

# Biotechnology for Europe's agro-industry and bioeconomy: research and innovation as competitiveness drivers of the European bioindustry

Brussels, 4 February 2026

Maison Irène et Frédéric Joliot-Curie, rue du Trône 100

<b>13:00 – 13:30</b>	
<b>WELCOME COFFEE</b>	
<b>Introduction</b>	
13:30 – 13:45	<b>Opening remarks</b> Thierry Caquet, Vice-President International, INRAE
<b>Session 1: Panel discussion on the role of biotechnology as a driver of nature-based manufacturing - opportunities and challenges</b>	
13:45 – 14:00	<b>Introduction: Overall panorama of Biotech applications</b> Fadhel BEN CHABANNE, Senior researcher, IFPEN
14:00 – 15:00	<b>Roundtable</b> Moderator: Michael O'DONOHUE, Bioeconomy Scientific Director, INRAE & Fadhel BEN CHABANNE, IFPEN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gabriel CAPSON TOJO, Researcher, Science for Food Bioproducts and Waste Engineering department (TRANSFORM), INRAE</li> <li>• Klaus GRUNERT, Professor, Aarhus University, EIT Food Consumer Observatory</li> <li>• Hélène BRIAND, Co-founder, Verley Food</li> <li>• Anne-Gaëlle COLLOT, Director Industrial Biotechnology, EuropaBio</li> <li>• Pierre-Matthieu PELISSIER, Policy Officer, Bioeconomy and Food Systems Unit - DG RTD, European Commission</li> </ul>
	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
15:00-15:20	
<b>BREAK</b>	

## Session 2: The Role of Data and AI in Biotechnology

Explore the role of high-quality, FAIR, data in effectively supporting AI advancements for biotechnology.

15:20 – 15:25	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Sophie BARBE &amp; Jean-Loup FAULON, Research Directors, Microbiology and the Food Chain department (MICA), INRAE</p>
15:25 – 15:35	<p><b>Governance aspects</b></p> <p>Douglas ROBINSON, Policy Advisor, OECD</p>
15:35 – 15:45	<p><b>Data Infrastructures</b></p> <p>Frédéric DE LAMOTTE, Data Steward, Plant Biology &amp; Breeding Department (BAP), INRAE</p>
15:45 – 15:55	<p><b>Biofoundries</b></p> <p>Dorothee BARTH, Senior Scientist, VTT</p>
15:55 – 16:05	<p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>

## Session 3: Panel discussion on how to better articulate activities supported by infrastructures involved in all steps of the research-technological – industrial development

16:05 – 16:55	<p><b>Roundtable</b></p> <p>Moderators: Diana GARCIA-BERNET, Senior Researcher, TRANSFORM department, INRAE &amp; Michel-Yves MISTOU, Senior Researcher, MICA department, INRAE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ana DE CASTRO, vice Chair Strategic Work Group – Environment, ESFRI</li> <li>John MORRISSEY, Professor, UCC Cork</li> <li>Stef DENAYER, Stakeholder Relations Manager, PILOTS4U</li> <li>Agnès ROBIN, Policy Officer, Open Science and Research Infrastructures Unit - DG RTD, European Commission</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
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## Conclusion

16:55 – 17:10	<p><b>Take-home messages</b></p> <p>Michael O'DONOHUE, Bioeconomy Scientific Director, INRAE</p>
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17:15 – 18:30



**NETWORKING COCKTAIL**