



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

1. ECO-Ready at IUFoST conference in Rimini



The ECO-Ready project was successfully presented during the 22nd **IUFoST World Congress on Food Science and Technology 2024** organized by the International Union of Food Science and Technology at the Palacongressi di Rimini from September 8 to 12, 2024. Confagricoltura could present all its projects and participated in a dedicated session on "*From Digitization to Waste Recovery and Diversity: Main Results of Confagricoltura EU Projects on Innovation and Circularity*" where Michele Contel could discuss the projects with an audience with scientific and non-scientific background.

The Congress prepared an exciting programme that included industry workshops, prestigious plenary sessions and keynote speakers, concurrent industry-led sessions, applied research presentations and countless networking opportunities, attracting over 2,500 delegates from all over the world including especially the Americas, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific region. The congress aimed at outlining the new challenges the sector will have to face and to enter into discussions with professionals from a diversity of disciplines which often operate in isolation from each other.

[More on IUFoST](#)

2. ECO-Ready at 188 th EAAE seminar in Chania

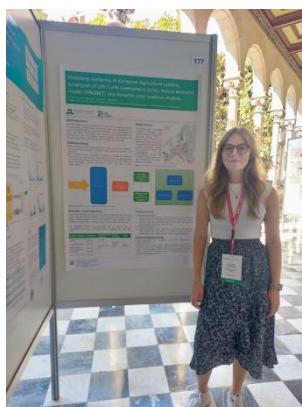
ECO-Ready joined the **188th EAAE seminar** organized September 12-13 at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, Crete, Greece. ECO-Ready partners were participating in a special session on Horizon Europe projects with seven presentations on ongoing activities within the ECO-Ready project.

This Special Session represented the second time that a dedicated ECO-Ready session featuring ECO-Ready activities and results was organized within an international academic event, a major milestone for the dissemination of the project results to the relevant academic communities. This Seminar provided an excellent opportunity for networking with other current Horizon Europe projects and for generating potential for future synergies.



[More on Seminar](#)

3. ECO-Ready at LCA Food Conference in Barcelona



The LCA team attended the **LCA Food Conference** in September 2024, held in Barcelona. Representing the ECO-Ready project, Wageningen Economic Research participated with a poster presentation that showcased the various modeling approaches used to quantify the baseline of all the Living Labs through Life Cycle Analysis (LCA).

In addition to the baseline analysis, the presentation highlighted the exploration of future scenarios and shocks, focusing on the environmental and social impact categories with the support of other models, like *MAGNET*. The conference provided an excellent platform for exchanging ideas on the future challenges of sustainability in food systems and discussing innovative modeling techniques.

[More on LCA Food Conference](#)

4. Confagricoltura on the sidelines of the G7 Agriculture and Fisheries Summit

The ECO-Ready project was presented at **ConfAgorà**, the meeting place organized by Confagricoltura at the sidelines of the G7 Agriculture and Fisheries Summit held between September 21 and 29 in Syracuse, Sicily, Italy.

The presentation took place with about 20 people including agricultural entrepreneurs and representatives from ministries. It was moderated by Michele Contel with an expert panel including Tancredi Marini, Leonardo Brachetti and Alessandro Iachetti.

More information on Confagricoltura's engagement on [Instagram](#) and [facebook](#).



5. Confagricoltura and ENEA at ECOMONDO fair

Confagricoltura and ENEA had the opportunity to participate in **Ecomondo**, the reference event for the green and circular economy which took place November 4 to 7 in Rimini, Italy. The fair represents a fundamental dialogue platform for the industrial, institutional and research worlds, aimed at discussing and developing the European Union's environmental policy strategies. The event is attended by scientists and professionals with engagement in agri-food initiatives and attracts usually about 90,000 to 100,000 visitors from about 120 countries.



Confagricoltura had organized a stand where it could present the ECO-Ready project to visitors who stopped by. In addition, Confagricoltura, Federalimentare, ENEA and the Ecomondo Technical Scientific Committee with Maurizio Notarfonso (ENEA) organized the session *Drivers for a stronger and more competitive agrifood supply chain: between tradition and innovation, circularity energy transition* where they informed about the ECO-Ready project. The event represented an important opportunity to deepen and evaluate possible scenarios and future policies developed within the project and to make attendees aware how these could adequately support the actors in the agrifood supply chain.



[More on ECOMONDO](#)

6. ECO-Ready at the FOOD REVOLUTION 2024



The **FOOD REVOLUTION 2024** congress “Driving the transition to a sustainable, safe, and healthy food future” was held from October 21 to 23 October in Parma, Italy. The conference focused on a holistic approach towards the food future encompassing a comprehensive understanding of the interconnections between sustainability, safety, and health. *Annamaria Bevivino (ENEA)* was invited as keynote speaker in a plenary session on *Towards a sustainable, safe, and healthy food future* with a presentation on *Microbiome-based solution and soil improvers as green biofertilizer for agri-food system sustainability and healthy soil*. The

presentation showed evidence how microbial data can improve agricultural policies and practices to ensure sustainability farming and food safety. *Annamaria Bevivino* provided insights into the integration of microbial research and scientific data into agricultural policy development, underscoring the strategic importance of scientifically validated microbiological indicators in soil management and their key role in the entire food chain, supporting a solid and sustainable 'farm to fork' framework.

[More on Food Revolution](#)

7. ECO-Ready at the ECCO XLII Meeting: 'Microbe & Microbiome Management for a Better Planet'

The **ECCO XLII Meeting** was organized by the European Culture Collections' Organization September 18 to 23, 2024, in Bari (Apulia region, Southern Italy). It

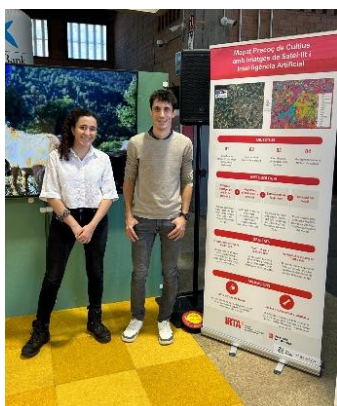


focused on the study, management, and valorization of microbes and microbiomes as essential biological resources, crucial for understanding biological systems, improving quality of life, and fostering sustainability. The conference promoted a holistic and integrated approach to microbial resources and Microbial Biological Resource Centers (mBRCs), emphasizing their role in: supporting basic and applied transdisciplinary sciences; enhancing resilience to global changes and promoting sustainable development; improving human and animal health within the OneHealth framework.

During the event, *Annamaria Bevivino (ENEA)* presented research results on *Soil Health and Agri-Food System Sustainability from a Microbiology Perspective: A Data-Driven Approach for Agricultural Policy and Practice*, co-authored with *Lorenzo Nolfi, Arianna Bindo, Luciana Di Gregorio, Manuela Costanzo, Roberta Bernini, Giovanna Cristina Varese, Silvia Tabacchioni, Ansa Palojarvi, and Ioannis Manikas*.

[More on ECCO meeting](#)

8. CONCAT Living Lab (Spain) at Fira de Sant Miquel fair (Catalonia)



The 70th edition of the **Sant Miquel Agricultural Fair** in combination with EUROFRUIT took place from September 26 to 29 2024 in Lleida, consolidating itself as a national and European benchmark in the agricultural sector. The event attracts professionals, manufacturers and distributors of agricultural machinery, and will coincide with the BIT Congress on bioeconomy, innovation and technology.

CONCAT LL (SPAIN) attended the Fira de Sant Miquel, and informed attendees about the setup of its Living Lab and presented a tool it developed to monitor the agricultural production in its region using satellite imagery. This tool has been offered to the ECO-Ready observatory for integration into its services.

[More on Fira](#)

9. *PROBIO Living Lab (Czech Republic)* at European Mission Soil Week 2024

The **European Mission Soil Week** took place November 12-13, 2024 in the premises of the European Research Executive Agency (REA). It was organised by the European Commission, the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), the Joint Research Centre - EU Soil Observatory (EUSO), the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), and the European Research Executive Agency (REA).

The Czech Living Lab **PROBIO** could introduce its engagement in ECO-Ready, its involvement in the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL), establish contacts with IFOAM Organics Europe and visit the Walloon Agricultural Research Center (CRA-W).

The meeting addressed major achievements including

- ➔ the organization of *50 projects* advancing soil research and innovation,
- ➔ the establishment of *25 Mission Soil Living Labs*, and
- ➔ the harmonizing of soil monitoring across the EU in cooperation with the European Soil Observatory (EUSO).



[More on the Soil Week](#)

10. Educational afternoon on the *Ekofarma PROBIO*



On November 3rd, the **Ekofarma PROBIO** hosted an engaging and educational program designed for children and adults. This event aimed at providing a deeper understanding of the life around us, focusing on the intricate relationships within the animal kingdom and their interactions in agricultural settings. The main organizer of the event was the Jasánek Forest Club, with Czech Organics, **PROBIO**, and Obchodní Společnost sro as co-organizers.

Event Highlights included Interactive Stands offering fascinating insights into various aspects of the animal kingdom. These stands covered topics such as:

Invertebrate Demonstrations, Nature Cycle Games, Wildlife Recognition, and Wetland Information.

The event was a resounding success, offering a perfect blend of education and entertainment. It fostered a greater appreciation for the natural world and the importance of sustainable agricultural practices.

[More on the edu program](#)

11. *ECOVITA LL (Hungary): stakeholder workshop*

A **stakeholder workshop** was organised in the **EcoVita Living Lab**. Tudatos Vásárlók Egyesülete - a Hungarian NGO representing consumers in LL - invited a diverse group of experts, researchers, NGO representatives and national associations to reflect on the role of vertical farming in food security. After an interesting visit to the EcoVita Living Lab vertical farm, the participants discussed the possible target groups, selling points and critics of vertical farm products.

The issue is complex: the technology of vertical farming offers solutions to many environmental problems, but regulated conditions can also trigger a sense of distance from professionals or consumers. For better understanding the view of professionals and consumers, partners of the EcoVita Living Lab collected feedback from visitors about their view. The results will be used in the ECO-Ready project for a better understanding of consumer perceptions and the possible market for vertical farm products in Hungary.



[More on workshop](#)

12. Students' Challenge workshop by *LivOrganic LL* (Denmark)

About the workshop

On September 26, ECO-Ready living lab partner **LivOrganic** hosted a dynamic workshop at Kalø Agricultural College in Denmark gathering the next generation of organic farmers to explore resilience, food security and the role of organic agriculture in addressing climate challenges. The group represented future farmers with expertise in sheep and cattle production, pig rearing, apple growing, indoor and outdoor tomato production and, arable crops.



Key themes discussed and conclusions:

Students examined the unique contributions of organic agriculture to shape a resilient, agri-food sector focusing on how soil management, water retention strategies, and biodiversity preservation could help mitigate climate impacts such as droughts and heavy rain. It was evident that organic farmers held soil management strategies high on the agenda spanning from ploughing practices to strategies for retaining water. Land management becomes more important in the future to ensure sufficient areas for grazing and for sustaining soil fertility. From group discussions the students identified biodiversity in crops and livestock as fundamental elements in organic agriculture, and pointed to the need to provide more knowledge to farmers about soil biodiversity.

[More on student challenge](#)

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 as well.



[Subscribe for newsletter](#)

Project coordination and partners

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