ECO-Ready Newsletter 4/2025



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1. Eco-Ready conference *Delivering Impact: Building the Eco-Ready Legacy for Food Systems*, Brussels, January 28-29, 2025

Eco-Ready is pleased to announce the organization of a conference on *Delivering impact: building the Eco-Ready legacy for food systems*, January 28-29 in Brussels. Eco-Ready partner IUCN is in charge of the conference organizations. It may be contacted here.

This two-day event will be a key opportunity to receive information on Eco-Ready partners' contributions to the project's policy recommendations, on the shape of the Observatory, its business plan, and about the next milestones for long-term sustainability. The conference will be organized in a workshop setting which will be highly interactive, with dedicated spaces for co-creation and hands-on sessions.

It is envisaged that the conference will be joined by policy representatives not only from Brussels but also from the Living Labs' regions covering Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Greece, Germany, France, Italy, and Spain. Registration to the event through this link.

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More on program (PDF)

2. Report on the Eco-Ready conference *From Data to Practice*

Eco-Ready partner Wageningen Research was organizing a 2-day Eco-Ready conference *From Data to Practice - AI-Powered Solutions for Adaptive Agriculture*, October 15-16, 2025 in Wageningen, The Netherlands.

The conference aimed at discussing the integration of Artificial Intelligence into solutions for agriculture. The first day featured keynote speakers (provided to online participants as well) and project pitches, followed by an action planning workshop and a conference dinner. The second day was dedicated to three specific workshops, primarily for the Eco-Ready Living Labs, but also open to all partners.

The conference was followed October 17 by a field visit to the NexGen HighTech facilities in Randwijk with a focus on autonomous tractors and apple-picking robots. Further information about program is available through the link below. Contact for further information here.

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Program overview (PDF)

3. A new Eco-Ready webinar series starting January 2026



Eco-Ready is preparing a Webinar series starting from January 2026. The series will encompass between about 12 and 15 themes covering major results of the Eco-Ready project. The program will be available early January and published on the website as well as through Eco-Ready social media accounts. If you are interested in receiving the program by e-mail you may contact here or consult the website through the link below.

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Eco-Ready web

4. Living Labs, food waste and food waste projects

The Sustainable Food System Network (SFSN) organized a campaign on ***Food Systems… Not Waste Systems!***, which was running until November, exploring different aspects of the food waste problem, from production practices to household behaviour, and highlighting the many promising solutions already underway.

The *EU Food System Monitoring Dashboard* provides an interactive way to compare food loss and waste levels across EU member states, helping identify trends and gaps in national performance. Complementing this, FAO's Technical Platform on the *Measurement and Reduction of Food Loss and Waste* serves as a global hub, offering methodologies, case studies, and policy guidance to support evidence-based action across the supply chain.



The theme is covered by a multitude of European projects listed by SFSN. More information through the link below.

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More on network

5. LivOrganic partner IFAU tests local markets and meets an impressive NGO



Danish LivOrganic partner IFAU attended the Torup local food market in August to explore the diversity in local and organic produce, especially concerning apples and potatoes. The idea was to use the real-life setting to induce dialogue between buyers and sellers of fresh produce under conditions that would inspire talking about varieties – or the lack of biodiversity in the consumer market. The buyer-seller dialogue pointed to seasonality and Danish origin as important for consumers' choice of fresh produce.

The market is organized by the local food network Halsnaes; a network that includes local farmers and artisan food producers located in the Northern part of the island Zealand. One of the network members, explained how the NGO Andelsgaarde (Cooperative Farms) had provided the opportunity for the young farmer to get started. The NGO has developed a business model where the NGO buys small farms and offers these entities to young farmers for rent. The farmer explained how he had become the preferred supplier of tomatoes, fresh herbs and onions to restaurants in the area – also due to the contacts made within the Halsnaes food network. For more information you may contact IFAU here. Information about the NGO through the link below.

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More on visit (PDF)

6. IUCN at EURAF event on organic, agroforestry and agrobiodiversity



On October 24, IUCN participated in a conference on *Organic, Agroecology and Forestry – key allies in achieving the objectives of the Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR)* where it presented the initiatives of the Eco-Ready project.

In the conference, hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee. stakeholders joined for a critical discussion on the future of EU nature policy. Strengthening policy coherence is essential to ensure that the *Nature Restoration Regulation* is properly and effectively implemented by EU Member States. To truly meet the NRR's goals, EU member states need better recognition of organic farming, agroecological practices and agroforestry, coupled with proportionate funding - which can be ensured through the future CAP and other financial instruments.

IUCN highlighted the significance of bottom-up approaches and including of local stakeholders in the design of ecological resilience. It also highlighted the need for more monitoring and data to ensure progress, while enhancing use of already existing tools.

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More on event (PDF)

7. IUCN report on WCC session on perspectives for climate change and biodiversity

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 was one of the largest in IUCN's history, with over 10,000 participants in Abu Dhabi and more than 800 who joined us virtually for 1000+ events across 140 booths and pavilions and online. Not less than 203 nationalities registered from 12 regions, making this a truly global convening. IUCN organized an online session on *European Farming Living Labs Perspective for Climate Change and Biodiversity in Food Systems*.

Eco-Ready coordinator Ioannis Manikas and Marc Rosiers highlighted the role and potential of Living Labs in providing bottom-up and recent data on mitigation practices from agricultural activities and sustainable soil management towards climate change, food security and biodiversity loss crisis. The perspective of two EU funded projects, respectively Eco-READY and Climate Farm Demo were presented to illustrate the reach and potential of European Living Labs. Living Labs engaged in discussions on how LLs are providing bottom up and inclusive approaches to policy development and agriculture impact monitoring on climate change and biodiversity throughout Europe and how to leverage these recommendations? More on the session through the link below.

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More on event (PDF)

8. EcoVita Living Lab on *Researcher's night 2025*



EcoVita Living Lab took part in the annual Researcher's Night on 26 of September, an evening dedicated to opening science to the public. The format fostered high quality, one-on-one exchanges that deepened participants' understanding of vertical farming, spectroscopy, and hydroponics. The program effectively linked advanced research with hands-on experiences, reaching students, families, and interdisciplinary experts alike.



EcoVita LL prepared four program items for the Researcher's Night:

1. Academic Lecture on Light – Visible and invisible spectra, plant growth, and sensing technologies (VIS-NIR).
2. Lab Demonstration – Hands-on introduction to VIS-NIR spectroscopy and its role in agriculture.
3. Hydroponic Showroom & Tasting – Live hydroponic systems with tasting of leafy greens and microgreens led by Egreen Solutions.
4. Interactive Game & Quiz – Educational activities on hydroponics and microgreens for younger audiences.

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More on program (PDF)

9. Eco-Ready at conference on *The Soil Re-Union: Science for Healthy Soils*



Eco-Ready partner IFVCNS, the Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, co-organized the 4th International and 16th National Congress of the Serbian Society of Soil Science "The Soil Re-Union: Science for Healthy Soils" which took place 20-23 October 2025 in Fruške terme, Vrdnik, Serbia. It presented research on soil improvement through certain strains of bacteria.



IFVCNS published a book of abstracts accessible here. The book involves presentations on a wide range of topics as diverse as Soil Genesis, Soil Biology and Ecology (Soil Biodiversity, Soil Water Management, Information Technologies and Artificial Intelligence in Soil Science or Social Sciences and Media. For a complete listing see the abstract below.

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Access to abstract

10. CONCAT LL at the *XXX Mollerussa Fruit Festival 2025*



CONCAT LL presented results from its apple variety collection at the XXX Mollerussa Fruit Festival 2025, a national event organized by IRTA, a partner in CONCAT, that gathers around 2,000 farmers. Information about the event in Spanish is accessible here.



CONCAT LL showcased the performance and fruit production of the varieties evaluated across two Catalan agroclimatic regions: Lleida and Girona.

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More on festival

11. SECO COLLAB LL info day on adapting to climate change



This September, our Living Lab hosted our Info Day *"Urban Food Security & AgTech: Adapting to Climate Change in Sweden & Europe"* at Fotografiska in Stockholm, bringing together researchers, policymakers, municipalities, and business representatives to discuss how technology and innovation can strengthen local food resilience.



The event explored how urban farming can play a key role in reducing import dependency, improving circular resource use, and increasing food security in the face of climate and energy challenges. Participants discussed the need for stronger partnerships between municipalities, energy providers, and food producers to make urban agriculture both sustainable and scalable.

Through interactive group discussions and a collaborative voting exercise, the workshop identified top priorities for future action: Reducing energy use in vertical farming, strengthening consumer trust, adapting policy frameworks, and embedding food systems into city planning.
The outcomes of this event will feed into the broader Eco-Ready policy dialogue and upcoming recommendations. Contact for more information here.

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More on event (PDF)

12. PROBIO LL co-organized seminar on *Sustainable Farming 2025*



A seminar on Sustainable Farming 2025 was organized November 21, 2025 in Pilsen (Czech Republic) by Czech Organics, partner in Eco-Ready Living Lab PROBIO, in collaboration with the Bishopric of Pilsen.



It is an initiative in ongoing work on strengthening climate resilience and sustainable practices in European agriculture. Eco-Ready is proud to support the third edition of this cross-border seminar.

This year's edition brought together farmers, advisors, and experts from *Czechia, Germany, and Austria* for an in-depth exchange on practical innovations, economic self-sufficiency, and tested strategies to navigate today's shifting climate and market conditions. More information here.

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More on seminar (PDF)

13. PROBIO workshop on *Carbon Storage and the Role of Perennial Crops in Ecological Agriculture*



On October 10, 2025, Eco-Ready Living Lab partner PROBIO hosted an event on 'carbon storage and the critical role of perennial crops in ecological agriculture' in building resilient farming systems. The event was organized at the PROBIO Ecofarm in Velké Hostěrádky, Czech Republic.

Experts from the Czech Agrifood Research Center (CARC), IIASA, and Eco-Ready gathered with farmers to discuss results of the Ecofarm and the urgent need to respond to climate trends before they escalate into crises.

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More on event (PDF)

14. IFVCNS at international conference on *Crop Science and Technology*



On the occasion of its 80th anniversary, the Maize Research Institute Zemun Polje of Serbia organized an international scientific conference on 'Crop Science and Technology: Shaping the Future of Agriculture' that brought together distinguished experts, researchers, and partners from both Serbia and abroad.

The conference took place from September 29 to October 2, 2025 in Belgrade. Marjana Vasiljevic of IFVCNS had a poster presentation on 'Consumer-Driven Resilience for a Sustainable European Food System' based on Eco-Ready research.

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More on conference

15. LivOrganic LL partners: major engagements towards organic agriculture/food

The partners in LivOrganic are engaged in many vibrant project activities that strengthen organic knowledge production, promote organic farming, and conceptualise organic business cases for farmers and foodproducers working towards the EU's goal of 25% organic agricultural area by 2030.

LivOrganic partner *Organic Denmark* has recently been co-organiser of the Danish Organic Conference, with about 500+ value chain participants and approximately 100 speakers discussing the future of ecology, health and the contribution of organic farming to the changing national landscape in Denmark following the world's first CO2 tax on agriculture, initiated by Danish policy makers.



LivOrganic partner *MAA.C ApS* commercializes these agroecological principles and practices. It is presently recruiting organic food producers and farmers for the Biofach fair 2026, the world's largest organic food fair. where it also will present its Eco-Ready project engagement to farmers and food producers (more). LivOrganic is looking forward to meeting many of its Eco-Ready project partners during the Biofach event.

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More on initiatives (PDF)

16. From Catalonia to Olhão: CONCAT Living Lab in Action



Last month, Ayman a member of CONCAT Living Lab, joined innovators and policymakers from across the Mediterranean at the ISE Mission Innovation Camp in Olhão, Portugal — a hub for accelerating place-based innovation in climate resilience and sustainable economies.

Representing CONCAT Living Lab, he shared how CONCAT's work in Catalonia connects farmers, researchers, cooperatives, and policymakers to co-create solutions for drought, heat stress, and climate challenges. By testing ideas directly with local communities and linking to European networks like Eco-Ready and Interreg Euro-MED, CONCAT is showing how Living Labs can become engines of transformation.

The discussions highlighted a shared vision: Connected regional ecosystems can drive Europe's transition to a resilient, sustainable food system.

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More on Camp (PDF)

17. Regional innovation ecosystems meet at *Mapathon 2025*



As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration with regional innovation ecosystems, the CONCAT Living Lab participated in the *Mapathon 2025* initiative organised by the Government of Catalonia. This multi-day event brought together key actors from across Catalonia to map the innovation landscape and highlight projects.



During the session dedicated to the *Terres de l'Ebre* region, IRTA La Ràpita hosted participants for a technical visit and delivered a presentation showcasing CONCAT's aquaculture research infrastructures and the aquaponics systems that form part of the Living Lab. This engagement allowed to introduce the Living Lab's climate-resilient aquaponics work to a broader innovation audience and further positioned CONCAT LL as a reference initiative within Catalonia's agrifood and climate-adaptation ecosystem.

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More on Mapathon

18. Infoday on agroecology as pathway to climate-resilient and fair food systems



In November, THALLA LL convened researchers, policymakers, consumer organizations, farmers, and local authorities for an open dialogue on climate crisis and food security challenges at the "Melina" Cultural Centre in Athens, Greece, raising public awareness and disseminating preliminary research findings.

THALLA presented outcomes of cocreation workshops, outlining how climate impacts are reshaping rural communities, agricultural production and supply chains. Contributions from policy makers advisors, consumers associations, researchers (Benaki Phytopathological Institute), and farmers further explored the interconnected challenges of rising food prices, social inequalities, and extreme weather phenomena on agrifood systems. THALLA's research findings underscored the value

of agroecological practices in restoring biodiversity, lowering reliance on external inputs, and advancing resilient and fair agri-food systems. The Infoday concluded with a roundtable on discussing policy recommendations and, stressing the need for participatory approaches that respond to local realities and enhance trust across the food system.



Contact for more information here (ptrivel@aua.gr).

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More on THALLA

19. Engaging citizens in more sustainable, healthy and responsible food consumption



THALLA welcomed hundreds of citizens, students, and visitors as part of the GSEE InfoFest two days event in October, at the Syntagma Square, in Athens, the most central and symbolic public place in Greece, and shared its vision for a sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient agri-food system.

At THALLA's interactive station, visitors watched a short documentary about the myths and true value of Mediterranean diet, participated to behavioral experiments and games, joined public discussions, informed about climate-related food system challenges. Also, this event highlighted how agroecology can support fairer, more resilient and inclusive agri-food systems.

A special roundtable discussion focused on some of the most pressing challenges for Greek and European food systems, including the rising food prices and market volatility, the support and viability of agriculture, and the growing climate-related risks facing farmers and consumers.



Contact for more information here (ptrivel@aua.gr).

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More on THALLA

20. Publication initiatives by CONCAT LL



The national news channel 3CAT published an article about the CONCAT aquaponics facilities, highlighting the advantages of these systems in terms of water-use efficiency and sustainability:
Information about this event is accessible here.



We also published a dissemination article on the Vadegust platform reporting on the onset of the olive harvest at IRTA's Mas Bové collection (Constantí). The article describes the ripening status of olive varieties, optimal harvest timing, and observations on oil yield. Information about the article is accessible here.

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More on CONCAT

21. Update on JRC Food Systems Monitoring Dashboard



A new report on the update of the JRC Food Systems Monitoring Dashboard has recently been published. The dashboard aims to give a comprehensive and cross-sectoral overview of the food supply chain. This includes all the chain's components – primary production, food processing, distribution and consumption – and different sustainability aspects such as: (i) climate; (ii) pollution; (iii) biodiversity; (iv) economic viability of business; and (v) food environment.

This highlights the inextricable links between healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet. Importantly, the process for selecting the indicators unveiled knowledge gaps (described in the technical report) that are inadequately covered by existing data, confirming the need for further work.

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More on dashboard

22. Workshop on *Shaping the Future of Masurian Agriculture*



The Eco-Ready Living Lab '*ECOReadyMasuria*' has invited farmers, researchers, and policymakers to a regional workshop on '*From Field to Agricultural Policy: Shaping the Future of Masurian Agriculture Together*' that was held in Kowale Oleckie, Poland, December 01, 2025.

This interactive event offered a unique platform to co-create resilient food systems tailored to local needs. It featured presentations of test results from farm trials, workshops with farmers, researchers and institutions, expert advice on eco-schemes, updates on EU agricultural policy directions, and more. This was a vital opportunity for connecting policy with practice and for supporting Masurian agriculture in meeting the sustainability challenges of the future. More information in the next newsletter.

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More on event

23. Invitation to IFAMA World Conference 2026 in Cork, Ireland



Member of Eco-Ready partner Wageningen University, Prof. Verena Otter takes responsibility for organizing the scientific program of the next IFAMA World Conference. The Conference will be hosted by University College Cork and the UCC Business School in Cork, Ireland, 15–19 June 2026. This global conference will explore strategies to revitalize agri-food systems in times of climate insecurity, geopolitical shifts, breakthrough technologies, price volatility, evolving consumer demands, and global dietary health challenges.

IFAMA, the International Food and Agribusiness Management Association, is dedicated to enabling the global agribusiness community to provide adequate and nutritious food to the world by creating connections between academics, students, agribusiness, and other organizations to solve the critical management issues that face the industry.

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More on conference (PDF)

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

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