



BRIGHT
SPACE



**BrightSpace Project Annual Meeting:
Fostering Sustainability in Agriculture Through
the Safe and Just Operating Space Framework**

Seville, Spain 5-6 November 2024

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The BrightSpace project, a key initiative for operationalizing the concept of Safe and Just Operational Space in EU agriculture, is set to host its Annual Meeting from November 5-6, 2024, at the Torre Sevilla in Seville, Spain. This gathering brings together experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss the project's progress in promoting sustainable agriculture within the framework of the Safe and Just Operating Space (SJOS). Over two days, the event will address the significant challenges and innovations shaping the future of European agriculture, offering critical insights into how environmental and social sustainability goals can be integrated into EU policies.

A Framework for Sustainable Agriculture in the EU

The Safe and Just Operating Space (SJOS) concept ([Raworth, 2012](#)) lies at the heart of BrightSpace's mission, guiding the development of resilient agricultural systems that respect ecological limits while meeting societal needs. By integrating environmental and social considerations into policy-making, SJOS enables decision-makers to support food systems that balance human and planetary well-being. This year's Annual Meeting will focus on how the SJOS framework can inform policy on agricultural technologies, structural changes, consumer demand, and cross-sector coordination.

Addressing Critical Issues in Sustainable Agriculture

Agriculture is both a major economic force and a driver of environmental change, with significant impacts on climate, ecosystems, and social structures. The Annual Meeting will explore ways to balance the growing demand for food with the need for sustainability, including discussions on:

- **Measuring Sustainability:** With sessions on tools for measuring SJOS dimensions such as biodiversity and equitable agricultural practices, participants will delve into advanced methodologies like the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) to better understand environmental and social impacts.
- **Technology and Structural Changes:** Researchers will present updates on how technological advances and structural changes can help agriculture adapt to climate change while supporting local economies and ecological health.
- **Integrated Policy Approaches:** Recognizing the interconnected nature of agricultural, climate, environmental, and trade policies, the meeting will emphasize how harmonizing these policy areas is essential for creating resilient agricultural systems.

PRESS RELEASE

Highlights of the Agenda

Day 1 - November 5

After bilateral work package exchanges on special topics in the morning, the plenary annual meeting starts with a keynote address by Giampiero Genovese, Head of Unit - Economics of the Food System at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Seville. He will set the tone for discussions on project milestones and progress. Presentations will be featured on the meeting objectives and project progress, a policy update from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI). The topics of project communication, stakeholders' engagement, capacity building will outline how BrightSpace aims to support exchanges, dissemination and knowledge-sharing across EU member states. Outcomes of the first stakeholder retreat, SJOS indicators, scenario baselines, and model alignment will also be presented and discussed. The official programme will conclude with a policy update from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI).

Day 2 - November 6

The second day's discussions will focus on aligning BrightSpace models in modeling SJOS indicators and scenarios, technology and policy options for future scenarios. Concluding remarks will be delivered by Tassos Haniotis from the BrightSpace Scientific and Policy Advisory Board (SPAB) and EC REA Project Officer Angela Guarino.

Collaboration with other ongoing Horizon Europe projects is of high importance. A specific session will feature discussions and alignment on fast-track scenarios with the ACT4CAP27 project (<https://act4cap27.eu>). Also, a dedicated event will be held to foster collaborations with the LAMASUS project (<https://www.lamasus.eu>).

Insights for Policymakers and Stakeholders

The Annual Meeting represents a significant step forward for the BrightSpace project, offering practical guidance for policymakers:

1. **Adopt the SJOS Framework** to inform evidence-based policy that balances ecological and social goals.
2. **Promote Sustainable Technologies** that improve productivity, while protecting environmental health.
3. **Align Policies Across Sectors** to ensure cohesive strategies in agriculture, trade, and environmental protection.
4. **Support Modeling Tools and Research** to simulate policy impacts, refining decisions as conditions evolve.

This Annual Meeting of the BrightSpace project underscores a shared commitment to a sustainable agricultural future in Europe, where policies are informed by science, technology, and a dedication to both human and planetary health.

For more information about the BrightSpace project and updates from the Annual Meeting, visit the BrightSpace Project at <https://brightspace-project.eu/>.

Contact

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