European Commission

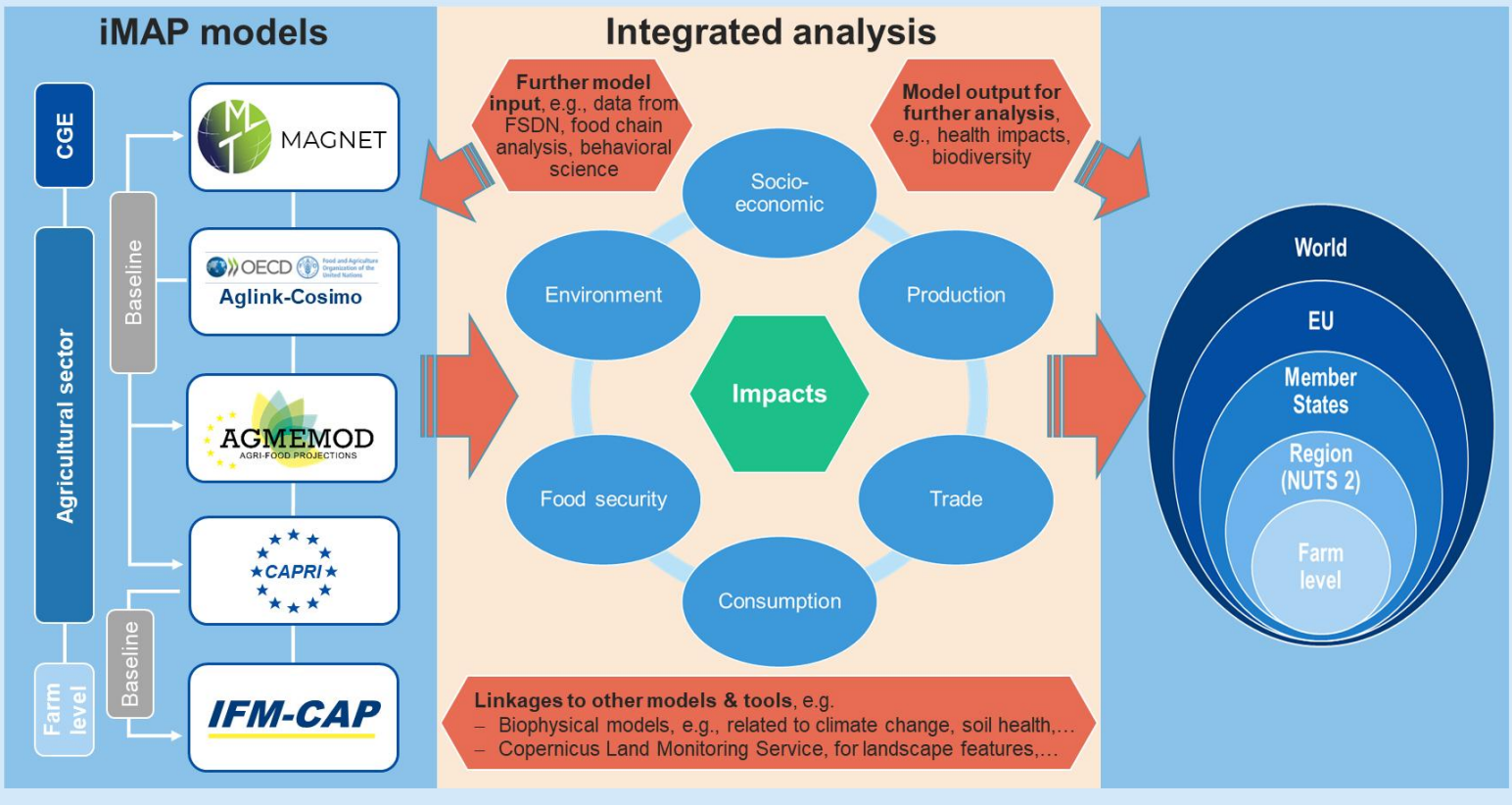
Agenda

Agro-economic Modelling to Support EU Policies

Integrated Modelling for Agricultural Policy: 20 Years of iMAP and the Future of Agro-economic Policy Analysis

Venue: Skyline, Rue de Trèves 74, 1040 Bruxelles

28-29 October 2026



Purpose and Objectives of the Symposium

Marking the 20-year anniversary of the JRC's integrated Modelling Platform for Agro-economic and Resource Policy Analysis (iMAP), this high-level symposium will celebrate the platform's contributions to evidence-based EU policymaking and look ahead to the next generation of agro-economic policy analysis.

The symposium will bring together policymakers, researchers, and agri-food stakeholders to reflect on how integrated modelling has supported the design and evaluation of agricultural, environmental, and climate policies, while identifying emerging analytical needs in an increasingly complex policy landscape.

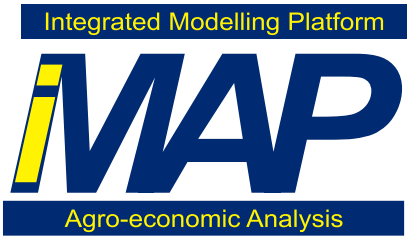
A central objective is to discuss how agro-economic modelling frameworks need to evolve to support future policies in the face of current and emerging challenges and opportunities. These include sustainability transitions, resilience of food systems, changing global market interactions, and evolving geopolitical landscapes. In particular, the event will explore how new analytical approaches, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, alongside greater data and model interoperability, can complement and enhance existing modelling tools.

Through these exchanges, the event aims to define strategic directions for the continued development of iMAP and agro-economic modelling in general, and to strengthen their role as a cornerstone of forward-looking EU policy analysis.

Structure of the event:

Day 1 - Integrated Modelling for EU Policy: Celebrating 20 Years of iMAP and Looking Ahead

Day 2 - Next-Generation Agro-economic Modelling: Integrating AI, Data Science, and Policy Analysis



Agenda Day 1 - Integrated Modelling for EU Policy: Celebrating 20 Years of iMAP and Looking Ahead

28 October 2026

08:15-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:05 **Welcome video message**
- Christophe Hansen (Commissioner, Agriculture and Food)

09:05-09:15 **Opening address: iMAP and the JRC's role in providing independent, evidence-based knowledge for EU policymaking**
- Maive Rute (Deputy Director-General, JRC)

09:15-10:45 **Session 1 | 20 Years of iMAP: what integrated modelling has delivered for EU policy, and what comes next**

Moderation: Giampiero Genovese (Head of Unit, Economics of Food Systems, JRC) and Koen Dillen (Head of Unit, Analysis & Outlook, DG AGRI)

Lightning presentations, panel and open discussion with all participants:

JRC: Looking back on 20 years of iMAP and the way forward
- Alessandra Zampieri (Director, Sustainable Resources, JRC)

DG AGRI: iMAP and future policy challenges for EU agriculture and food systems – analytical needs for policy support
- Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle (Director, Strategy & Policy Analysis, DG AGRI)

Academia: iMAP and the evolving role of integrated modelling in supporting agricultural and food system policies
- Hans van Meijl (Chief Economist WSER and Wageningen University)

Stakeholder: The role of integrated modelling and analysis from the farmers' perspective
- Elli Tsiforou (Secretary-General, Copa-Cogeca)

10:45-11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15-12:30 **Session 2 | Learning from peers: agricultural policy modelling in national and international institutions**

Moderation: Thomas Fellmann (Head of Sector Agriculture and iMAP Coordinator, Economics of Food Systems, JRC) and Balázs Bence Tóth (Deputy Head of Unit, Analysis & Outlook, and iMAP Coordinator, DG AGRI)

Lightning presentations, panel and open discussion with all participants:
- Kevin Hanrahan (Head of Rural Economy and Development Programme, Teagasc, Ireland)
- Ants-Hannes Viira (Head of Agricultural Policy, Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce, Estonia)
- Kurt Niquidet (Head of Agro-food Trade and Markets Division, OECD)
- Wyatt Thompson (Professor, Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, University of Missouri, USA)

12:30-14:00 **Networking lunch**

Afternoon | Policy challenges and analytical needs

14:00-15:10 **Session 3 | Supporting EU agricultural policy: The next CAP and the Multiannual Financial Framework**

Moderation: Robert M'barek (Head of Sector, Economics of Food Systems, JRC)
Setting the scene: iMAP and the CAP – from reform assessments to the post-2027 framework

Panel and open discussion with all participants:
- Alan Matthews (Professor, Trinity College Dublin)
- Maria Blanco (Professor Agricultural Economics, Technical University of Madrid)
- Paolo Sckokai (Professor Agricultural and Food Economics, UNICATT)
- Pasquale Di Rubbo (Deputy Head of Unit, Policy Perspectives, DG AGRI)

15:10-16:10 **Session 4 | Environmental sustainability and climate transition in EU food systems**

Moderation: Ignacio Pérez Domínguez (Head of Sector, Economics of Food Systems, JRC)
Setting the scene: iMAP and the green transition – modelling environmental and climate ambition

Panel and open discussion with all participants:
- Petr Havlik (Program Director and Research Group Leader, IIASA)
- Aline Mosnier (Scientific Director, FABLE)
- Helena Hansson (Professor Agricultural and Food Economics, SLU)
- Gregorio Dávila Díaz (Dep. Head of Unit, Environmental Sustainability DG AGRI)

16:10-16:40 **Coffee break**

16:40-17:50 **Session 5 | Resilient and inclusive food systems: from global markets and geopolitics to farms and consumers**

Moderation: Jesús Barreiro-Hurlé (Head of Sector, Economics of Food Systems, JRC)
Setting the scene: iMAP in a turbulent world – linking global, EU and farm-level analysis

Panel and open discussion with all participants:
- David Laborde (Director, Agrifood Economics Division, FAO)
- Channing Arndt (Director GTAP and Professor, Purdue University)
- Thia Hennessy (Professor and Head of College, University College Cork)
- Agata Galinska (Head of Unit, Global Issues, WTO and Relations with ACP, DG AGRI)

17:50-18:00 **Day 1 Wrap-up: What policy needs from modelling – the key takeaways**
Koen Dillen (Head of Unit, Analysis & Outlook, DG AGRI) and Giampiero Genovese (Head of Unit, Economics of Food Systems, JRC)

18:00-20:30 **Networking Cocktail Reception – celebrating 20 years of iMAP**

Agenda Day 2 - Next-Generation Agro-economic Modelling: Integrating AI, Data Science, and Policy Analysis

29 October 2026

09:00-09:10 **Welcome and Recap of Day 1: The policy questions on the table**
Giampiero Genovese (Head of Unit, Economics of Food Systems, JRC) and Koen Dillen (Head of Unit, Analysis & Outlook, DG AGRI)

09:10-09:20 **Setting the scene for Day 2: Integrating AI, Data Science, and Policy Analysis**

– Ana Klinnert (AI Coordinator, Economics of Food Systems, JRC)

09:20-10:35 **Session 6 | What AI makes possible: models, data, computation**

Moderation: Balázs Bence Tóth (Deputy Head of Unit, Analysis & Outlook, DG AGRI)

Three 7-minute lightning presentations, reactions from discussants, then open discussion with all participants

Hybrid machine learning and structural modelling: parameters, or something more?

– Hugo Storm (Group Leader Data Science in Agricultural Economics, University of Bonn)

Measuring what surveys miss: combining satellite and survey data with machine learning

– Lucie Maruéjols (Professor Computational Analytics and Modelling in Agricultural Policy, Kiel University)

Surrogate models and emulators: what they offer policy analysis

– Christian Troost (Senior Researcher, University of Hohenheim) - TBC

Discussants: Wolfgang Britz (University of Bonn), Robert Huber (ETH Zurich)

10:35-11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00-12:30 **Session 7 | From method to policy analysis: parameters, effects, behaviour, integration**

Moderation: Ana Klinnert (AI Coordinator, Economics of Food Systems, JRC)

Four 7-minute lightning presentations, reactions from discussants, then open discussion with all participants

Predicting food demand elasticities under Shared Socioeconomic Pathways, and calibrating them into CGE models

– Wusheng Yu (Professor Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen)

How differently do farms respond? Causal machine learning and heterogeneous effects in CAP policy evaluation

– Alessandro Varacca (Assistant Professor, UNICATT)

Behavioural rules learned vs. assumed

– Franziska Appel (Senior Researcher, IAMO)

Interoperability and workflow: connecting models and approaches

– Ioannis Athanasiadis (Professor and Chair of AI, Wageningen UR)

Discussants: Wolfgang Britz (University of Bonn), Koen Dillen (DG AGRI)

12:30-13:00 **Session 8 (closing session) | From policy needs to integrated modelling solutions: priorities for iMAP and the wider modelling community**

Moderation: Giampiero Genovese (Head of Unit, Economics of Food Systems, JRC) and Koen Dillen (Head of Unit, Analysis & Outlook, DG AGRI)

What we heard: key messages from the symposium

Panel and open discussion with all participants:

– Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle (Director, Strategy & Policy Analysis, DG AGRI)
– Alessandra Zampieri (Director, Sustainable Resources, JRC)

13:00-14:30 **Networking lunch**