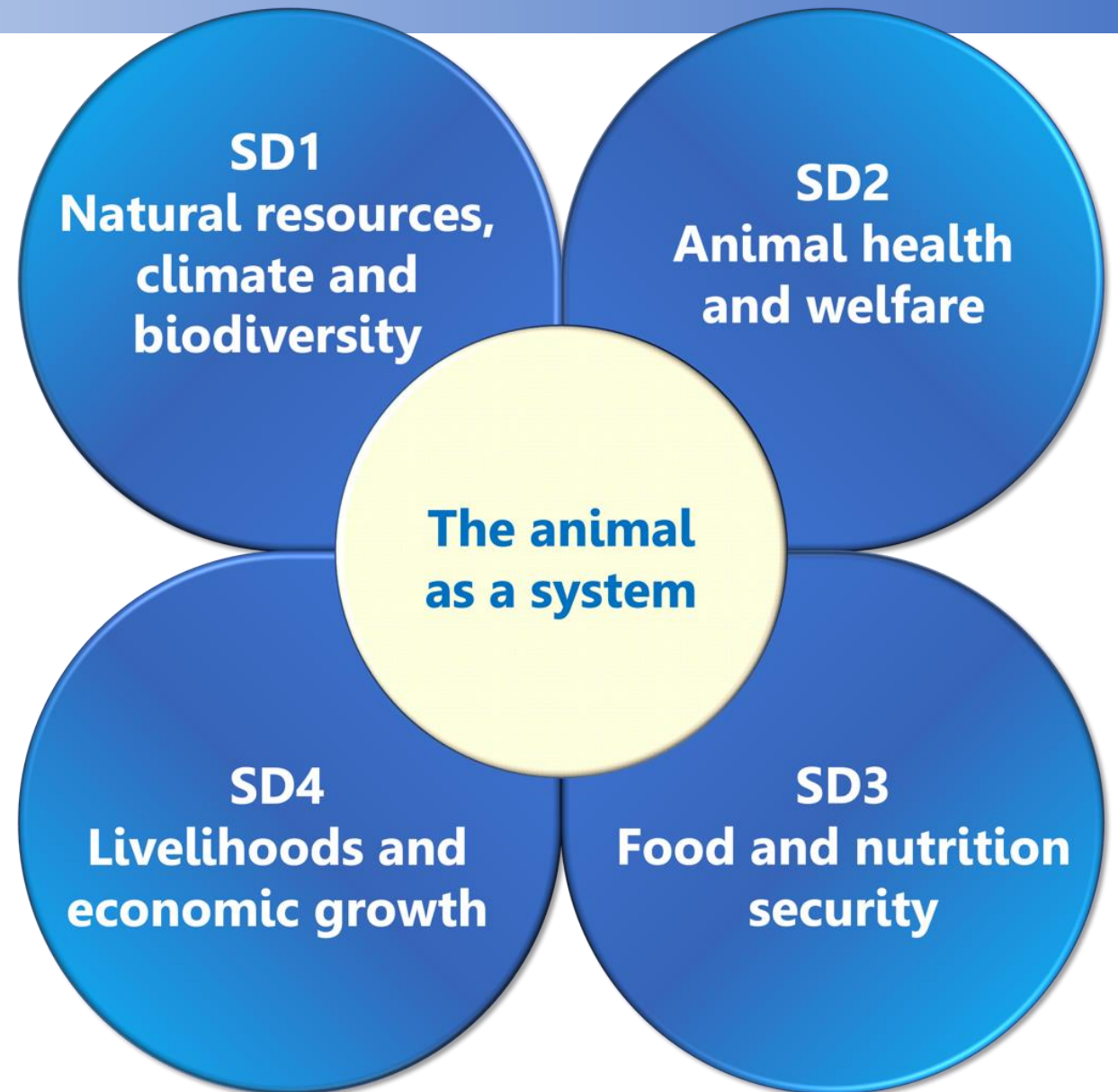
Challenges, ways of progress and suggested priorities for research for Horizon Europe to enhance innovation and sustainability in the livestock production sector of Europe's food supply chains

Fourth White Paper of the Animal Task Force

Suggested priorities

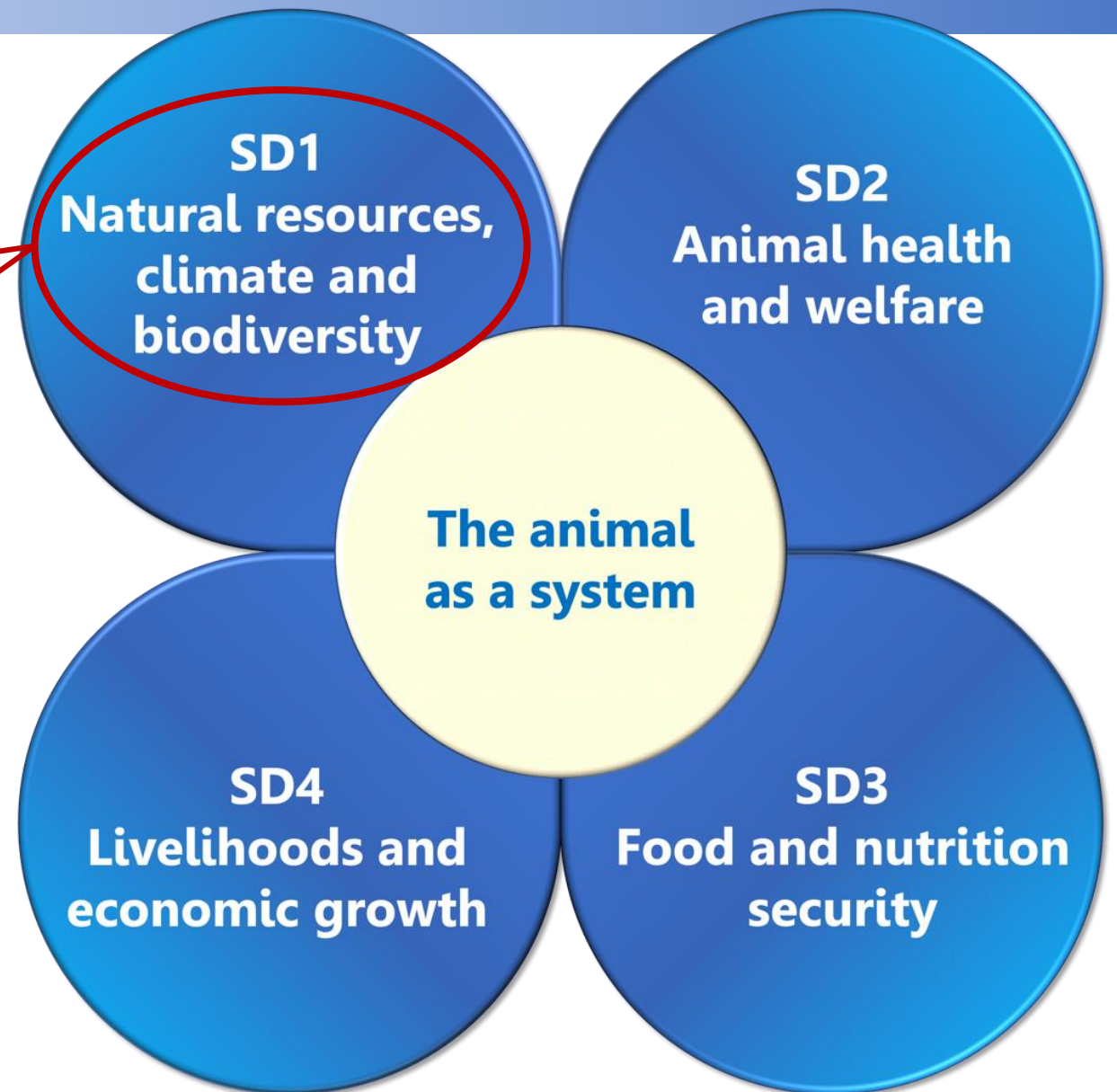
Four sustainability domains and a cross-cutting issue

These are key interdependent objectives for a just and safe transition of European livestock food and farming systems that merit support from European research and innovation funding



Insects as source of feed

Innovative manure refinery technologies
within a circular economy - Insects



Overall expected R&D outcomes

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YEAR 2025

**“Livestock farming systems in next generations:
can we imagine the future?”**

2 events:

- **5th one-day symposium ATF-EAAP Commission on Livestock Farming Systems**

EAAP Annual Meeting - Innsbruck, Austria – 25-29 August 2025

- **15th ATF Seminar**
Brussels + online



The Animal Task Force online



animaltaskforce.eu



animal-task-force



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