# EU Plant Health Research & Innovation

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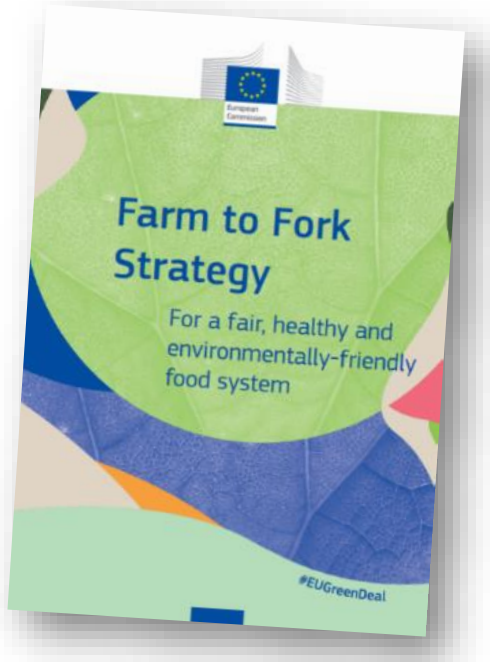
R&I B2 unit - DG Agriculture and rural development

iPlanta Webinars

The Contribution of RNAi for more sustainable and resilient food systems: Meeting with policymakers

4th March 2021

# Farm to Fork Strategy: overall goals




Create a **robust and resilient** food system

Reduce the environmental and **climate footprint** of the food system

Lead a **global transition** towards competitive sustainability from farm to fork

Tap into **new opportunities**



European Commission

# Farm to Fork: Targets

Reduce by 50% the overall use and risk of **chemical pesticides** and reduce use by 50% of more hazardous **pesticides** by 2030

Reduce **nutrient losses** by at least 50% while ensuring no deterioration in soil fertility; this will reduce use of **fertilisers** by at least 20 % by 2030

Achieve at least 25% of the EU's agricultural land under **organic farming** by 2030

Bring back at least 10% of agricultural area under high diversity landscape features by 2030

Reduce sales of **antimicrobials** for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 50% by 2030



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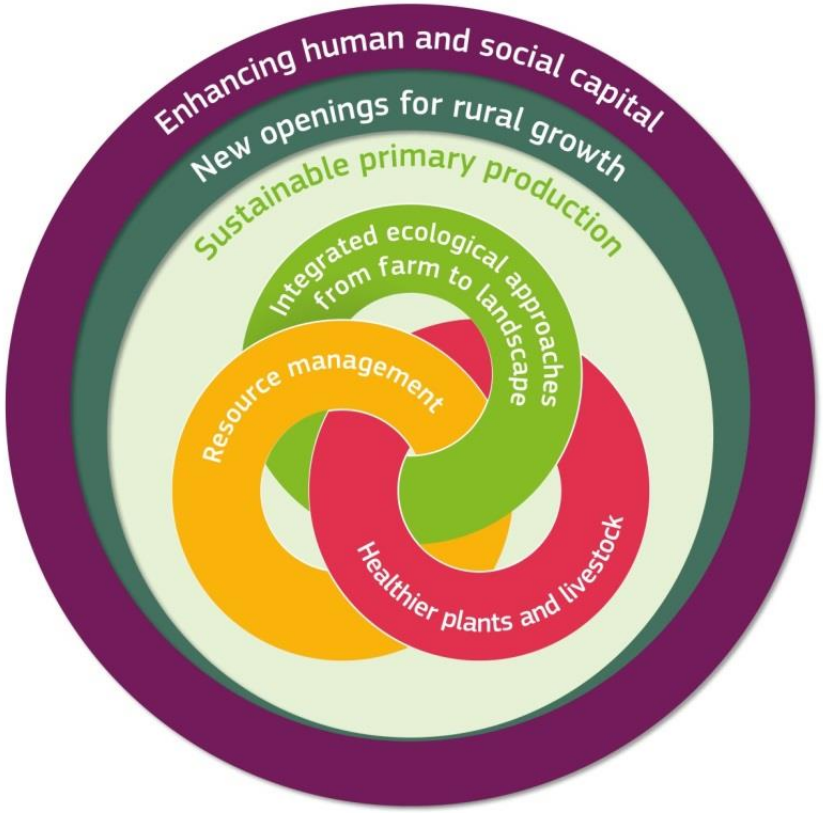
# R&I are key enablers…

# From strategy to action: Priority on healthier plants




2014 2016



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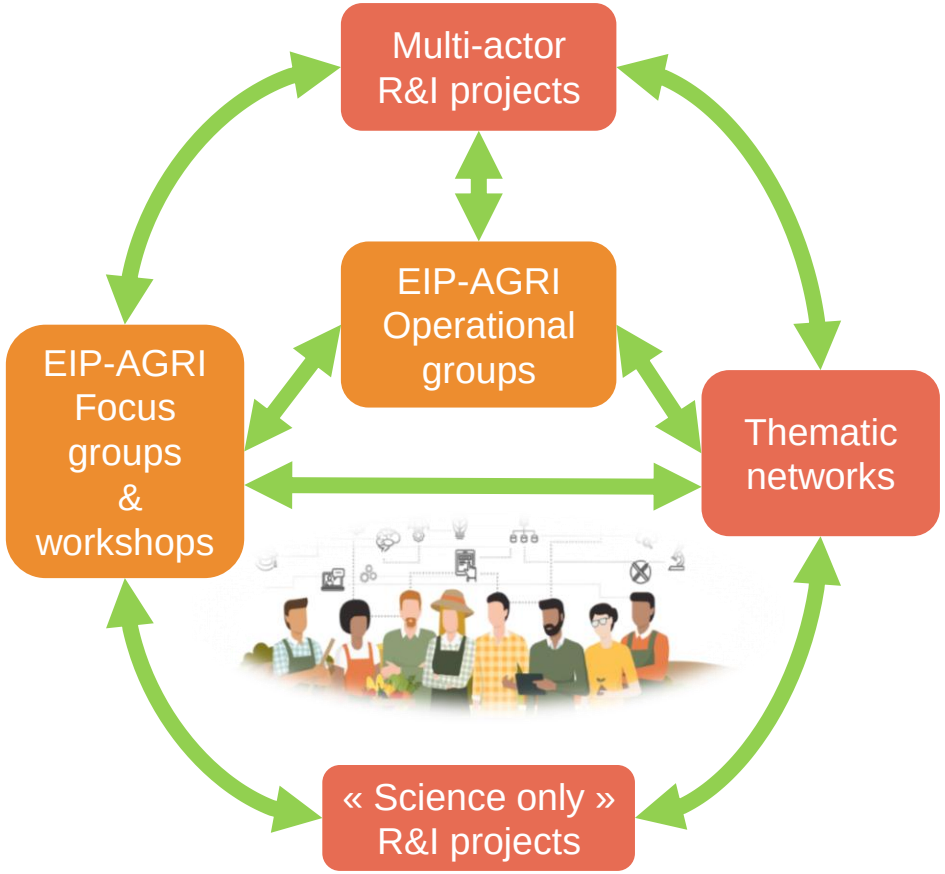
# From strategy to action: two policies in synergy

CAP

eip-agri
AGRICULTURE & INNOVATION

Horizon 2020






2014 | 2016 | Today

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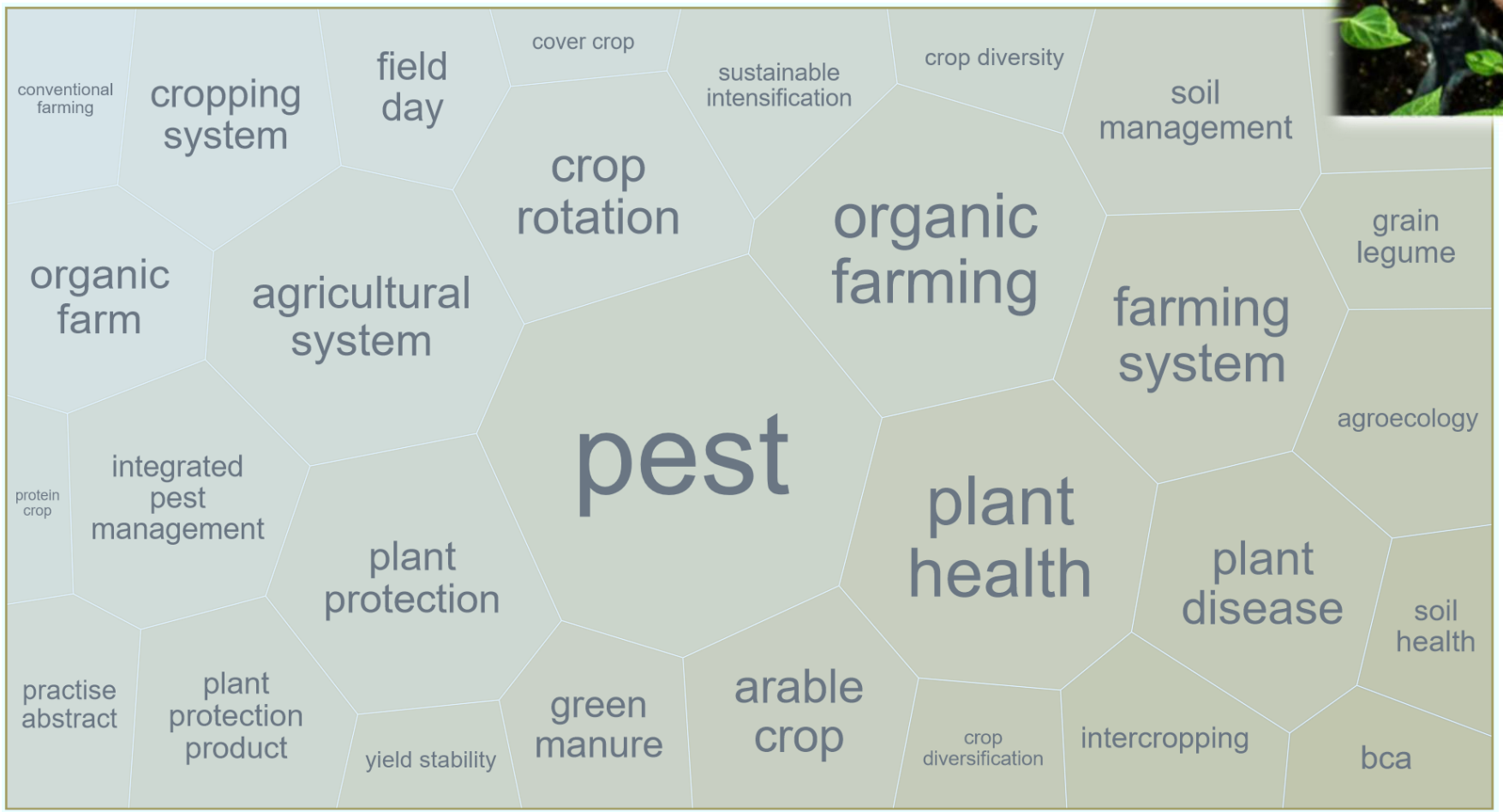
EIP-AGRI: European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural productivity and sustainability

# Plant Health under Horizon 2020




**2014-2020**

**+ 30 Projects**

**+ 160 M€**



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# Innovation in Plant Protection – Horizon 2020

**SuperPests**
Innovative tools for rational control of the most difficult-to-manage pests (“super pests”) and the diseases they transmit

www.superpests.eu

**VIROPLANT**
Virome NGS analysis of pests and pathogens for plant protection

www.viroplant.eu



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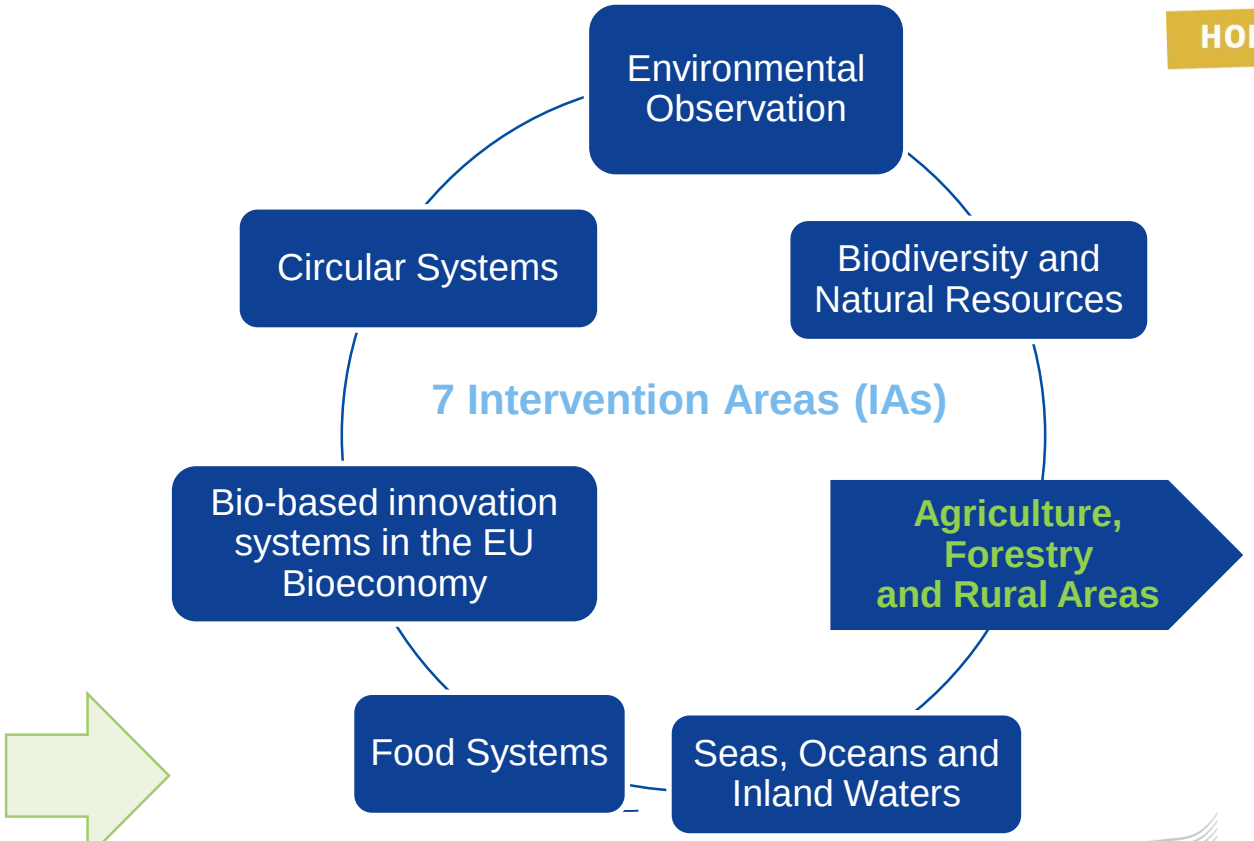
# HORIZON EUROPE

The next EU research & innovation investment programme (2021-2027)

**Pillar 2**
Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

1. Health
2. Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
3. Civil Security for Society
4. Digital, Industry and Space
5. Climate, Energy and Mobility
6. **Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment**



# What is in it for plant related research?

**Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment**

**R&I priorities:**

- enhance capacities **to prevent, monitor and control plant pests**
- develop **safe and environmentally friendly** methods for **plant protection** and weed control;
- increase the **resilience of plants to biotic and abiotic stresses** by bringing more diversity into farming and forestry systems and provide farmers and other actors in value chains with better-adapted crop varieties
- improve conservation, management and use of **plant genetic resources**, thereby preserving and enhancing agrobiodiversity.

# Thank you

#InvestEUresearch #AgriResearchEU #HorizonEU



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# Links

- Farm to Fork Strategy
- Final paper on a strategic approach to EU agricultural research and innovation
- EU Research and Innovation in Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Areas
- Plant Health Factsheet
- Plant Health Horizon 2020 Results Pack
- Horizon Europe



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