



Press Release

## FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD: AGRICULTURE POLICY IN A CHANGING WORLD

**A space for discussions on sustainable practices in the  
European livestock sector.**

**Brussels, 7 March 2024:** Today, REVOLVE is hosting **PATHWAYS' For Sustainable Food Forum**, a space for discussions on sustainable practices in the European livestock sector with the aim of reducing environmental impacts while meeting increasing societal demands for safe, nutritious, and affordable meat and dairy products.

Driven by the urgent need for positive changes both in the livestock sector and society at large, **PATHWAYS** represents a ground-breaking initiative. By forging new pathways towards sustainability, this project aims to redefine the future of European agriculture.

**“We need policy because it's not enough to identify what's wrong with livestock, we have to take into account the positive externalities of livestock and all we are in danger of losing if we have an approach that's too drastic”**

– Brigitte Missone, Head of Unit, EU Agriculture

In response to the challenges faced by the agri-food industry, **PATHWAYS** presents a series of comprehensive recommendations aimed at fostering a harmonious coexistence between agricultural productivity and environmental stewardship:

1. **Performance-based payments (PBP):** Advocating for PBP within the Collective Agriculture Policy, PATHWAYS proposes incentivizing sustainable practices among farmers.
2. **Emission Reduction Mechanism:** in alignment with climate goals, PATHWAYS calls for a mechanism that rewards farmers for reducing emissions.
3. **Diversification of Protein Sources:** PATHWAYS encourages a shift towards diets with lower animal protein intake while ensuring nutritional needs are met.

Key insights from the project's analysis include:

1. **Market Expansion:** Increased exports and intra-European trade balance self-sufficiency with global reach, shaping consumption towards healthier options and reducing waste.
2. **Tech-Driven Efficiency:** Livestock farms optimize productivity with advanced technologies, minimizing resource use for a more sustainable future.
3. **Diverse Offerings:** Retailers promote plant-based diets alongside premium meats, catering to evolving tastes and sustainability concerns.
4. **Animal Welfare Focus:** Enhancing animal welfare throughout the value chain underscores commitment to ethical practices, fostering consumer trust.

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## Keywords

- Husbandry for sustainability, animal welfare, sustainability assessment, livestock, participatory, bioeconomy, food systems, biodiversity, human nutrition, greenhouse gases, scenarios, circular economy, ecosystem services

## About PATHWAYS

With the aim of reducing environmental impacts while addressing societal demands for safe, nutritious and affordable meat and dairy products, PATHWAYS is about identifying and increasing sustainable practices along the supply and production chains of the European livestock sector. Coordinated by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and comprising 28 partners from 12 countries, this 5-year (2021-2026) €9 million Horizon 2020 project contributes to the EU Farm-to-Fork Strategy which is at the heart of the EU Green Deal.

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