



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

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### 1. Report: ECO-Ready conference on biodiversity, food security and policy-making



The conference took place May 12-15, 2025 in Limassol (Cyprus), where experts, researchers, and policymakers from all over Europe gathered to discuss the compatibility of ecological conservation and sustainable agriculture.

The conference centered around interdisciplinary understanding, digital technologies, scientific knowledge, and the use of Living Labs as living laboratories for sustainable innovation. The emphasis was on 4 major issues.

- 1 Keynotes emphasized biodiversity upgrading, farm diversification, and sustainable bioeconomy systems with presentations of about 13 sister HORIZON projects.
2. Discussions of synergies and tensions between agriculture policy and biodiversity.
3. Collaboration opportunities among different projects and with ECO-Ready Living Labs.
4. Workshops on Biodiversity Action Planning, on remote sensing for data collection, and on foresight and scenario modelling.

The conference concluded with visits to fields and laboratories and with hands-on training in the assessment of biodiversity. Some impressions of the conference: are accessible [here](#).

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[More on conference \(PDF\)](#)

### 2. Report: ECO-Ready project meeting in Cranfield, UK

The second annual project meeting of ECO-Ready with project partners and associated Living Labs took place April 3 to 4, 2025 at Cranfield University in the UK. Work package leaders presented important updates about the project, emphasising milestones that were achieved and the plans for completing the remaining activities. Living Labs showcased their achievements and used the opportunity to connect with ECO-Ready project partners.

A policy roundtable with a panel of academics and policy experts defined policy objectives for food security, climate change, and biodiversity. Eco-Ready Living Labs' engagements in identifying scenarios and formulating policy recommendations provided the basis for a panel discussion about current food security policies, gaps and challenges, and potential contributions of ECO-Ready results for addressing such gaps and challenges.



Experts from Cranfield University delivered a workshop on opportunities for post-project sustainability of Living Labs through commercialisation of activities and entrepreneurial endeavours. The workshop discussed the key foundations for a successful entrepreneurial endeavour, lessons learned from the industry, and useful tools for commercialisation of products.

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[More on conference \(PDF\)](#)

### 3. Report: ECO-Ready co-organizes conference on Climate-Resilient Agriculture



On April 24–25, stakeholders, researchers, and innovators from across Europe met in the conference on *Living Labs for Mitigating Climate Change in Agriculture* in Barcelona, Spain for exploring how Living Labs can become engines of climate action in agriculture.

The conference was organized as a joint event by European projects Living Labs, public and private institutions, and private companies. The partners included ECO-Ready, CONCAT LL, PRIMED Project, Reforest, Interreg Euro-MED Programme, Innovative Sustainable Economy Mission, Generalitat de Catalunya, IRTA, Naked Innovations,

Federació de Cooperatives Agràries de Catalunya (FCAC), Xarxa AgriTech, BETA Technological Center, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA), and BioHubCat.

All attendees collaborated in four key working groups throughout the two days:

- ➔ Regenerative agriculture & climate-resilient landscapes
- ➔ Water security & adaptive strategies
- ➔ Nature-based solutions & ecosystem restoration
- ➔ Climate-smart food systems & market transitions

Workshops and presentations sparked the development of *seven innovative project concepts* and marked a turning point in uniting regional efforts under a shared vision of a more sustainable agricultural future. More on the conference can be found [here](#).

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[More on conf. takeaways \(PDF\)](#)

### 4. Save the date: Interactive workshop on how cities can become climate resilient

The SECO-COLLAB Living Lab from Sweden will host an interactive workshop on how cities can become climate-resilient and food secure. at the museum Fotografiska in Stockholm on September 23, 2025.

The meeting is a face-to-face meeting with registration via e-mail through [salome.piederriere@swegreen.se](mailto:salome.piederriere@swegreen.se). We intend to communicate some results of the meeting through this newsletter.



Participants can expect an inspiring session on exploring the future of sustainable urban living through innovation, research, and collaboration. As cities face multiple climate challenges and food security risks, this event will showcase how urban farming and circular solutions can help build more resilient and equitable food systems across the Nordics—a region still highly dependent on food imports and especially exposed to global disruptions.

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[More on the LL](#)

## 5. LL in Action: Engaging Stakeholders in Testing the Future of Urban Farming

Since January 2025, the SECO-COLLAB Living Lab has hosted four dynamic workshops as part of the ECO READY project. These events brought together a wide range of stakeholders—students, PhDs, academics, researchers, and youth representatives—to explore the future of sustainable, hyper-local food systems through in-store farming.



With its partners

- ➔ *SweGreen*, an agtech company and a pioneer in vertical farming and sustainable agriculture,
- ➔ *Fotografiska*, a museum based in Stockholm and renowned hub for sustainable food with a Green Michelin-star restaurant, and
- ➔ *Mälardalen University*, with specializations in human-in-the-loop artificial intelligence solutions

the SECO-COLLAB lab has also been advancing cutting-edge research in crop portfolio development. The aim is to identify and test high-value crops that can thrive year-round in Nordic's climate under controlled, in-store hydroponic conditions.

Over the past few months, it has been testing the adaptability of ➔ *chili peppers*, ➔ *strawberries*, and ➔ *cherry tomatoes* in its system—and the results are exciting. These trials help us understand which fruiting crops are most suitable for year-round, climate-resilient production in urban retail environments—a key pillar of the ECO READY mission.

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[More on tests \(PDF\)](#)

## 6. Open day at ECOFARMA PROBIO on 'Soil Food Web'

On June 13, 2025, EKO FARMA PROBIO in cooperation with Czech Organics (both partners in the PROBIO Living Lab) organized an open day on exploring how healthy soil forms the foundation of resilient organic farming systems. The day combined practical fieldwork, lab-based microscopy, and strategic discussion on how to build the soil – a key component in increasing resilience to climate change.

Healthy soil is the starting point – and it is the connection between science, advisory services, and farmers' experience that can move us toward a more sustainable future.

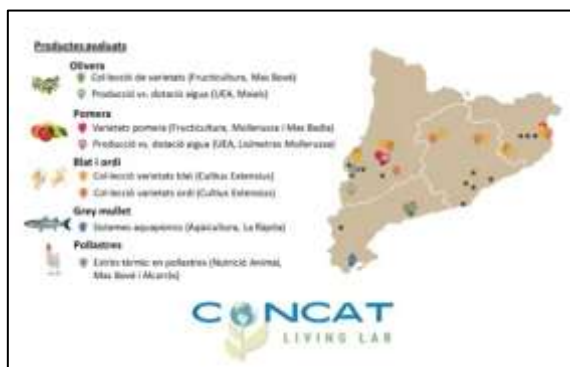


A soil health advisor (Dace Zarina from Latvia) guided participants through soil food web principles and guided participants in practicing field tools to assess soil compaction, plant vitality, and soil structure – gaining hands-on experience with practical diagnostics. Markus Dettenhofer of the Czech University of Life Sciences represented the ECO-Ready project and shared experience on setting climate-related research objectives.

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[More on PROBIO](#)

## 7. CONCAT participation in Café Prismàtic Seminar



CONCAT delivered a presentation in the monthly Café Prismàtic session—a widely followed online seminar series organized by the Observatori del Patrimoni Natural i la Biodiversitat (coordinated by CREAM and supported by the Catalan Department of Territory and Climate Action).

These one-hour sessions aim to bridge between scientific knowledge and environmental management in Catalonia. Our talk focused on how the CONCAT Living Lab fosters climate resilience in Mediterranean agriculture through co-creation, scenario development, and data-informed decision-making.

We emphasized the use of climate and production data, vulnerability analysis, and stakeholder collaboration. Watch the session here (in Catalan) [here](#).

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[More on CONCAT LL](#)

## 8. CONCAT: Article on apple chill requirements and climate resilience

The CONCAT team published a scientific article analysing the chilling and heat requirements of ten apple cultivars in a Mediterranean agroecosystem. The study highlights the risk of insufficient winter chill due to climate change and provides cultivar recommendations such as 'Lory®' and 'Pink Lady®' that are more resilient to future conditions. The results support growers in selecting appropriate varieties and highlight the importance of chill accumulation as a driver of flowering timing.



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## 9. With its 18<sup>th</sup> conference, EAAE is celebrating its foundation 50 years ago



ECO-Ready partners will join the 18<sup>th</sup> conference of the European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) in August (26 to 29) in Bonn. The conference will not only engage in scientific presentations and discussions but also celebrate the associations 50 th anniversary. Founded in Sweden during the first European conference, the associations has established itself as the primary meeting place for agricultural economists in Europe.

With its many initiatives including the organization of conferences and seminars, the publication of journals, and the integration of young scientific into the scientific community, the association provides an indispensable infrastructure for the scientific community.

ECO-Ready partner proQuantis has been selected for organizing a special session on the use of Large Language Models in various domains of interest, including the ECO-Ready focus activities of contingency planning and forecasting support.

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[More on conference](#)

## 10. ECO-Ready at IFAMA World Conference in Brazil

The World conference of IFAMA, the International Food and Agribusiness Management Association has taken place in June in Brazil. ECO-Ready partners were participating in the program and the organization of the conference as well as in the management of the association. The conference, headed as ‘Leveraging Food and Biodiversity with Innovation and Sustainability’, attracted about 600 participants from more than 50 countries.



Prof. Verena Otter from ECO-Ready partner Wageningen University has presented papers on sustainability issues linked to food chains and networks with one of them selected as being among the best papers in the conference.

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## 11. ECO-Ready forecasting support tool (ECO-Tool) ready for testing



Looking into the future is complex and subject to errors. In this situation, science has developed many so-called forecasting methods. None of them is perfect but each one is suitable for a specific situation at hand.

ECO-Ready partner proQuantis has designed an internet-based tool that supports in selecting the most appropriate forecasting method. It includes about 40 groups of methods which are characterized by about 50 selection criteria.



An additional feature includes the link to many databases with relevance for food security and biodiversity. The focus of the databases is due to the project's focus on food security and biodiversity. However, the use of the methods is not limited to these areas of interest and further databases will be added in due course.

We invite all readers with interest in forecasting challenges to test the tool and provide feedback for improvements.

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[Link to tool](#)

## 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)



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