



EU Green Week 2021

# The Farm to Fork Strategy

## For a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system

*Seminar on collaborative and circular food systems to reduce pollution and improve health, 27 May 2021*

CO  
FRESH



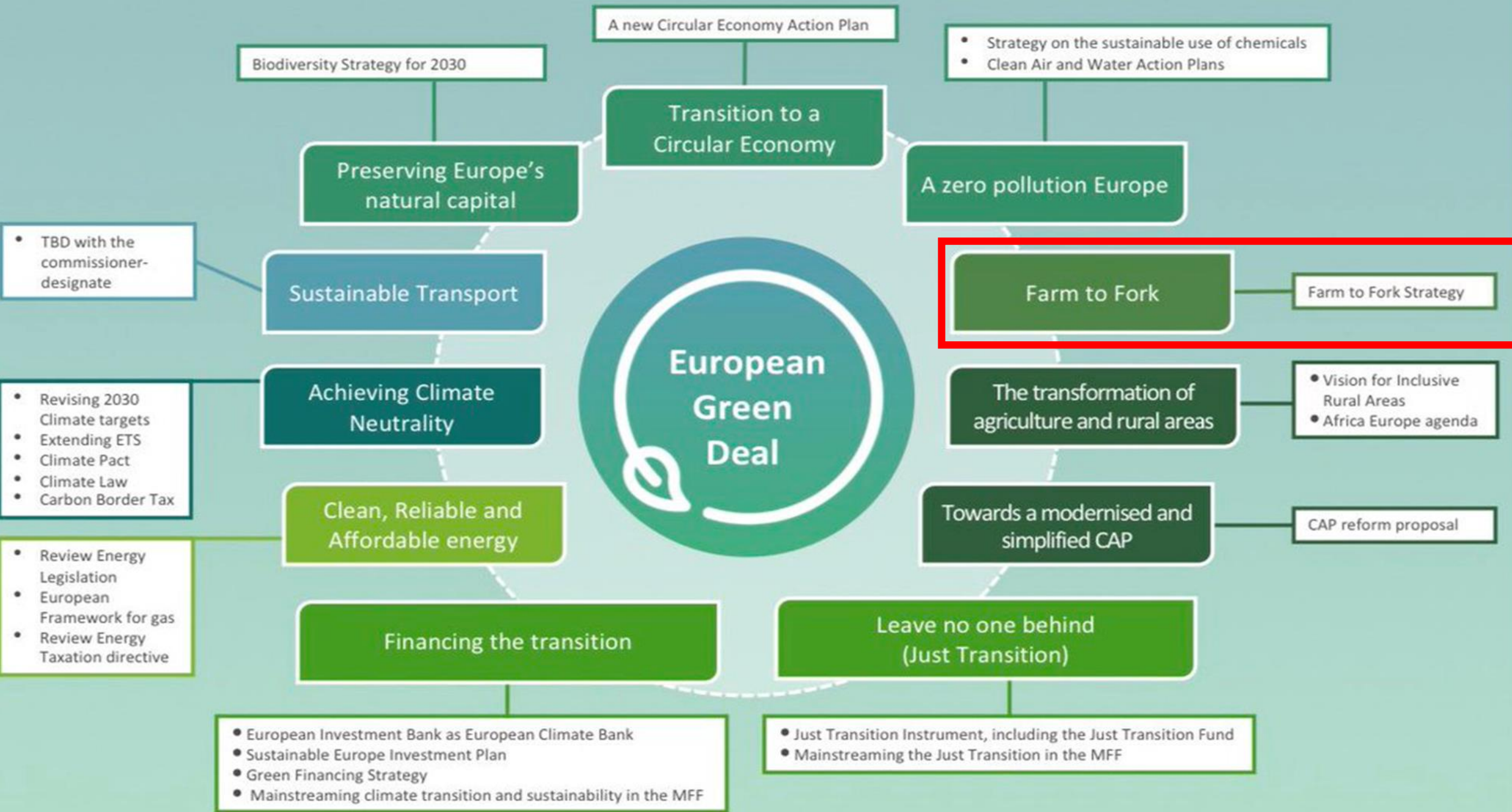
FOODRUS

LOWINFOOD

PLOUTOS

DG SANTE, Unit D1: Farm to Fork Strategy  
European Commission  
European Union





# Farm to Fork Strategy: overall goals



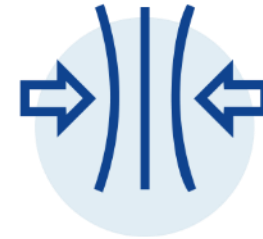
climate  
footprint



global  
transition



new  
opportunities



resilience

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**

Create a **robust  
and resilient** food  
system



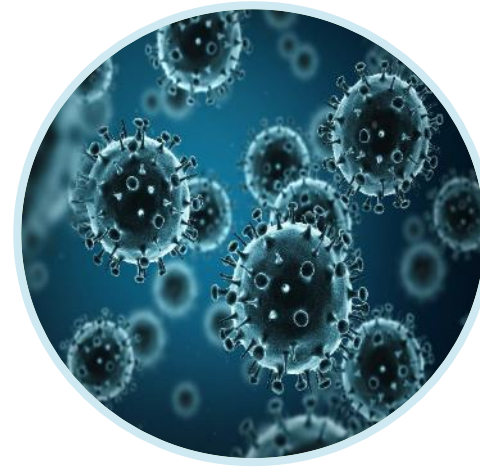
# 2030 Targets for sustainable food production



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



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



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



Achieve at least 25% of the EU's agricultural land under **organic farming** and a significant increase in **organic aquaculture**



# | Actions to achieve the objectives of the F2F



- Two **overarching** actions:
  - **Proposal for a legislative framework for sustainable food systems** (2023)
  - **Contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security** (2021)
- 25 further initial actions in the action plan of the Strategy, organized along the **different stages of the food value chain** aiming at:
  - Ensure sustainable food production
  - Stimulate sustainable food processing, wholesale, retail, hospitality and food services' practices
  - Promote sustainable food consumption, facilitating shift towards healthy, sustainable diets
  - Reduce food loss and waste



# | Actions to reduce food loss and waste

Committed to reaching **the UN SDG Target to halve food waste at retail and consumer levels by 2030**, and reduce food losses along the food production and supply chains.



Proposal for **EU-level targets for food waste reduction** (2023)



Revise EU rules for **date marking** ('use by' and 'best before' dates) (2022)



# | Food waste prevention **targets**

- Based on **data reported in 2022**
- Subject to **impact assessment** (including stakeholders consultations) – planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2021
- Commission proposal subject to ordinary legislative procedure (former co-decision) – i.e. **approval** from both European Council (Member States) and European Parliament



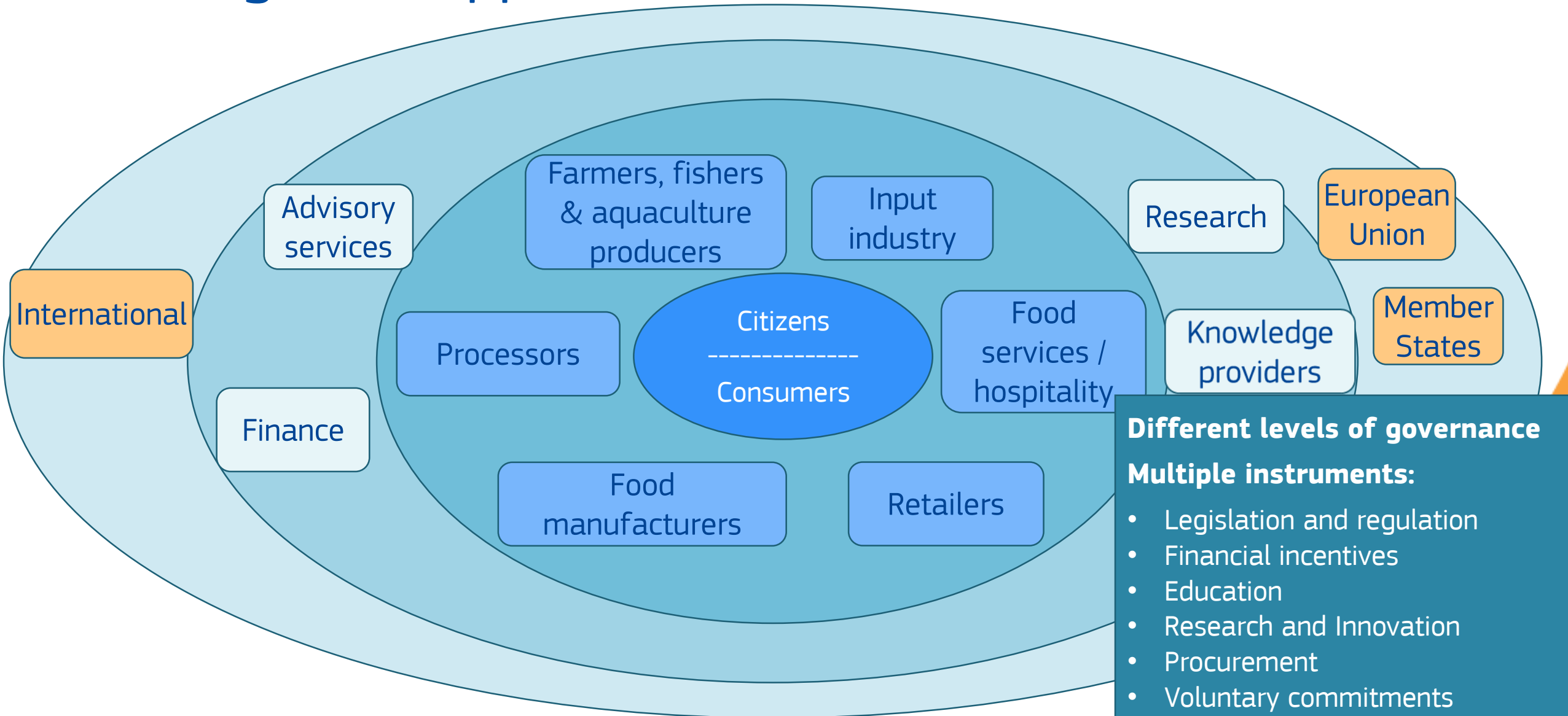
# | Promote better understanding and use of **date marking**

- Revision of **EU date marking rules** taking into account:
  - **Scientific advice from EFSA** to inform decision-making by food business operators on date marking, setting product shelf-life and defining other relevant information for food labelling (i.e. risk-based approach focused on food safety)
    - October 2020: advice on factors to guide choice between “use by” and “best before” dates
    - March 2021: other labelling aspects
  - **Consumer research findings:** further investigate how consumers themselves understand and use these dates. Identify possible options to increase their effectiveness in avoiding food waste (e.g. changes in terminology and/or format; presence/absence of “best before” date on food discarding behaviour...)
  - **Timing:** proposal by Q4 2022, following impact assessment/public consultation
- Inception Impact Assessment - <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12749-Food-labelling-revision-of-rules-on-information-provided-to-consumers>





# | Integrated approach from farm to fork needed



# | Enabling transition



- **Common Agricultural Policy**, Member States Strategic Plans.
- **Common Fisheries Policy**.
- **European Regional Development Fund** and **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**
- **Fast broadband internet** in rural areas to reach 100% (2025)
- **De-risk and facilitate investments**  
(InvestEU Fund, renewed sustainable finance strategy)
- **Horizon 2020**: additional call of EUR 1 billion for Green Deal priorities (2020)
- **Horizon Europe**: EUR ~9 billion 2021-27 in R&I related to food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and environment
- **European Innovation Partnership (EIP-Agri)**



# | Enabling transition – Advice, knowledge & data

## Advisory services, data and knowledge sharing

- Member States will need to scale up support for **objective, tailored advisory services** targeted at sustainable farm management
- Development of a **Farm Sustainability Data Network:** allow primary producers to monitor economic, environmental and climate performance
- **Support to SME** food processors, small retail and food service operators with tailored solutions to promote new skills and business models

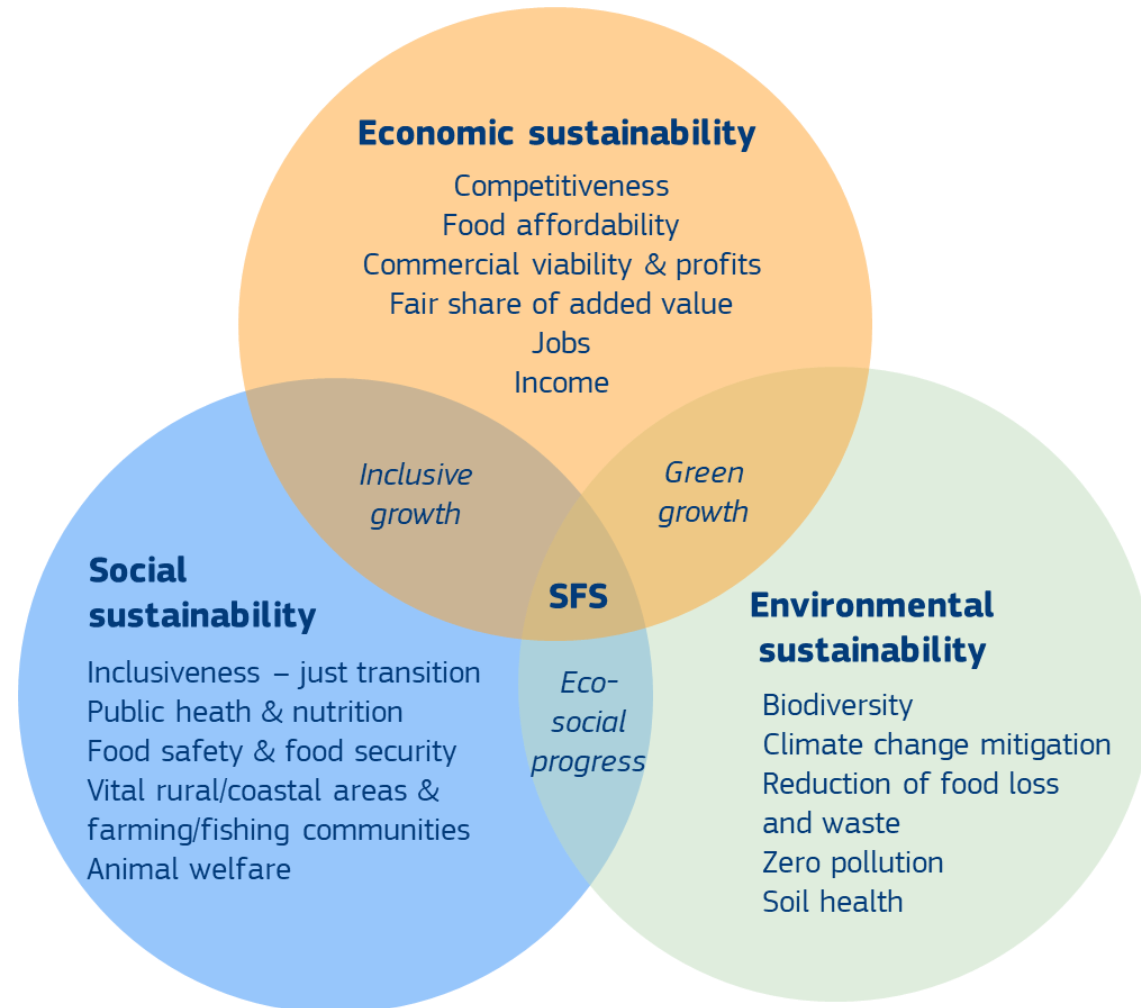


# | Enabling transition - Promoting global transition

- International cooperation to **support developing countries in their transition to sustainable food systems**;
- Inclusion of ambitious sustainability chapter, including on food, in all EU bilateral **trade agreements**.
- Work through **international standard setting bodies (e.g: Codex) and promotion of sustainable food systems in international fora and events** (e.g. UN Summit on Food Systems in 2021).
- **Environmental aspects** taken into account when **assessing requests for import tolerances** for pesticide substances no longer approved in the EU
- Promotion of appropriate **labelling schemes** - to ensure that food imported into the EU is gradually produced in a sustainable way.
- EU engagement in the **United Nations Food Systems Summit**.



# F2F: three dimensions of sustainability



## | Further insights

- **Farm to Fork Strategy:** [https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork_en)
- Recordings of the **Farm to Fork Conference, 15-16 October 2020:**  
[https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork/farm-fork-conference\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork/farm-fork-conference_en)

***Forthcoming Farm to Fork Conference, 14-15 October 2021:*** check website!

- **2021 UN Food Systems Summit:** <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit>

