

# Cluster meeting “Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources”, 20 May 2021



Assoc. Prof. Tsanko Gechev, the PlantaSYST Coordinator and CPSBB Director, participated in the Cluster meeting “Sustainable Agriculture and natural resources”. The meeting was organized by Research Executive Agency (REA) and attended by representatives of REA, the European Commission, and many EU projects focused on agriculture and related fields.

Mark Tachelet, Director of REA, welcomed the participants and explained how important the networking in agriculture is. He underlined that this event is addressing not only the present developments in agriculture but is also opened to the future, providing a starting platform for the participants to further network with organizations of similar interest.

Mark Duponcel, Head of Sector DG AGRI/B2, presented Cluster 6 “Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment” and the European Green Deal. He explained the Cluster 6 co-founded partnerships and the different cluster destinations. Among them, the Destination “Fair, healthy, and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption” has the largest budget. Other destinations of interest for CPSBB included “Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors”, “Land, oceans, and water for climate action”, and “Innovative governance, environmental observations, and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal”.

Examples of challenges and needs in sustainable agriculture were presented by Hein ten Berde from the Wageningen University and Research in the Netherlands, partner of the Teaming 2 project ANTARES.

After that, three parallel sessions were held:

Innovative technologies in agriculture

Sustainable management of natural resources

Implementing new practices, policies, and cooperation.

During the parallel sessions, Dr. Gechev presented the project PlantaSYST and CPSBB: the project's objectives, the most important activities of CPSBB, the achievements, the future plans, the needs, and the offers of CPSBB.

In the afternoon, several projects dedicated on soil management were presented.

Stefan Weiers, Head of Sector DG RTD/A2, presented funding opportunities in Horizon Europe. In addition to the well-established actions such as Teaming, Twinning, and ERA Chairs, there are new actions such as Excellence hubs and Excellence Initiative for Higher Education Institutions. Furthermore, the ERA Fellowships will follow up on the Widening Fellowships from the previous framework programme.

After that, panel discussion on future networking was moderated by Patricio Ortiz de la Torre, Head of Sector REA/C3, Stefan Weiers, and Katarzyna Walczyk-Matuszyk, NCP Network.

Overall, the event was very useful in terms of communicating new information, opportunities, and networking in the area of sustainable agriculture and beyond.