

The Animal Task Force is pleased to announce its new theme for the year 2016.

Animal Production, the Key in a European Sustainable Circular Bioeconomy

With an increasing global population and consequently, food demand, the livestock sector represents a key actor to address the challenge of global food and nutrition security. Animal productions can contribute more effectively to the **Bioeconomy for a sustainable food-chain**, providing multiple benefits such as:

- **providing protein-rich and safe food for humans** together with several essential micro nutrients not found in product of plant origin,
- **regulating the ecological cycles** by recycling biomass from humanly inedible resources, maintaining grassland acreage and using manure as a bio-resource,
- **contributing to a more efficient agriculture** by valorising food-chain by-products thanks to efficient and robust animal adapted to new European feed sources and maintaining soil organic matter content and fertility,
- **providing renewable energy** such as biogas from manure,
- **providing non-provisioning ecosystem services** linked to the vitality of territories, employment in rural area, landscape and biodiversity preservation, cultural heritage.

However, the sector is strongly questioned for its environmental impacts, inefficient use of resources, animal health and welfare and supposedly human health issues linked to the consumption of animal product... *Is it wise to reduce our consumption of animal products in Europe on the point of view of sustainability? Can we easily replace protein of animal origin by protein of plant origin?*

During year 2016, the Animal Task Force would like to engage a dialogue between research, farmers, industry, decision makers and stakeholders to provide input for public policies on **Livestock's role in realising a Sustainable Bioeconomy for Europe** and to share on avenues for improvement and research needs.

Research and innovation has made Europe's livestock sector as competitive, balanced and efficient as it is today. Continuing support is needed for producing knowledge based innovation in the livestock sector to address new challenges of ensuring the supply of safe and healthy high quality food, reducing environmental impact, making more efficient use of resources including land, respecting animal integrity thus meeting needs of consumers and contributing to a viable economy in ways that are appreciated by society

Two events:

- [ATF-EAAP special Session](#), Aug. 2016, Belfast
- [ATF Seminar](#), Nov. 16th, 2016, Brussels

For further references, please see also the ATF Presentation "Animal Production, the Key in a European Sustainable Circular Bioeconomy", which illustrates the multiple benefits of animal productions for a more effective contribution to the Bioeconomy and a sustainable food-chain.

The Animal Task Force

The Animal Task Force (ATF) promotes a sustainable and competitive livestock sector in Europe. We are a leading body of expertise linking European Technology Platforms and research providers for developing innovation in the livestock sector.

The members of the ATF are research providers from 17 Member States of the EU (Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, UK, Austria), plus Switzerland and industry representative bodies that support the interests of Europe's livestock industries (IFAH, EUFETEC, FABRE-TP). We work together to identify actions that are needed to foster knowledge development and innovation for a sustainable and competitive livestock sector in Europe.

For more information, please visit www.animaltaskforce.eu.