



## European project on assuring food security and biodiversity in times of climate change

### Topics of ECO-Ready activities

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### 1. A monitoring dashboard to track the transition to a sustainable EU food system



JRC has recently published the *EU food system monitoring dashboard* and the related technical report. The new tool will help assess the sustainability of food production, processing, distribution and consumption in the EU across environmental, social and economic lenses.

Transforming the food system is an urgent challenge to achieve the sustainable development goals and key EU policy priorities, among them a resource efficient, competitive and inclusive economy, envisaged by the European Green Deal. At the same time, understanding the food system through a combination of environmental, economic, and social and health lenses remains a challenge. To meet this objective, the JRC has set a monitoring framework and an associated dashboard delivering a comprehensive view on the environmental, economic and social impacts of the EU food system, including health impacts of diets.

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### 2. ECO-Ready presents at Conference on ‘Landscapes Across the Mediterranean’

ECO-Ready partners participated in the CrossMed conference *Landscapes across the Mediterranean* organized December 11-13, 2025 at the Università degli Studi Mediterranea. Prof Tsakiridou presented an ECO-Ready paper on *A comparative assessment of societal awareness on climate change, food security, and biodiversity between the Mediterranean and the rest of Europe* (co-authored by K. Mattas, N. Syndoukas, F. Anastasiadis, and I. Manikas. The author may be contacted through [efitsaki@agro.auth.gr](mailto:efitsaki@agro.auth.gr).



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### 3. ECO-Ready discussing AI developments at International Forum (EAAE seminar)



ECO-Ready partner proQuantis participated in the *International Forum on System Dynamics and Innovation in Food Networks* in Germany, February 10-14, 2025 ([www.fooddynamics.org](http://www.fooddynamics.org)). It organized a session on the use of Artificial Intelligence (Large Language Models) in research and teaching where it featured two presentations focusing on ECO-Ready project developments, dealing with the use of AI in contingency planning by Prof. Schieferer and in the selection of appropriate forecasting models related to food security and biodiversity by Prof. Müller.



The session found great interest and engaged in a broad discussion moving beyond the specific themes of the presentations to a principal use of Large Language Models in issues as diverse as research, teaching, survey analysis or paper improvements. Positive experiences met with critical comments and discussions on the need to increase experimentations and to better learn on how to communicate with these new and fast evolving tools.

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### 4. ESAPPIN Living Lab at European Networking Event ‘Successful R&I in Europe 2025’



The conference *Successful R&I in Europe 2025* took place in March 2025 inviting researchers and entrepreneurs from North Rhine-Westphalia and all other regions throughout Europe to find new research and innovation (R&I) partners for Horizon Europe projects.

Participants were invited to give a short presentation (ideas and/or results) with a focus on Horizon Europe calls. The networking event was structured in parallel workshops focusing on eight topics with topic 6 dealing with *Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment*.

The event addressed in particular universities and research institutes as well as companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises. [ESAPPIN](#) and all other participants were invited to become involved in established and new technology networks between researchers, entrepreneurs and multipliers related to Horizon Europe.

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### 5. CONCAT Living Lab at Orchard Systems 2025, New Zealand

Victor Blanco, a researcher at IRTA and member of the [CONCAT LL](#), presented a paper on “*Drought emergency plan: managing apple tree orchards during extreme droughts*” at the *Orchard Systems 2025* conference, held in Napier (New Zealand) and organized by ISHS (International Society of Horticultural Science). The study assessed the impact of thinning and pruning strategies on tree water status, yield, and fruit quality in apple orchards under extreme drought conditions, providing insights into adaptive management practices for sustaining productivity in water-scarce regions.



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## 6. LivOrganic Living Lab at Biofach fair in Germany



*Biofach* in Germany is the world largest organic food fair with more than 35.000 visitors from over 140 countries. The Danish stand brought together 30 of most important organic food producers and was organized by the partnership between Bio Aus Dänemark (MAA.C) and Organic Denmark. This approach proved a strong foundation to present [LivOrganic](#) in an international context.

Academia's approach to food security and the industry's approach to managing supply chains share mutual interests in mitigating risks, maintaining quality of life and ensuring a healthy workforce for future generations to come. Though in the demands of everyday life, this shared goal is often mystified.

By conducting informal semi-structured interviews with farmers, bioindustries, wholesalers, distributors, and food producers at BioFach, LivOrganic achieved insights into how we can strengthen the collaboration between knowledge partners and food practitioners – this will further be unfolded in the co-creation workshop at the end of March.

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## 7. Engaging children in sustainable farming: a SECO-Collab LL workshop

In a series of workshops, the SECO-Collab Living Lab introduced children into sustainable farming practices.

The workshops encompassed 6 weeks. In the first week, the children planted salad and learned about gardening and the basics of plant growth. They discovered that we use rockwool instead of soil and discussed what conditions are necessary for the seeds to germinate. In week 4, the children returned for transplanting and observed the continuous flow of water running through the gutters, gaining insight into how our farm operates. In week 6 it was harvesting time. The children discussed the benefits of growing salad and herbs sustainably, deepening their understanding of how this in-store farming method helps the environment.



This workshop series not only taught the children about the life cycle of plants but also encouraged them to appreciate sustainable farming practices. With ECO Ready's support, this hands-on experience helped the children learn about agriculture while fostering a sense of responsibility toward the environment.

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## 8. CONCAT Living Lab workshop on Resilience and Climate Change Mitigation



CONCAT Living Lab organized a local workshop about *Resilience and Climate Change Mitigation in the Catalan Agrifood Sector*. The workshop took place on October 2024 and aimed at consolidating the Living Lab community to gather the necessary knowledge and information, conduct experiments, and define contingency and action plans, among other activities of [CONCAT LL](#). Photos about the workshop and an extensive report are accessible through the link below.

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## 9. ECO-ReadyMasuria Living Lab announces results of farm competition

The [EcoReadyMasuria Living Lab](#), in collaboration with RIC Pro-Akademia, has announced the winners of the *EcoReadyMasuria Demonstration Farms competition*. This initiative aims to enhance farm production efficiency while preparing farmers for the challenges of climate change. The selected farms will collaborate with experts to test eco-innovative agricultural practices across five key product categories: barley, maize, red clover, sunflower, and milk production.

Why does it matter? The competition promotes climate adaptation and encourages scientific collaboration in agriculture. By testing new soil biopreparations, conditioned seeds, mixed cropping, and innovative feed sources, the demonstration farms will provide valuable insights that could shape future EU agricultural policies. The research phase will run from March to October 2025, supported by a newly launched network of agrometeorological stations in the region.



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## 10. European Living Lab conference April 24-25 in Barcelona



The CONCAT LL invites to the conference *Living Labs for Mitigating Climate Change in Agriculture* taking place on 24–25 April 2025 at Espai Bital, Barcelona.

The conference is organised by CONCAT Living Lab, EcoReady, PRIMED, REFOREST, and the Interreg Euro-MED Innovative Sustainable Economy Mission, with the support of Generalitat de Catalunya, IRTA, Naked Innovations, FCAC, Xarxa Agritech, BETA TC (UVIC-UCC), and BioHubCat.

Climate change is reshaping agriculture, especially in the Mediterranean, where rising temperatures, water scarcity, and extreme weather threaten food security and rural livelihoods. By joining this conference, you will: Co-create actionable solutions for climate-smart agriculture alongside leading experts, policymakers, and practitioners; engage in hands-on workshops to define strategies for regenerative farming, water security, nature-based solutions, and circular bioeconomy models; explore cutting-edge innovations in climate adaptation through interactive demonstrations and real-world case studies; help build collaborations that drive lasting impact beyond the event. For general enquiries, please contact: [sarah@nakedinnovations.eu](mailto:sarah@nakedinnovations.eu).

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## 11. Forthcoming European and Global conferences of Agri-Economists

Economists with a focus on Agriculture, Food and the Environment meet at EAAE 2025, the European conference of the *European Association of Agricultural Economists* (EAAE) and at IFAMA 2025, the World conference of the *International Food and Agribusiness Management Association* (IFAMA).



**EAAE2025** will take place August 26-28, 2025 in Bonn, Germany. Partners of ECO-Ready have proposed a special session on Artificial Intelligence in which ECO-Ready developments will be discussed in a wider context ([EAAE-AI-session](#)). Keep posted on developments.

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**IFAMA2025** will take place in June 22-26, 2025 in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil. Partners of ECO-Ready have been accepted for presenting ECO-Ready developments.

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## 12. Living Lab 'THALLA' opening conference and DEC activities

THALLA's opening conference was successfully held on Tuesday, December 17th, 2024, at the Conference Centre of the Municipality of Thebes: *Climate Crisis & Food Security: The contribution of the Thriving Agroecology Living (THALLA)* in addressing future challenges, in the framework of the research project THALLA, to raise community awareness revolving around the key issues of climate crisis, food security and biodiversity, with the ultimate goal of strengthening and enhancing the resilience of the agri-food system. The context and the implications of climate crisis and food security at national, European and global level, was illustrated, highlighting that the most vulnerable partners in the agri-food value chain and system are farmers and consumers. Academics, researchers and business experts focused on the diverse effects as well as agroecological and regenerative practices applications on five key selected product types (Honey, tomato, wheat, olives, fish & aquaculture).



THALLA's objectives, as well as its methods, tools and expected outcomes in addressing the challenges of climate crisis and food insecurity against social cohesion were demonstrated on Tuesday, 12th November 2024, at a raising public awareness event stressing the importance of Healthy nutrition and the social inclusion of vulnerable consumers within the framework of the ESF+ Food4Inclusion – Healthy Meal project, organised by the Union of Working Consumers of Greece (EEKE), in collaboration with the Municipality of Elefsina in Attica, Greece.

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## 13. CONCAT LL's conference participations featuring award winning presentations

Members of the CONCAT Living Lab have been especially active in participating in European conferences with presentations about their research and activities. An outstanding award-winning paper was presented in October 2024 in the 2024 IEEE International Workshop on Metrology for Agriculture and Forestry (<https://metroagrifor.org/>) featuring "Early Crop Type Classification and Mapping Using Sparse and Multi-Year Remote Sensing Data".



The research uses a method that combines remote sensing and AI to map crop types in the early stages of the year, serving as a valuable tool for monitoring food production and managing water resources in irrigation districts based on crop distribution. More information on CONCAT can be found on <https://www.eco-ready.eu/living-labs/concat/>, more information on further conference presentations is accessible through the link below.

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## 14. Announcement: ECO-Ready project meeting at Cranfield (CRA)



After more than 2 years into the time span of the ECO-Ready project, project partners meet on April 3-4, 2025 in Cranfield (UK) for the second annual project meeting. It involves presentations related to various work packages and to various Living Labs. During the event, a policy roundtable discussion with a panel of experts in food security, climate change, and biodiversity will take place with the aim of solidifying our efforts in making policy recommendations through the ECO-READY project and aligning our future work with contemporary policies. Furthermore, a workshop on post-project sustainability and entrepreneurship will be conducted involving all ECO-READY partners aiming to inspire potential future business endeavors. The program of the meeting is accessible through the link below.

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## 15. Announcement: Intern. ECO-Ready Conference in Cyprus (CUT)

[Cyprus University of Technology](#) is planning a 3-day event dedicated to ECO-Ready developments. During the first day it will invite several Horizon Projects to present their work and investigate the potential to establish synergies; the second day will include a synergy workshop, and a training workshop on the Observatory; the third day will be fully dedicated on demonstration and training on the implementation of the e-DNA methodology, including a visit and demonstration in the field. More information through the ECO-Ready event partner CUT at the link below.



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## 16. Webinars on contingency planning for food security



In March 2025, ECO-Ready partner proQuantis offered a webinar on contingency planning in Living Labs cooperating with ECO-Ready. The webinar initiated collaboration between the project and the Living Labs on contingency planning. The webinar is based on 3 project reports available on the website of the project ([www.eco-ready.eu](http://www.eco-ready.eu)) The presentation is accessible through the link below.

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## More information

For more information on the project and its development during the coming years you may subscribe to the newsletter through the newsletter link on its website. Previous newsletters are accessible on the website [www.ECO-Ready.eu](http://www.ECO-Ready.eu) as well.



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