



SUSFOOD



© C. ADAM / CNIEL

an FP7 Action between 16 countries

*for research
on Sustainable Food
Production
and Consumption*



SEVENTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME

www.susfood-era.net



© Christophe MATHRE / ANPA



SUSFOOD

FOOD SUSTAINABILITY, HEALTHIER FOR THE EARTH AND EVERYBODY ON IT

Food Sustainability

The ERA-Net SUSFOOD defines sustainability in the food area as a food system that supports food security, makes optimal use of natural and human resources and respects biodiversity and ecosystems for present and future generations, which is culturally acceptable and accessible, environmentally sound and economically fair and viable, and which provides the consumer with nutritionally adequate, safe, healthy and affordable food. **SUSFOOD** is the acronym for **SUSTainable FOOD** production and consumption.

Networking and open calls

As an ERA-Net, SUSFOOD aims to set up a European strategic research agenda by increasing cooperation and synergy between European partners and by defining common future perspectives in sustainable food production and consumption. In addition, SUSFOOD aims to enhance collaboration and coordination between national and regional research programmes. Thanks to the identification of research priorities, gaps and opportunities, and a study of future research needs, SUSFOOD will have positive impacts on European research. By means of **two open calls** (in 2013 and 2014), sustainability oriented food chain programmes will be supported, in order to allow the European research area to be in the lead on sustainable food production, supply and consumption.

Scope and aims

SUSFOOD includes the entire food supply chain with a main focus on food chain sustainability beyond the farm gate. It covers processing, packaging, transport, retailing, food services, storage and consumer activities.

SUSFOOD promotes a multi-disciplinary approach from biology to food engineering and social sciences and tends towards the following socio-economic goals:

- Develop sustainable food systems from production to consumption;
- Increase food production sustainability while reducing waste in the food supply chain and limiting environment;
- Improve quality of life by improving food quality in a sustainable way and the resilience of the food supply chain;
- Encourage consumers to act in a more sustainable way;
- Improve competitiveness and economic growth in the European food industry with special attention to SMEs.

To achieve these goals, the consortium has developed an efficient framework with concrete actions.



A STRATEGY IN THREE POINTS

CONSTRUCT AN OVERVIEW OF EXISTING RESEARCH

An overview of the existing research has been achieved by means of an open web based archive, named the **Meta Knowledge Base (MKB)**. The analysis of the current research enables the identification of synergies, gaps and overlaps in European research and forms the basis for formulating future research needs. Ultimately, the process will result in providing financial support to corresponding research topics.

We encourage researchers from the industry and from public research institutes to post their research projects in the database, which is freely accessible and can be found on the SUSFOOD website (www.susfood-era.net).

Among the benefits for researchers is that the MKB forms a unique platform for researchers to exchange information and to expand networks.

Contact: Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO) (Belgium)

DEVELOP A TRANSNATIONAL STRATEGIC RESEARCH AGENDA (SRA)

Based on identified medium- to long-term needs the SRA describes in detail the key research priorities within the field of sustainable food production and consumption. The SRA establishes a joint agenda for European food research and is the foundation for transnational calls that deepen the cooperation between national research programmes. It will also be a useful tool for building long-term transnational collaboration.

Contact: The Danish Centre for Advanced Food Studies, University of Copenhagen (LMC/UCPH) (Denmark)

LAUNCH TRANSNATIONAL CALLS

Two calls for research proposals will be implemented. At first, the feasibility of joint activities in some areas relevant to the project was ensured by developing instruments, mechanisms and processes needed to implement transnational funding activities, like call procedures, documents and also a call secretariat.

The first call was launched in February 2013.

The second call will be launched on the 15th of January 2014.

Contact: The Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food (BLE) (Germany)

This ERA-Net started on December 1st, 2011 and will end on November 30th, 2014.

Contact: susfood@paris.inra.fr.

Website : www.susfood-era.net

The SUSFOOD Meta Knowledge Base (MKB)

The SUSFOOD Meta Knowledge Base or MKB is an online database created by the SUSFOOD partners ILVO (BE) and DASTI (DK), with information about institutes (research and other stakeholders), funding bodies, research programmes and research projects. The database can help all persons in the field of sustainable food production and consumption to find partners, associates, funding, researchers with expertise in food science etc.

The MKB is freely accessible for everyone and is a useful platform for information, communication, networking and partnering.

The MKB is a collection of information about research data, reports, ideas, conferences (contributions), papers, etc. in the field of (sustainable) food science. This information is freely accessible and provides information on what has been done in the past, what is going on in the present and what can be expected as regards future research. The MKB helps researchers communicate their expertise and research to colleagues and stakeholders (e.g. industry) internationally and serves as an online information/data centre about topics concerning sustainability and food.

What can you expect from the MKB?

• FUNDING BODIES AND THEIR RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

How can you find the suitable funding body for your project?

Via "Funding Bodies" and "Research programmes", you can search specifically for funding bodies and their research programmes with notification of their specifications.

http://susfood-db-era.net/drupal/funding_bodies and <http://susfood-db-era.net/drupal/research-programs>

• RESEARCH PARTNERS

Finding suitable partners in research and industry: Via "Organisations" you can search for all types of organisations (research, funding bodies, stakeholders, etc.) by name or abbreviation. Users belonging to each organisation are listed and more information about their expertise can be found with a mouse click! You also can contact them straight away via mail.

<http://susfood-db-era.net/drupal/organisations>

• RESEARCH PROJECTS

What kinds of projects are European food researchers working on?

Users are invited to add information about their ongoing research, upcoming projects, ideas and knowledge via "Postings". These data not only reflect what is currently under research in Europe, but also the expertise of certain users and/or organisations and are therefore useful in finding research partners. Searching this database based on keywords makes it a handy tool to find data in your field of interest.

<http://susfood-db-era.net/drupal/views/SearchPostings>

• COUNTRY VIEWS

The "Country pages" are structured pages with all the registered institutes (funding bodies, research institutes and other stakeholders) by country. These pages give a good overview of the organisations working in the food sector in a particular country. When selecting an organisation of interest, the whole organisation's structure (departments, lab units, etc.) is displayed. With a mouse click you can find more information such as contact data, expertise and/or equipment and registered users belonging to this organisation.

<http://susfood-db-era.net/drupal/country/22>

What's handy for the upcoming 2nd SUSFOOD call?

PARTNERING TOOL

The SUSFOOD MKB offers to users wishing to participate in the 2nd SUSFOOD call an open forum to find partners with complementary skills and similar interests amongst the (registered) users. A partnering page is available for private communication when exchanging ideas, project outlines and thoughts.

<http://susfood-db-era.net/drupal/about-partnering> and <http://susfood-db-era.net/drupal/forum>

Current features

One year after the online launch of the database (September 2013):

296 experts in food are registered

361 research projects are listed

How to register?

Please register at <http://susfood-db-era.net>



© Gilles GATTI / INRA

The SUSFOOD country report book

The SUSFOOD country report book is a reference book about policymakers, funding bodies, research programmes and research institutes in the (sustainable) food sector which will be published at the end of 2013. It contains the overall part of the funding bodies and research programmes where SUSFOOD related projects could apply to.

This country report also lists many different European research organizations that are working in the field of food science (food safety, food quality, food production, production technology, innovation, consumers, ...).

As this publication is only a collection of the available data at one point in time (September 2013), all data are available and is continuously updated in the SUSFOOD MKB, our online database at <http://susfood-db-era.net>. This online database is of open access to all researchers and other stakeholders.

This report gives a good overview to ministries and all other stakeholders. It can also help stakeholders to find suitable funding bodies and research partners for new projects around the theme "sustainable food production and consumption". This report can be useful for networking and for finding research partners for the upcoming SUSFOOD research and innovation calls.

An electronic version of the country report book will be available online both on the website and through the MKB database. A limited amount of printed copies will be distributed via the SUSFOOD partners.

The country report book can be found at www.susfood-era.net/index.php?index=194

SUSFOOD Strategic Research Agenda

The SUSFOOD ERA-Net has the following vision: **All food chain partners contribute to achieving sustainable, secure and resilient food systems which feed the world and make sustainable choices, the easy and preferable choices for consumers.**

The Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) embraces sustainability within a **global context**. The global food system is challenged by increased demand for quantity and quality of food to meet the population growth of 7 billion today to 9 billion by 2050, and at the same time to meet changes in the socio-economic and demographic structure of the population. These challenges include an increased middle-income group demanding more protein-rich food, increased pressure on natural resources, like water and energy, climate change, a demand for more nutritious and safer food for all, and for food to be affordable for all.

The food and drink sector contributes to the global economy and job opportunities. In 2011, the food and drink industry generated an annual turnover of 1,017 billion euros in Europe, (generating 4.25 million jobs), making it the largest manufacturing sector in Europe.

The SUSFOOD SRA takes into account other relevant SRA's for sustainable production and consumption, which is why this SRA focuses on food chain sustainability beyond the farm gate, including as processing, packaging, transport, retailing, food services, storage and consumer activities. The SUSFOOD project reaches out to primary production on issues such as assessment methods and -metrics as well as on policy questions.

The SUSFOOD SRA strives to have a the high impact on i) food security, ii) reducing pressure on natural resources such as water and energy and on adaptation to climate change, iii) innovation and knowledge transfer, iv) food and health and v) sustainable food economy, including employment and job creation.

The strategy for how research can have an impact to address these core challenges has a multipronged approach. This includes establishing a Meta Knowledge Database (MKB), providing information on funding and research institutions, recent and ongoing research programmes and identifying of the key research areas, where research gaps exist:

Eight key research areas are identified:

- 1 • Public policy coherence
- 2 • Innovation in food processing technologies
- 3 • Redesign input, waste and side flow strategies to increase resource efficiency and provide added value in food products and processing, manufacture etc.
- 4 • Interdisciplinary research approach to innovative food products and use of new raw materials for food products
- 5 • Harmonisation of the methods and metrics for integrated assessment of sustainability of food products and food patterns
- 6 • Connection between stakeholders and food systems
- 7 • Understanding consumer behavior and food choices
- 8 • Integration of information systems for personalized and sustainable choices. Each research area is exemplified in a number of concrete research subjects.

The eight research areas should be seen in a holistic manner, as outcomes of each research area may challenge other research areas. To stress the importance of a holistic approach, the SRA pinpoints the **cross-cutting issues** i) localisation of activities and ii) equity and ethics, which both need to be addressed as an integral part of each research area.

The implementation of the SRA is initiated by two SUSFOOD calls, maintenance of the MKB, dialogue with private as well as governmental national institutions and with EU institutions.

SUSFOOD calls for proposal

The ERA-Net SUSFOOD (Sustainable Food Consumption and Production) launched the first Joint Call for proposals in February 2013. Research project consortia could apply to three thematic call topics:

- 1 • Improving input, waste and side flow strategies to increase resource efficiency and provide added value in food products and food processing, manufacture, reducing inputs (energy, water etc.) in the food chain.
- 2 • Innovation in food processing technologies and food products to support a sustainable food chain.
- 3 • Understanding consumer behaviour to encourage a (more) sustainable food choice.

Altogether 98 pre-proposals were submitted (picture 1), off which 91 were considered eligible for funding



Picture 1: Submitted pre-proposals per topic

All 91 Pre-proposals were evaluated and assessed by the SUSFOOD partners. In June 2013 all partners commonly decided in a Selection Meeting to invite 25 Project Consortia to submit a Full proposal. 24 consortia submitted a Full proposal. (picture 2).

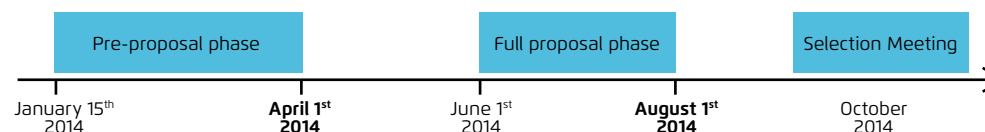


Picture 2: Submitted Full proposals per topics

The evaluation of the Full proposals was conducted by a Scientific Expert Committee (SEC). The final decisions regarding funding were made in the Selection Meeting in December 2013. The first projects of the first SUSFOOD Call will start in 2014.

The second SUSFOOD Call will be launched in January 2014. The Call will be published on the SUSFOOD Website. The procedure for the second Call will be the same as for the first Call, as follows:

After the publication of the call, research consortia will be invited to submit Pre-Proposals via an Online Submission Tool, by the 1st of April. After the evaluation of the pre-proposals, a first Selection Meeting will take place, and it will commonly be decided which Research Consortia will be invited to submit a Full Proposal. The Full proposal phase will last from the 1st of June until the 1st of August 2014. A Scientific Expert Committee will assess the submitted proposals, and the SUSFOOD Partners will decide in a second Selection Meeting which full proposals will be funded.



Picture 3: Main steps of the 2nd SUSFOOD call

For more information, please go to www.susfood-era.net/index.php?index=75



COORDINATION

Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)
www.inra.fr/en

PARTNERS

BELGIUM • Eigen Vermogen Van Het Instituut voor Landbouw en Visserijonderzoek (EV-ILVO)
www.ilvo.vlaanderen.be/EN/

DENMARK • Københavns Universitet (UCPH)
www.ku.dk/english/

• Styrelsen for Forskning og Innovation (DASTI)
<http://en.fi.dk/>

ESTONIA • Eesti Vabariigi Põllumajandusministeerium (EVPM)
www.agri.ee/?lang=en

FINLAND • Maa ja Elintarviketalouden Tutkimuskeskus (MTT)
www.mtt.fi/english/
• Maa- ja Metsätalousministeriö (MMM)
www.mmm.fi/en/

FRANCE • Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR)
www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/en/

• Le réseau français des instituts techniques de l'agro-alimentaire (ACTIA)
www.actia-asso.eu

GERMANY • Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung (BLE)
www.ble.de/EN/

• Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz (BMELV)
www.bmelv.de/EN/
• Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH (Jülich)
www.fz-juelich.de/portal/EN/

ITALY • Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali (MIPAAF)
www.politicheagricole.it

NORWAY • Norges Forskningsrad (RCN)
www.forskingsradet.no/en/

POLAND • Narodowe Centrum Badan I Rozwoju (NCBiR)
www.ncbir.pl/en/

ROMANIA • Unitatea Executiva Pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior, A Cercetarii Dezvoltarii Si Inovarii (UEFISCDI)
<http://en.uefiscdi.gov.ro/>

SLOVENIA • Ministrstvo za izobraževanje, znanost in šport (MIZS)
www.mizks.gov.si/en/

SPAIN • Elika Nekazaritzako Elikagaien Segurtasunarako Euskal Fundazioa (ELIKA)
www.elika.net/en/

• Instituto de Fomento de la Region de Murcia (INFO Murcia)
www.institutofomentomurcia.es/web/portal/what-is-info/

• Instituto Nacional de Investigacion y Tecnologia Agraria y Alimentaria (INIA)
www.inia.es

SWEDEN • Forskningsrådet för Miljö, Areella Nätningar och Samhällsbyggande (FORMAS)
www.formas.se/en/

THE NETHERLANDS • Ministerie van Economische Zaken (EZ)
www.government.nl

THE UNITED KINGDOM • The Technology Strategy Board
www.innovateuk.org

• The Secretary Of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
www.defra.gov.uk

TURKEY • T.C. Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı (GDAR)
www.tagem.gov.tr

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FIRST CALL

BELGIUM • Agentschap voor Innovatie door Wetenschap en - Technologie (IWT)
www.iwt.be/english/welcome/

FRANCE & SPAIN • Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso (FDNC)
www.fondationcarasso.org/en/

GERMANY • Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF)
www.bmbf.de/en/

