



SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS WORK PROGRAMME 2025



Sustainable Food Systems



[Discover this thematic area](#)



Support systemic change towards sustainable and resilient food systems by enhancing understanding of impact of production systems, promoting sustainable organic waste management, improving decision-making for nutrient pollution prevention, closing the gap between organic waste (resources) and organic input for agricultural production.

Activities:

- ➔ **Improve the performance of European food systems by promoting a wider understanding of the implications of generating food losses at primary production level:**
 - Implementation of the FOLOU Twinning Regions Programme: Launch and implement the first activities of the FOLOU Twinning Regions programme. This programme will support regional and local actors to increase understanding of food losses generation and quantification tools. Additionally, twinning regions will identify and work towards priority action areas to tackle the food loss quantification challenge.
- ➔ **Support to the objectives of the EU Mission Soil and EU Mission Oceans and Water:**
 - **SOIL – Dissemination of the Prepsoil project's results:** Actively support the dissemination of the results and key findings of the Prepsoil project, which concludes in mid-2025. Dissemination activities will include a final event in Brussels (May) where connections will be made with the EU Soil Monitoring Law and its adoption at sub-regional level. Actors at regional and sub-regional level – especially from ACR+ members – will be invited to engage and follow-up to address soil health matters;
 - **SOIL – Reinforce the engagement in activities supporting the establishment of 100 Soil Health Living Labs** through the SOILL Start-up project. Nudging of ACR+ members in addressing soil health concerns in their territories, and supporting the establishment of Soil Health living Labs, and their participation in EU-funded projects

Sustainable Food Systems

- **SOIL and WATER – Development of a Decision Support Tool for reducing nutrients pollution of soil and water systems:** start the design of a Decision Support Tool (DST) to assist public administrations and decision-makers in selecting appropriate Technological and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) to address water and soil pollution from nitrates in agriculture. This DST will:
 1. Evaluate the efficiency of a range of technological and NBS options for tackling nutrient pollution;
 2. Enable public administrations to make informed decisions by providing clear criteria and comparative assessments of different solutions.
 3. Support the selection of solutions that are best suited to specific local contexts and needs, promoting effective implementation of pollution prevention measures;



SOILS and WATER – Governance analysis for nutrient pollution prevention:

Conduct a comprehensive governance analysis to understand the decision-making processes related to nutrient pollution prevention in soil and water systems. This analysis will aim to:

- **Identify decision-making mechanisms:** Map out existing mechanisms and governance structures that influence decisions related to nutrient pollution prevention at the local scale
- **Assess process effectiveness:** Evaluate the effectiveness of these mechanisms in achieving impactful pollution prevention outcomes.
- **Recommend process improvements:** Identify potential improvements and innovative approaches to strengthen decision-making processes for greater impact on nutrient pollution prevention in agriculture.



WATER – Exploration of Water Resilience activities: Explore potential new activities focused on improving resilience in water management within food systems and beyond, aligning with the EU Water Resilience strategy.

Relevant projects:





CONTACT US



Agnese Boccalon



abo@acrplus.org



www.acrplus.org/sustainable-food-systems



ACR+ | Association of
Cities and Regions for
sustainable Resource
management

