

# **2<sup>nd</sup> European Carbon Farming Summit**

**Dublin, March 4-6, 2025**





Organisers



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# Analysis of Session Recommendations

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4per1000, Aeco, Agreena, Agri Marketplace, Agricarbon, Agrifood, Agrimercarb, Agroinsider, Agroscope, Agrosolutions, Association des Chambres d'agriculture de l'Arc Atlantique (AC3A), BASF, BETA Technological Centre, Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG), Bioeconomy Cluster, BlueBiloba, Boerenbond Projects, Bord Bia, Carbery Farmers Cooperative, Carbon Capture Company, Carbone farmers, Carboneg, Caritas, Cà Colonna srl, Centre d'Études Spatiales de la BIOSphère (CNRS-CESBIO), CeseFor, CinSOIL GmbH, Climate Cleanup, Climate KIC, Commonland Foundation, Consulai, CoopsAgroES, CREA-AA, CREAM, DEAFAL, DELOITTE, Deutscher Fachverband für Agroforstwirtschaft (DeFAF), Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), Earth Observation Association, ECS Climate Solutions, EIT Food South, ELGO-DIMITRA, Eleks, Environmental Protection Agency, European Space Agency Stakeholder Engagement Facility (ESA SEF), European Agroforestry Federation (EURAF), European Conservation Agriculture Federation (ECAAF), European Environmental Bureau (EEB), European Landowners' Organization (ELO), Eurosite, Farmers, FiBL, Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO), Friesland Campina, French Agricultural Chambers, GMV, Green Restoration Ireland, GreenO, Heavy Finance, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Institut de l'Élevage (IDELE), IFOAM Organics Europe, Institute for Climate Economics (I4CE), Integrated Carbon Observation System (ICOS), Integrated Carbon Observation System – European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ICOS-ERIC), Interreg NWE Smart Carbon Farming project, International Emissions Trading Association (IETA), Irish Cooperative Organisation Society, Joint Research Centre (JRC), Lakeland Dairies, Land Life, Livelihoods Funds, Mars Inc., Nataïs, National Association of Producers for Organic and Regenerative Agriculture (Produttori AOR), National Economic and Social Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Netcarbon, Peatland Finance Ireland, Philip Lee LLP / Hutchins Climate Capital, Preferred by Nature, Proba, Rabobank, Re-Cord, ReGeneration, Reframe, SAE Innova, SAS, Scave World, Seqana, SLM Partners, Social Carbon Foundation, Soil Capital, Space4Good, Tgo AG/ECN, Teagasc, Terre Inovia, Tetis Institute S.r.l, Thuenen Institute, Tierra Sphere, Trinity College Dublin, UCLouvain, University College Dublin, University of Cordoba, University of Florence, University of Greifswald, University of Helsinki, University of Pisa, Università degli Studi di Genova, Walton Institute, Wageningen Environmental Research, Wetlands International, Yard Stick PBC, Zuidelijke Land- en Tuinbouworganisatie (ZLTO).

## Overview

A total of 165 recommendations were recorded across the Summit's 41 sessions – an average of four per session.<sup>1</sup>

These recommendations were categorised using 50 keywords (see Annex for details), providing a useful overview of the key topics discussed. Table 1 highlights the top five most frequently mentioned keywords.

| Keyword                     | #  | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MRV</b>                  | 46 | Reflects significant interest from participants, many of whom are directly involved in the development or implementation of Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) approaches.                        |
| <b>Rewarding mechanisms</b> | 30 | Highlights a critical concern: carbon farming certification can only succeed if it ensures adequate incentives for farmers, which is currently uncertain.                                                   |
| <b>Trust building</b>       | 27 | Without a trust-based framework, certification efforts risk failure. This concern also suggests lingering scepticism around the Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF).                              |
| <b>Policy coherence</b>     | 25 | A need for better alignment both horizontally ( <i>e.g.</i> , with the CAP) and vertically (across governance levels). Future summits must address this.                                                    |
| <b>Holistic approach</b>    | 24 | Encompasses the need to treat farms as integrated systems, consider their full transition (emissions reductions and carbon sequestration), and factor in broader environmental and landscape-level impacts. |

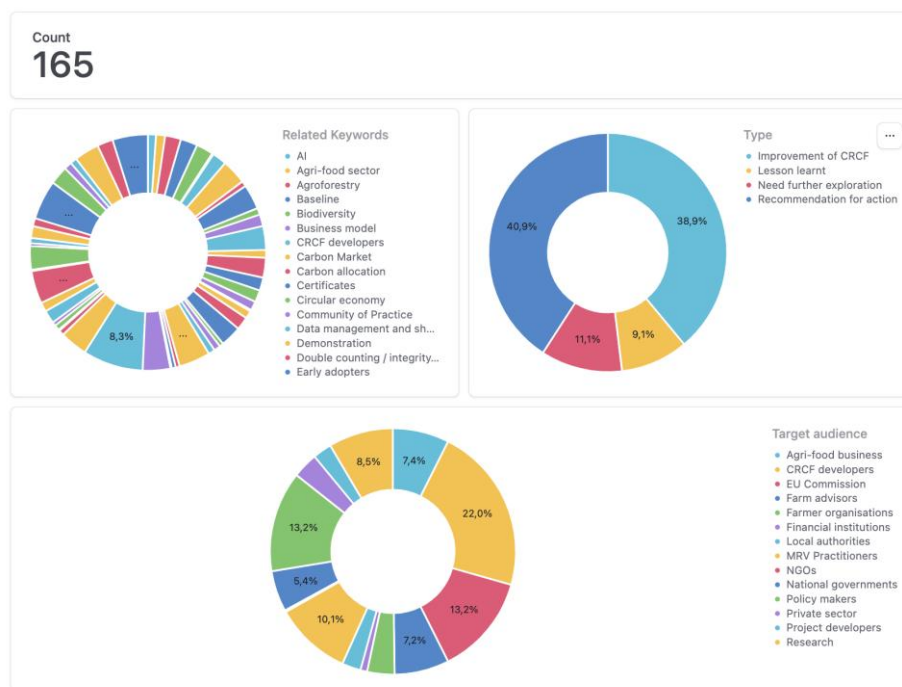
**Table 1.** Top-ranking keywords from session recommendations.

These keywords reflect both overarching and specific issues – ranging from land use types (*e.g.*, peatlands, agroforestry) to core CRCF design challenges (*e.g.*, baselines, permanence).

<sup>1</sup> [Click here for the full list of recommendations](#) (Use Recommendations Gallery).

## Types of Recommendations

Recommendations were classified into four non-exclusive categories, summarised in Figure 1 and Table 2.



**Figure 1.** Quick overview of the 165 recommendations collected during the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Carbon Farming Summit. Top left: distribution of the 50 keywords. Top right: types of recommendations. Bottom: target audiences of the recommendations.

| Type                         | #  | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Recommendations for action   | 85 | Target a broad range of stakeholders – including farm advisors, policymakers, MRV actors, and project developers. While many concern CRCF, they generally support wider carbon farming efforts. |
| Improvement of CRCF          | 81 | Specific to the certification framework and closely follow the "certification value chain": from practices and MRV to market development, rewards, and policy integration.                      |
| Need for further exploration | 23 | Highlight open questions or gaps needing more research or discussion—for example, regional adaptations, soil carbon dynamics, or rules for insetting and Scope 3 emissions.                     |
| Lessons learnt               | 19 | Reflections from stakeholders on key takeaways and practical insights.                                                                                                                          |

**Table 2.** Classification of recommendations by type.

**Target Audiences:** Policymakers (especially EU-level and CRCF-related authorities) form the largest audience group, followed by MRV practitioners. Other key audiences include researchers, agri-food businesses, and farm advisors.

*Note: Figure 1 can be analysed in greater detail through the Airtable interface (link provided in page 5).*

## Highlights and Key Messages

While many recommendations are either highly specific or quite general, several themes clearly emerge:

### 1. Addressing Small Farm Challenges

Certification schemes must account for the complexity and diversity of small farms. These farms often play key roles in biodiversity and regenerative practices but face high MRV costs and struggle to access private financing. CRCF methodologies should include simplified MRV, pooling mechanisms, and allow for landscape-based approaches.

### 2. Ensuring Value for Farmers

Carbon credits currently offer insufficient value – especially compared to CAP subsidies. When combined with MRV costs, this limits uptake. There is a clear need to optimise additionality criteria and explore how carbon revenues can be effectively blended with other income sources to support farm transitions.

### 3. Promoting Holistic Approaches

Carbon farming must contribute to broader goals – emissions reductions, climate adaptation, biodiversity, and profitability. Certificates should support, not hinder, these transformations. A siloed focus on carbon sequestration could inadvertently create trade-offs.

### 4. Sharing Financial Risk

Equity in risk-sharing is critical. Farmers should not bear the full brunt of market uncertainties. Issues such as buffer creation and upfront financing require fair solutions to ensure farmer engagement and system resilience.

## 5. Clarifying rules for offsetting and inseting

It remains partly unclear how inseting / Scope 3 and offsetting certification will be applied in the CRCF Regulation. For instance, conditions for inseting to contribute to the registry or to address additionality and permanence issues should be clearer. Given the often-different MRV approaches implemented, how should we ensure high integrity of the certificates generated?

## 6. Clarifying Baselines and Supporting First Movers

Baseline determination remains a technical and policy challenge, which needs to reflect diverse conditions across Europe. A key tension exists between supporting early adopters (and maintaining their gains) and demonstrating additional carbon storage. Policy must reconcile these imperatives.

## 7. Regional Differentiation

Multiple recommendations call for a more granular mapping of soil carbon potential and emissions avoidance across regions. The scale and parameters of such differentiation still need to be defined.

## 8. Strengthening Policy Coherence

One of the most cited issues: policy coherence across sectoral (*e.g.*, with CAP) and governance (local to EU) levels must be assessed and if necessary, improved. Alignment is essential not only in design but also from an implementation standpoint – especially from the perspective of farmers.

## Conclusions

This initial analysis of the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Carbon Farming Summit recommendations reveals a broad and insightful set of proposals. While many are still generic, they highlight the priorities, concerns, and expectations of key stakeholders.

These findings should inform both the design of future CRCF mechanisms and the agenda for the next Summit, which should aim to:

- Consolidate and validate emerging positions;
- Develop concrete, actionable and broadly supported proposals;
- Deepen dialogue with key actors across the carbon farming value chain.



## Annex 1: Exhaustive list and count of keywords

| Keyword                                     | Count |
|---------------------------------------------|-------|
| MRV                                         | 46    |
| Rewarding mechanisms                        | 30    |
| Trust building                              | 27    |
| Policy coherence                            | 25    |
| Holistic approach                           | 24    |
| Learning, knowledge                         | 21    |
| MRV costs                                   | 21    |
| Carbon Market                               | 19    |
| Certificates                                | 19    |
| Sustainability criteria                     | 19    |
| Data management and sharing                 | 18    |
| Practices                                   | 18    |
| Flexibility, local context                  | 16    |
| Double counting / integrity / additionality | 15    |
| Scope 3 / Insetting                         | 14    |
| Baseline                                    | 13    |
| Biodiversity                                | 13    |
| Agroforestry                                | 12    |
| Training, capacity building                 | 12    |
| CRCF developers                             | 11    |
| Early adopters                              | 10    |
| Financial support                           | 10    |
| Peatland, wetland                           | 10    |
| Community of Practice                       | 9     |
| Earth Observation                           | 9     |
| Regenerative transition                     | 9     |
| Agri-food sector                            | 7     |

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Farm resilience               | 7 |
| Permanence                    | 7 |
| AI                            | 6 |
| Demonstration                 | 6 |
| Fertilisation                 | 6 |
| Registry                      | 6 |
| Semantics                     | 6 |
| Circular economy              | 5 |
| Forestry                      | 5 |
| Green Claims                  | 5 |
| Soil health                   | 5 |
| Carbon allocation             | 4 |
| Offsetting                    | 4 |
| Organic matter management     | 4 |
| Public-private collaboration  | 4 |
| Food and consumers            | 3 |
| Integrated landscape approach | 3 |
| LULUCF rules                  | 3 |
| Paludiculture                 | 3 |
| Proximal sensing              | 2 |
| Business model                | 1 |
| Farmer collaboration          | 1 |
| Leakage                       | 1 |
| Organic farming               | 1 |
| Policy sandbox                | 1 |

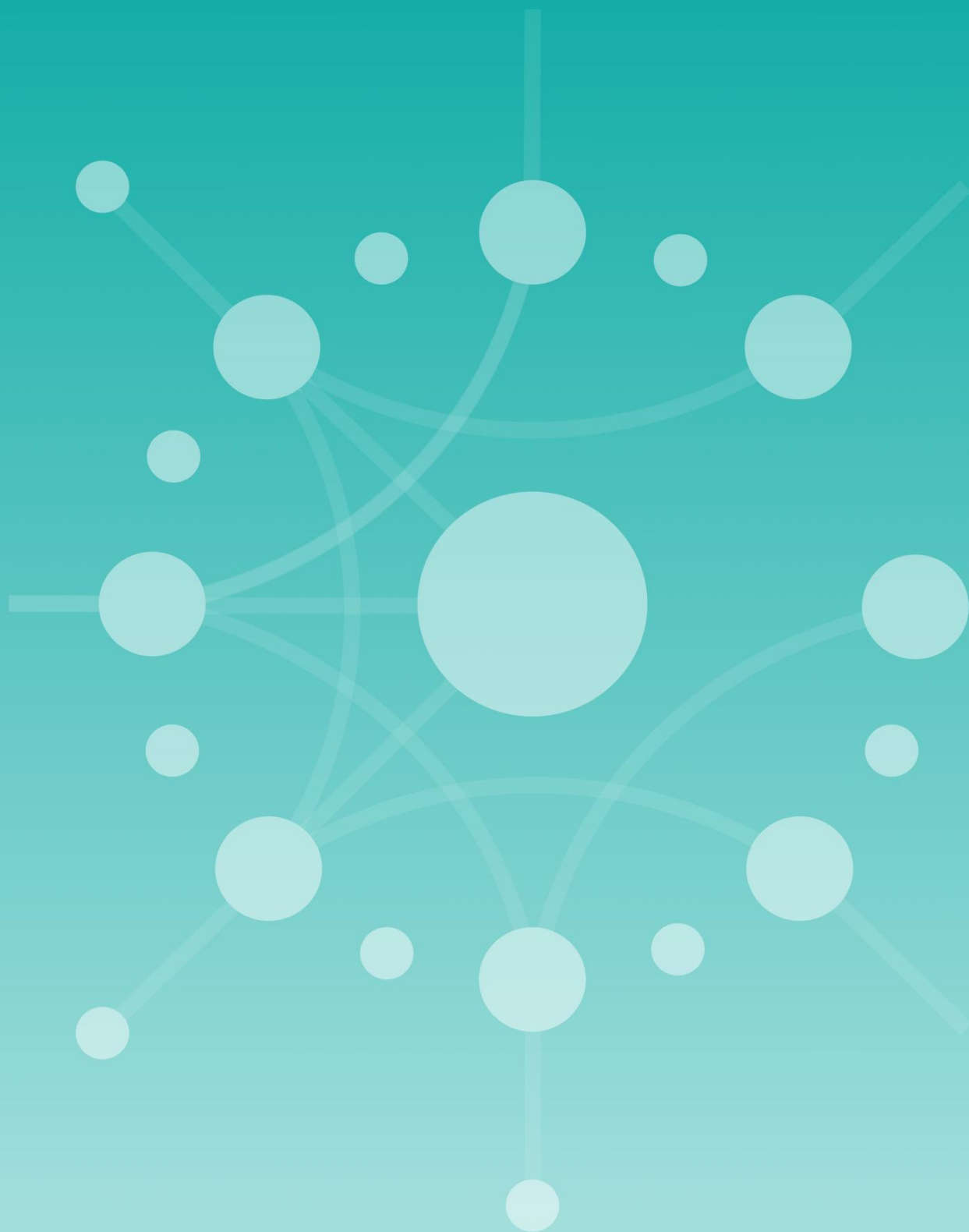
## Annex 2: Exhaustive list of target audiences

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| CRCF developers        | 98 |
| EU Commission          | 59 |
| Policymakers           | 59 |
| MRV Practitioners      | 45 |
| Research               | 38 |
| Agri-food business     | 33 |
| Farm advisors          | 32 |
| National governments   | 24 |
| Farmer organisations   | 16 |
| Private sector         | 15 |
| Local authorities      | 11 |
| Project developers     | 11 |
| Financial institutions | 4  |
| NGOs                   | 1  |



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