Sustainability must become an economic opportunity for farmers

Press Release

A statement by Christine Chemnitz, Director of Agora Agriculture on the 'Vision for agriculture and food' released by the European Commission.

19 February 2025. "The Commission's vision for agriculture and food encompasses relevant aspects of a competitive and sustainable EU agrifood sector, such as respecting planetary boundaries and securing adequate incomes for farmers. However, it does not sufficiently address key areas needed to unlock the sector's potential for emission cuts, carbon removals and biodiversity protection. For example, outlining a strategy for rewetting peatlands, reducing livestock emissions, incentivising sustainable diets and tackling nitrate surpluses would give the sector a clearer direction on Europe's path to climate neutrality.

Our recent study shows that the agriculture, forestry and food sectors can significantly increase their contribution to the EU's climate and biodiversity goals. By 2045, greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and agricultural peatlands can be cut by 60 percent – while ensuring food security, increasing biomass production, strengthening carbon sinks and improving biodiversity. Realising this potential requires making sustainability an economic opportunity for farmers and land users. Building on the vision presented today, the EU now needs to put forward a policy framework that supports efficient land use, promotes sustainable diets and rewards producers for advancing sustainability goals."

About Agora Agriculture

Agora Agriculture develops science-based and politically feasible approaches for a sustainable food, agriculture and forestry sector. As part of the Agora Think Tanks, the organisation works independently of economic and partisan interests and aims to contribute to achieving democratically negotiated sustainability goals such as climate neutrality and biodiversity protection.

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