

# AGRICULTURE NET-ZERO 2050

*What pathways lead towards a low-carbon and resilient EU agriculture sector?*

## Date, time and place

- Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 15:00-16:30
- Room Brussels, European Union Pavilion, Area A1 of the Bonn zone, Bonn, Germany

## Aim of the event

Convening a diverse range of stakeholders from business, finance, think tanks to civil society, the event will discuss opportunities and challenges for long-term decarbonisation and increased resilience of the European agriculture sector. This will inform the work of a European stakeholder platform to develop evidence-based options for a sectoral roadmap in line with European decision-making and UNFCCC timelines.

## Speakers

### Chair and conclusions

- Céline Charveriat, Executive director, IEEP

### Presentation

- Dr. Ben Allen, Deputy Head of Agriculture, IEEP

### Discussants

- Hans Roust Thyssen, Head of Environment, SEGES - Danish Agriculture & Food Council
- Robert de Graeff, Senior Policy Advisor, European Landowners' Organization
- Maria Lettini, Director, FAIRR Initiative
- Craig Hanson, Global Director of Food, Forests & Water, World Resources Institute

## MEDIA CONTACT

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## Recent IEEP projects on agriculture and climate

- [Agriculture's contribution to the Effort Sharing Regulation for Transport and Environment](#)
- [The implications of COP21 for EU Agriculture for European Parliament](#)
- [Guidelines on the implementation of LULUCF reporting for CLM and GLM for the European Commission \(unpublished guidance circulated by the Commission to Member States\)](#)
- [Designing a LULUCF pillar that works for forests and climate for Fern](#)
- [Resource efficient use of soils and water – ENRD Thematic Group](#)
- [iSQAPER– H2020 project on improved soil management](#)
- [Sustainability criteria for the use of land-based energy feedstocks \(biomass\) to meet climate targets](#)

## Background information

The Paris Agreement heralded an international commitment to more ambitious climate mitigation efforts. The EU's initial contribution is set out in the 2030 climate and energy framework, identifying targets to reduce emissions by 40% by 2030 in line with 80% economy wide emission reductions by mid-century. Those targets demand action from all sectors, including agriculture that is expected to account for a third of total EU emissions by 2050. Yet meeting the long-term goals of Paris will require more demanding future emissions reductions; and the EU will need a longer-term strategic approach to the role agriculture and other land-using sectors must play as part of Europe's low carbon transition. This will entail an understanding of what a low-carbon or net-zero emitting agriculture sector could look like, its interaction with other sectors, and the drivers and actions to enable the necessary change. The sooner we start this process, the sooner the EU and its land using sectors will be able to develop workable answers to the challenge.

Delivering change within the agriculture sector is notoriously hard. Unlike many other production sectors, change rests on the decisions of millions of individual farmers who face an already broad and increasing range of demands on their businesses and the land they manage. These include commercial demands such as the production of food (for EU consumption, and export), alongside a range of demands for other services to society such as flood risk management, protection of habitats and species, as well as providing recreational and cultural spaces. Balancing the role of the agriculture sector, while meeting the need for increased climate action, is crucial. IEEPP research shows that many tools are available to Member States to take more ambitious climate action (mitigation and adaptation). Yet there has been reticence from many Member States, farmer and landowner organisations for a more targeted and forward-looking approach to decarbonisation. This is due largely to the perceived economic costs and potential production effects of many of the actions required, which must be factored into any transition pathways to ensure a just transition. These challenges point to the urgent need to develop an evidence-based, stakeholder-led process for identifying potential scenarios and options, both in Member States and at European level.