

Euroseeds welcomes new Strategic Approach to Research and Innovation

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Euroseeds welcomes the European Commission's new Strategic Approach to Research and Innovation for competitive, resilient and sustainable agriculture, forestry, rural areas and food systems.

The strategy brings together the AgRI 2040 and Food 2040 frameworks to guide future EU research and innovation priorities, mobilise funding and provide a coherent governance structure supporting the development, deployment and uptake of innovation across the agri-food sector.

Euroseeds is particularly pleased to see the recognition of plant breeding within "Cropping systems", one of the eight areas of action identified under AgRI 2040. The strategy acknowledges the potential of plant breeding, seed and variety knowledge, biotechnology and genetic resources and calls for further support for breeding activities and the development of climate-smart, resource-efficient, resilient, resistant and diverse plant varieties.

For the plant breeding and seed sector, this recognition is an important step. Continued investment in breeding and related technologies is essential to provide farmers with varieties that can respond to drought, extreme temperatures, emerging plant health threats and other environmental pressures, while supporting productivity, food security and the competitiveness of European agriculture.

"Euroseeds welcomes the Commission's clear recognition of plant breeding as a cornerstone of climate-smart, resilient and competitive cropping systems. Europe's breeders are already delivering varieties that help farmers respond to climate change, plant-health threats and resource constraints. This political commitment must now be matched by ambitious and sustained funding for plant breeding and seed innovation under FP10 and the European Competitiveness Fund, ensuring that scientific progress can be translated into practical solutions for European agriculture," says Yasmine Ambrogio, Manager Research Policy and Project Coordination at Euroseeds.

Euroseeds also supports the strategy's emphasis on strengthening the links between research, innovation, deployment and market uptake. Turning scientific progress into practical solutions will require close cooperation between researchers, breeders, farmers and other actors throughout the agri-food value chain.

As the AgRI 2040 framework is translated into concrete priorities, Euroseeds calls on the EU institutions to ensure that:

1. Plant breeding and seed innovation receive ambitious and sustained support throughout the full research and innovation journey
2. Agriculture and the wider agri-food sector are adequately reflected in the priorities and funding of the next Framework Programme 10 and the European competitiveness Fund

Euroseeds stands ready to contribute their expertise to the further development and implementation of AgRI 2040.



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