SCAR Collaborative Working Group on Sustainable Animal Production

SCAR CWG SAP

The SCAR Working Group on Sustainable Animal Production: Mission and Scope

European Science Alliance for Agriculture and Food - ESAAF
Strengthening Climate Resilience in European Livestock Systems

Vivi Hunnicke Nielsen (DK) – SCAR CWG SAP member
Brussels June 26th, 2026

SCAR - Standing Committee on Agricultural Research

Members from more than 35 countries

EU Member States

- *Delegates of ministries*
- *Research councils, Research Institutes, Universities*

Observers

Candidate countries
Associated countries

European Commission

SCAR Secretariat
DG RTD – Research and Innovation
DG AGRI – Agriculture and Rural Development

SCAR remit

Agriculture, Fisheries, Food, Forestry and the Wider Bioeconomy

- to provide **strategic R&I policy advice** to MS and EC
- to create an **integrated European Research Area (ERA)**

Key platform for creating **Horizon Europe Partnerships**

- to address some of Europe's most pressing challenges through concerted R&I initiatives

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WORKING GROUPS

- Provide policy advice
- Highlight priority R&I topics
- Develop strategic R&I agendas

SCAR Agroecology

SCAR AKIS, Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation Systems

SCAR ARCH, European Agricultural Research towards greater impact on global Challenges / International Facility

SCAR Bioeconomy

SCAR FISH, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research

SCAR Food Systems

SCAR FOREST, Forests and Forestry Research and Innovation

SCAR SAP, Sustainable Animal Production

SCAR AHW, European Animal Health and Welfare Research

SCAR Foresight Group

Publish every 4-5 year a Foresight Report

- to support the strategic planning of R&I for primary production, food systems and the wider bioeconomy for policy-making for MS and the EC to proactively solve future challenges

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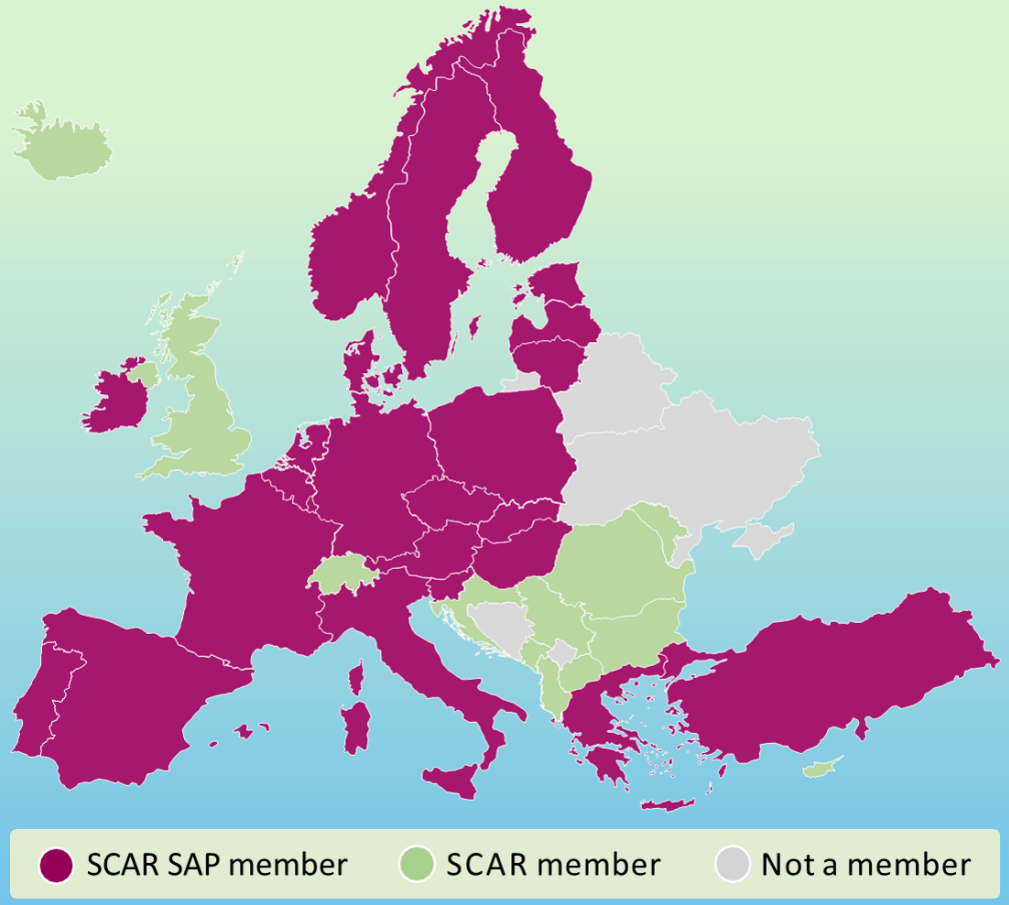

SCAR mandate

Since 2014

Current Mandate period

01/01/2025 – 31/12/2026

24 Countries and EC

Chair

Anke Schröder

Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (*BMLEH*), Germany

Co-chair

Susana Astiz

National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (*INIA*), Spain

Secretariat

Arnd Bassler

Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, Germany

Mission of CWG SAP

CWG SAP provides advice on the coordination of **R&I** for the development of **more sustainable animal production systems** in Europe to **Member States, Associated Countries** and **the European Commission**

Mission of CWG SAP

CWG SAP provides and work with a **holistic view on livestock** farming and the livestock sector with integration of different **research areas** like:

- **Animal Nutrition**
- **Breeding and Genetics**
- **Omics Technologies**
- **Housing**
- **Health & Welfare**

directly interrelating with **topics** like:

- **Food and Nutrition Security**
- **Resource Utilisation**
- **Emissions (including GHG emissions)**
- **Biodiversity**
- **Farm Economy**

CWG SAP focus on **all species** - except fish and fur animals

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Activities

ERA-NET SusAn (22 Member States, 39 partners)

- ERA-Net Co-funded Actions (Horizon 2020)

  - Three common cross-boarder calls with in total 39 transnational research projects (all species) using a systems approach

    2016 - Co-funded call:

    - Sustainable animal productions

    2018 - Joint Call (3 ERA-NETs: SusAn, FACCE ERA-GAS, ICT-AGRI2):

    - Novel technologies, solutions and systems to **reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of animal production** systems

    2021 - Joint Call: (4 ERA-NETs: (SusAn, FACCE ERA-GAS, ICT-AGRI-FOOD, SusCrop).

    - Circularity in mixed crop and livestock farming systems, with emphasis on **climate change mitigation** and adaptation

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Activities

- 2022 – **Strategic Research Agenda** - Development of a Common Strategic Research Agenda - "Finding a new balance"
  With guidance on research priorities

- 2022 - **Policy Brief** - "Lifestock's broad bright side"
  With recommendations for livestock research priorities

- 2019 - **CWG SAP study** - "Drivers of change and development in the EU livestock sector"
  The study identifies the main "drivers of change" for livestock farmers during the last 60 years

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Activities

- **3 Workshops on a common future vision of livestock farming in Europe**
  - 2022 - From a holistic picture towards a common vision of European livestock production
    Focus areas:
    Diversity, Consumption, Circularity, Resilience, Animal Health & Welfare, **GHG emissions,** Organic agriculture, Economy
  - 2023 - Livestock farming in Europe: From regional farming systems to a common sustainable future
    Focus areas:
    Existing livestock systems and its sustainability leading to a common vision of European livestock farming in the future
  - 2024 - From national strategies towards a common vision of livestock farming in Europe
    Focus areas:
    Greenhouse gas emissions, Biodiversity, Circularity, Resilience

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Recent activities

- 2025 (December) - CWG SAP General Meeting, Aarhus University, Denmark
- 2026 (May) - CWG SAP General Meeting, online

Current activities

- 2026 - RefreSCAR Case Study: “Scientific methods to assess the overall sustainability of livestock farming systems”
  To review and summarise the state of the art of scientific methods and parameters which assess the sustainability of livestock production systems
- 2026 - Policy Brief: “The benefit of livestock in circular agri-food systems”
  Focus on resource use efficiency at agri-food system level

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Current/upcoming activities

- 2026 (September) - Workshop: **GHGs from cattle production** Teagasc, Ireland

Participants

CWG SAP members and invited experts

Aims

1. To put greenhouse gas emissions from European cattle production into a context / wider perspective, contributing to a balanced discussion and informed decisions
2. To identify future areas of research

Eight topics

1. Methane as a GHG: Characteristics of methane as a GHG and conclusions for cattle as emitters
2. Enteric methane from an historical perspective: The development of livestock numbers, production and efficiency
3. Carbon sequestration in grasslands: Net GHG balance of different cattle production systems
4. Circular agri-food systems: Enteric methane from the perspective of a circular bioeconomy
5. Low nitrogen pastures and diverse swards
6. Anti-methanogenic feed additives
7. Genetics for low methane emissions
8. Cattle manure management

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Current/upcoming activities

- 2026 (September) - Workshop: **GHGs from cattle production** Teagasc, Ireland

Scientific expert contribution

Aarhus University, DK
Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases
Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB), Potsdam, DE
National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE), FR
National Research Institute of Animal Production (IZ), Balice, PL
Research Institute for Farm Animal Biology (FBN), Dummerstorf, DE
Teagasc – the Agriculture and Food Development Authority, IE
The University of Edinburgh, UK
Trinity College Dublin, IE; University College Dublin, IE
University of Lisbon, PT
Wageningen University and Research, NL

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Upcoming activities

- 2026 - Terms of reference for a new mandate 2027-2028

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ESAAF - Strengthening Climate Resilience in European Livestock Systems

ESAAF's topic of today's event (climate resilience) is highly correlating and complementary to the topic of the **CWG SAP** workshop (GHG mitigation) and we **welcome a continued exchange.**

Further information of CWG SAP and it's work: **https://scar-europe.org/scar-working-groups/sap**

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CWGSAP

Thank you for your attention