

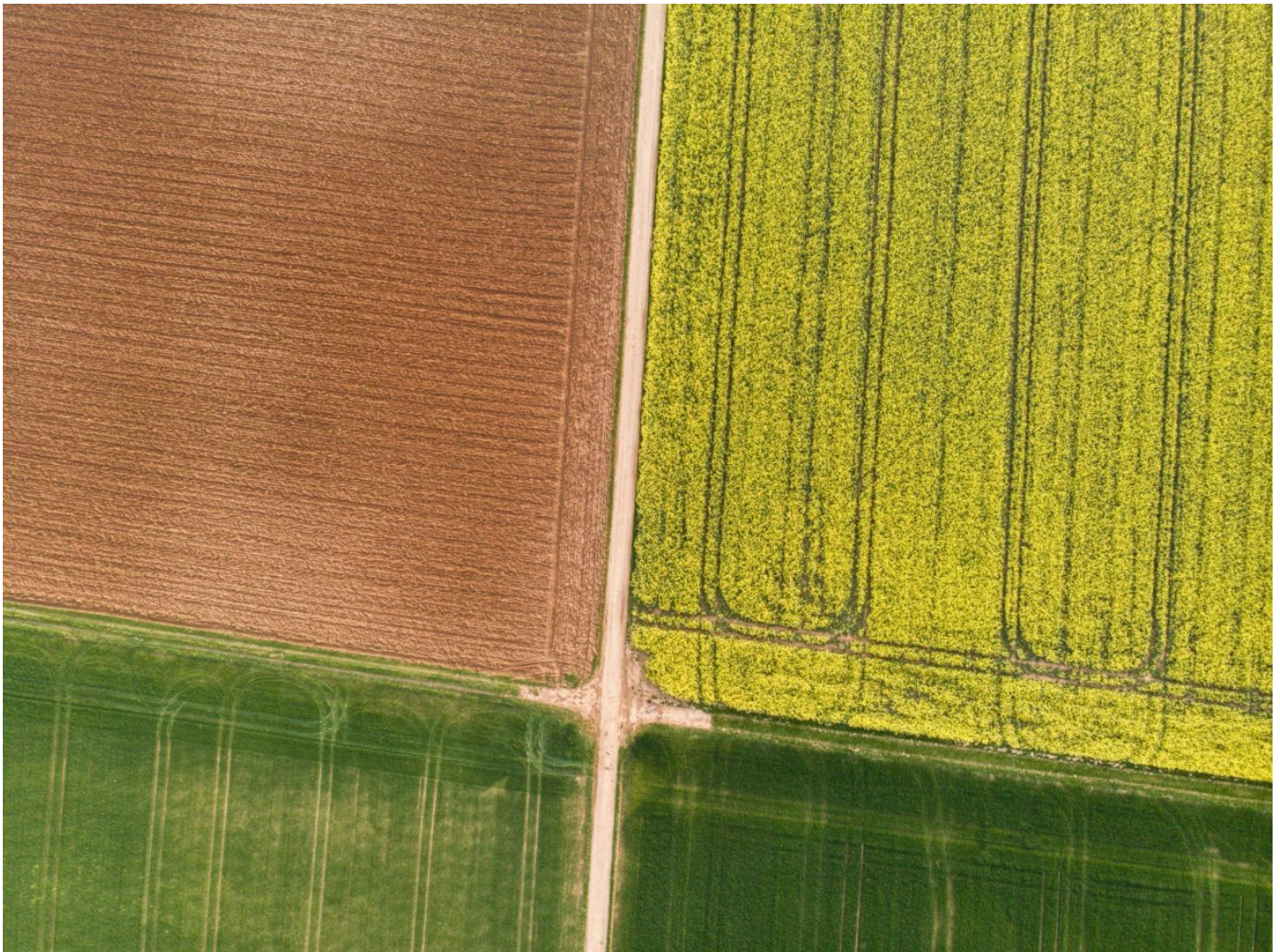
[Home](#) → [Research projects](#) → CoolFarmLab

RESEARCH PROJECT

CoolFarmLab

In progress CoolFarmLab | 01/04/2025 → 30/04/2028

CO-creation Of Pathways to foster agroecoLogical transition of FARMS driven by Living LAB approach



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Summary

Agroecology is increasingly acknowledged as a holistic solution for addressing challenges in the agri-food system by applying principles from natural ecosystems to manage agroecosystems. It emphasizes biodiversity, resource efficiency, environmental impact mitigation, and knowledge exchange among farmers. Despite the growing interest and successful solutions in this field, a critical question remains about the scalability of agroecology to become the primary approach for a sustainable and resilient agri-food system.

The CoolFarmLab project is a pioneering initiative that **aims to promote agroecology at the farm level, in line with the goals of the AGROECOLOGY 1 Co-funded Call**. The project's goal is to **improve farm-level agroecology** by **encouraging crop diversification, developing agronomic methods** for higher resilience and lower chemical inputs, and **promoting natural pest, weeds and disease control**. Its primary goals include **creating innovative agricultural systems** to aid in agroecological transition, improve soil fertility, increase resilience, reduce chemical inputs, and improve resource efficiency within a circular economy framework.

CoolFarmLab seeks to **improve biodiversity and resilience in agricultural systems** by **diversifying species and genotypes at both the field and farm levels**, such as site-adapted varieties, crop rotations, and intra-field diversification. The project's strategies will include discovering and validating agroecological practices for soil

fertility restoration, leveraging beneficial microorganisms and bio-based inputs, and comparing the multidimensional impacts of agroecological farming systems to conventional practices. Farmers and stakeholders will be taught agroecology concepts as part of a comprehensive training program, which will promote information exchange and capacity building for sustainable farming methods.

The project also focuses on **aligning with European Green Deal objectives**, **supporting appropriate agricultural policies**, and **gathering knowledge on the performance of agroecological systems** to inform decision-making and policy development. CoolFarmLab strives to promote socioeconomic prosperity and sustainable agricultural practices by providing farmers with vital agroecology skills and information. To maximize impact, the project will utilize **the co-creation method** for innovation development, dissemination, and outreach, fostering mutual learning mechanisms among farms, service providers, research institutions, and stakeholders. Living Labs will be activated to facilitate the experimentation of innovative solutions in real contexts, promoting collaboration and sustainable practices within the agricultural sector.

CoolFarmLab is dedicated to overcoming barriers to innovation adoption on farms, enhancing social and relational capital, and integrating agroecology and sustainable management principles to **address environmental challenges and promote long-term ecosystem health**. Through **dissemination and communication activities**, the project aims to engage stakeholders within the food chain, optimize results, and effectively share outcomes through various platforms and collaborations.

In conclusion, CoolFarmLab represents a comprehensive and innovative approach to advancing agroecology, sustainability, and rural livelihoods, with the ultimate goal of **contributing to a more sustainable agriculture and food production system**.

Top image: Field diversification. Source: [Bernd Dittrich](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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