Workshop facilitated by the GiantLeaps, reKultI4Food projects and

the Horizon4Proteins platform

Closing the Loop: Circularity and Alternative Proteins in Food and Feed

Interactive, multi-actor co-creation Workshop on the circularity potential of alternative biomass with special focus on the past and future innovations scoped with research questions and methodologies centred around sustainability.

- Can we return nutrients in the food systems using alternative proteins in efficient and sustainable way?
- Which stakeholders can be the catalysts of the circular economy changes?
- How can we capture the efficiency of nutrient return via existing or new tools (LCA, multi-objective optimisation, indices etc.) and methodological approaches (consequential or attributional, ecodesign etc.)
- What are the bright examples of sustainable circularity by alternative proteins? (Showcasing products derived from the Horizon4Proteins platform projects and GiantLeaps)

Outcomes:

- Generating 2 best case scenarios on the sustainability benefits of alternative protein-based, high quality, safe, nutritious, sustainable food and feed ingredients
- Transdisciplinary, cross-pollinating approach: newest innovations will be presented, and networking will facilitate the generation of new ideas for future projects

Target groups for the Workshop (4-5 groups) consisting of

- Primary producers
- Processors
- Consumers
- Policy makers
- Regulators
- NGO's

General Discussion points/questions:

- What is the starting point for the circularity of nutrients in the food production chains (systems)?
- How much nutrients can be effectively returned to food systems via alternative protein circularity approaches
- How the nutrient return via circular approaches influences the sustainability of the food systems?
- How to quantify such returns for economic, environmental and social aspects?
- Optional question: What's in it for the biodiversity?
- Optional question: Are ecosystem services of circular alternative proteins (already) quantifiable?

Specific Activities:

- Showcasing **the sustainability metrics obtained by the Horizon4Proteins projects**, emphasising how sustainability assessment (E-LCA, S-LCA, LCC) have supported to stakeholders shape the future of certain alternative-protein specific ecosystems
- Spotlight how DSS and eco-design approaches can support agri-food stakeholders (primary producers, processors) to overcome barriers during the transition to circular alternative-protein based food systems

Tools and equipment: Beamer, Mentimeter, Flipcharts, Stickits, tables for product showcasing (refrigerator perhaps also needed for storage), alternative protein foods, etc.

AGENDA (preliminary)

16:30-16:40 Introduction to Horizon4Proteins platform's mission (tbd)
16:40-16:50 Giant Leaps: an overview (Dr. Paul Vos)
16:50-17:00 Short introduction of reKulti4Food project (Dr. Christian Lambertz)
17:00-17:15 Mentimeter Questionnaire (Breaking the Chain!)
17:15-17:30 Group discussions on how nutrients can be effectively returned from different parts of the supply chain back in the food system (Flipchart session)
17:30-17:40 Foreseen sustainability impacts in GiantLeaps based on multicriteria approach

- Focused on upstream agri-food system actors (industry)
- Engaging with consumers showcasing incentive scenarios

17:40-17:50 Summary and ranking of Workshop outcomes & future prospects
17:50 Conclusions. Wrap-up

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The four EU-funded projects working on alternative proteins, NextGenProteins, ProFuture, Smart Protein and SUSINCHAIN, launched **Horizon4Proteins** at the end of 2021 to work together in key aspects such as: **Consumer acceptance of alternative proteins**, **Safety and Regulatory challenges**, **Food applications**, and **Sustainability**. Beginning of 2023, the EU Horizon Europe funded projects GIANT LEAPS, LIKE-A-PRO and VALPRO Path joined the collaboration.

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