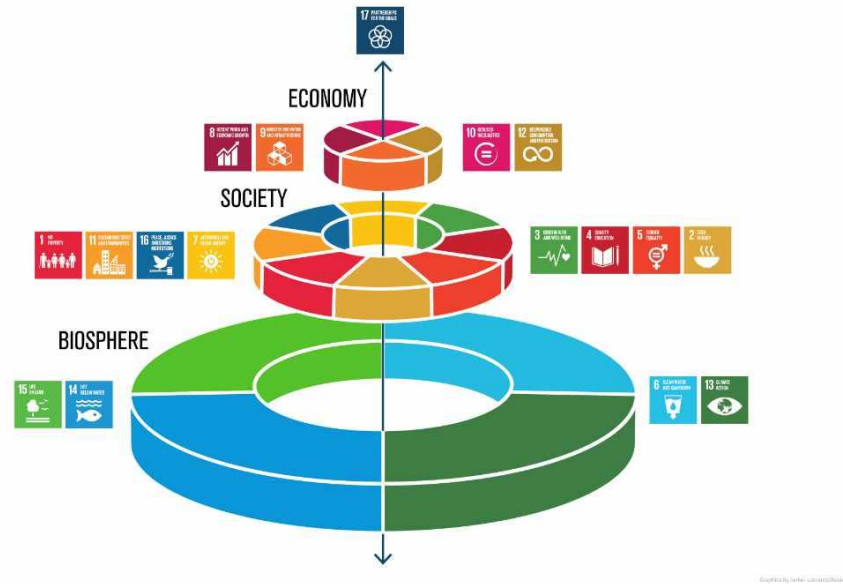


Kerstin Cuhls, Gianluca Brunori, Budapest 2024

SCAR Foresight: Science looking for win-win solutions in the poly-crisis age

The sustainability consensus



Sustainability consensus and food



The UN Food Systems Summit, held during the UN General Assembly in New York on September 23, set the stage for global food systems transformation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The Green Deal consensus

With our European Green Deal, we want to pave the way for a green and inclusive **transformation** of our economies and societies

Van der Leyen's speech to the EU Parliament, 15/06/2021



Contexts changed

- More uncertainty, “crisis” as the norm, not the exception
- Disruptions and new developments interplay with long-term trends
- **Contrast of long-term view, urgent responses**



figure: © Kerstin Cuhls with CoPilot, 29/11/2024

Policies and reactions changed

- Pesticide regulation → **withdrawn**
- Sustainable food system regulation → **not in the 2024 agenda**
- Intensive livestock in Industrial Emissions Directive → Parliament **dropped** EU Commission proposal
- Nutritional labelling → **not in the 2024 agenda**
- Corporate sustainability due diligence → the Council **postponed** the vote (Italy and Germany oppose)
- CAP Conditionality rules → **suspended**



figures: © Kevin Polle, January 2024

Different Responses to the different crises

'Retreat' approaches

Emergency approaches

Transformative approaches

A new consensus?



Role of SCAR



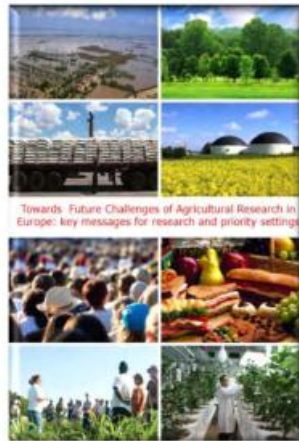
The **Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR)** was established in 1974 and it is formed by representatives of 37 countries

It became a source of advice on European agricultural and wider bioeconomy research, and a catalyst for the coordination of national research programmes

The Foresight process is a pillar of SCAR

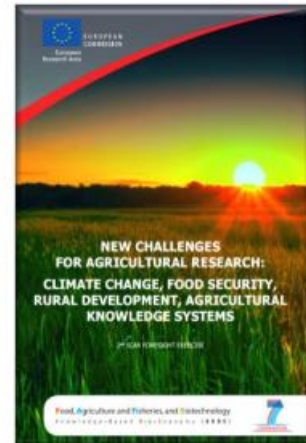
SCAR Foresight exercises: a 20-years history ...

Climate Change
and Energy



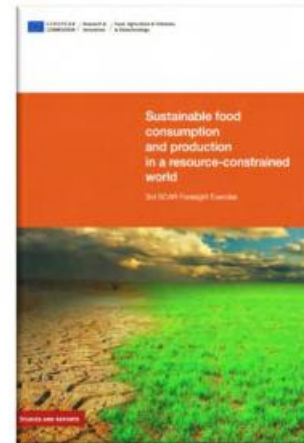
2007

Resilience and
Food Crises 2008



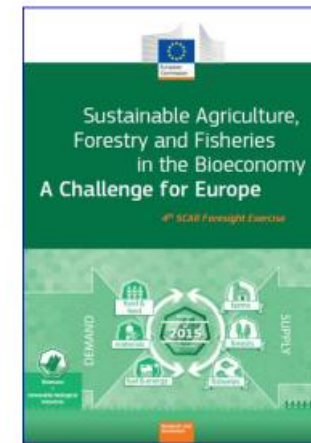
2009

Resource Scarcities
Efficiency vs
Sufficiency



2011

Sustainable
Bioeconomy



2015

Resilience and
transformation



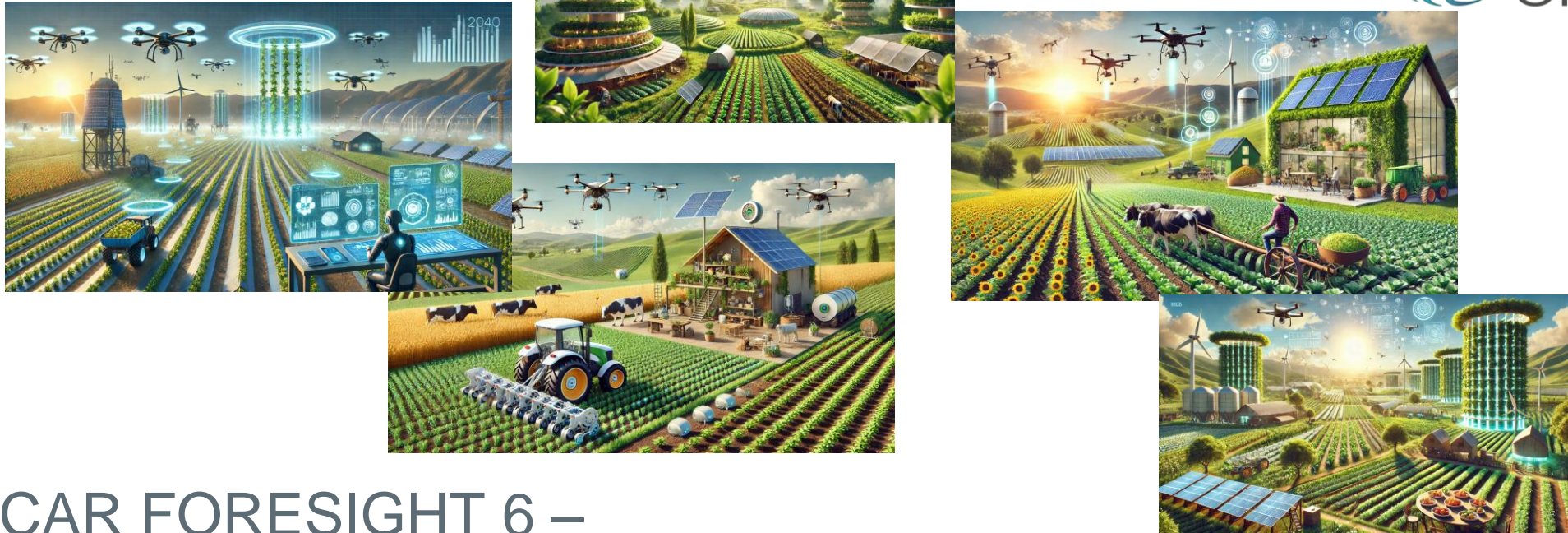
2020

... towards the 6th Foresight

SCAR FORESIGHT 6

Healthy and sustainable diets, Circularity, Diversity: Pathways in transition for resilient European agriculture and food systems in times of global crises (working title)

Explorative scenarios built upon the transition pathways with a deep dive on natural resources - land and water



SCAR FORESIGHT 6 –
WE TAKE OVER MANY FINDINGS FROM
THE 5TH SCAR FORESIGHT –
BUT DIFFERENT FUTURES ARE POSSIBLE

OBJECTIVES OF THE 6TH SCAR FORESIGHT

The **6th SCAR Foresight** has the general objective of supporting a **safe and just transition** (this is the vision) towards a more **sustainable, competitive, and resilient** agriculture and food sector including fisheries, forestry and bioeconomy.

- provide futures insights as **input for defining new R&I agendas** by
 - assessing the state of the **3 transition pathways** in the light of new challenges and poly-crises
 - identifying what can have an effect on agri-food systems in the next 25 years and assess the potential impacts on the 3 pathways
 - exploring **scenarios** for transition and derive implications for research policies
 - making a deep dive on resources, land and water



THE TRANSITION PATHWAYS

1. Healthy, sustainable diets for all
2. Towards a “circular” food supply
3. Towards greater diversity

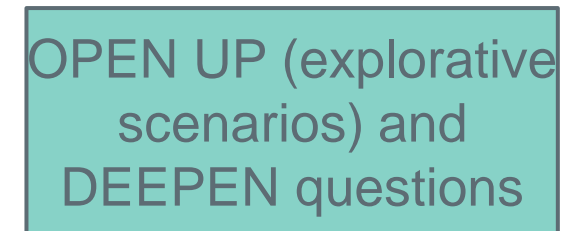


normative –
derived from
SDGs



OPEN UP (explorative
scenarios) and
DEEPEN questions

THE TRANSITION PATHWAYS



THE TRANSITION PATHWAYS FROM THE 5TH SCAR FORESIGHT

1. Healthy, sustainable diets for all
2. Towards a “circular” food supply
3. Towards greater diversity

normative –
derived from
SDGs

new
contexts

link to
BIOECONOMY

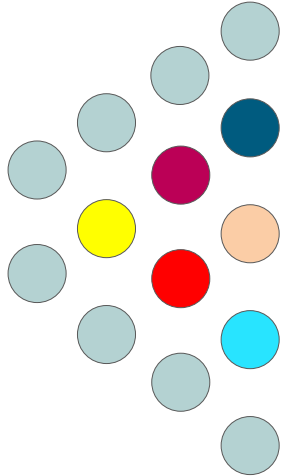
Consequences for
RESOURCES,
LAND & WATER

OPEN UP (explorative
scenarios) and
DEEPEN questions

Thinking in different, possible futures – Scenario approach

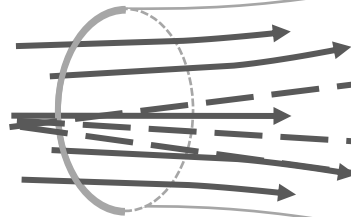
Gain Perspective on the Present

- Scanning/Research



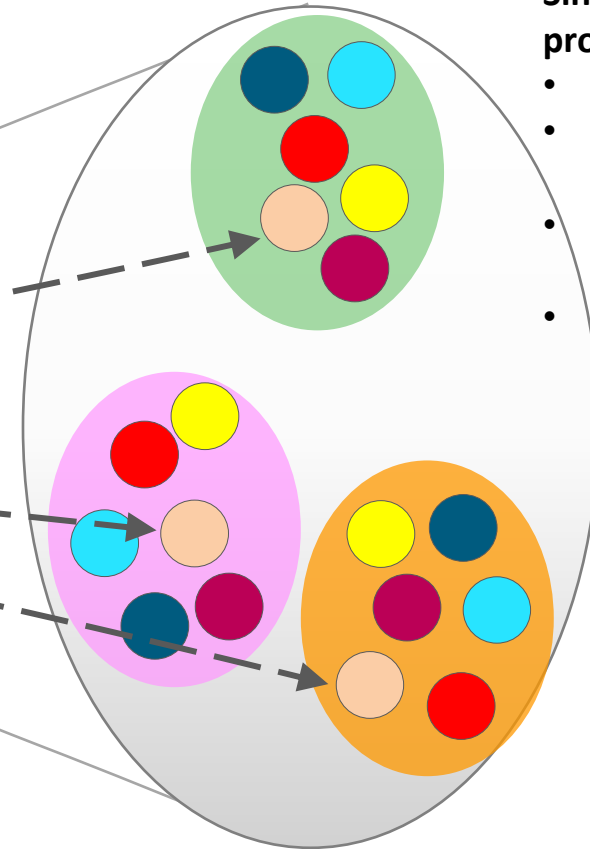
Explore Possible Drivers/ factors

- Workshop I



Single assumptions/ projections

- possible futures
- creative and open thinking
- taking into account HS results
- Workshop II



Scenario Outlines/ raw scenarios

- combinations of the assumptions
- WS III discussing the scenarios
- scenario writing
- illustrations

Present

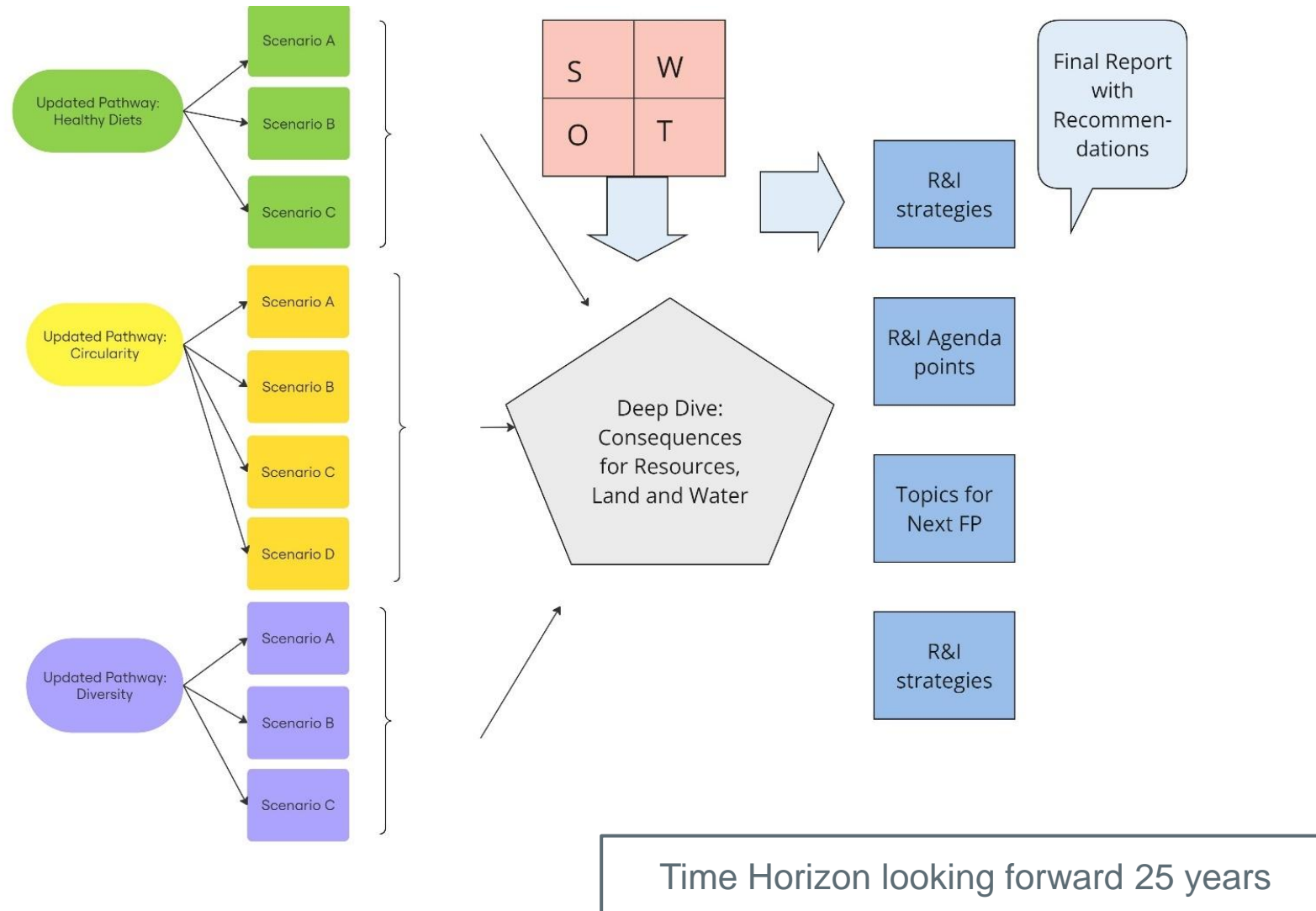
Future



borrowed from:

Future Infectious Disease Threats to Europe

PROCESS FOR THE 6TH SCAR FORESIGHT WILL BE FIXED IN SCOPING PHASE



On the search for research priorities – scientific and societal win-win solutions

- **Analysis of vulnerabilities**
- **Systemic adaptation/ resilience**
 - anticipation of crises,
 - regenerative action
- **Systemic mitigation**
 - lock-ins and leverage points
- **The actors of change**



figure: © Gianluca Brunori with DALL-E

AVOIDING THIS SCENARIO: NO RESPONSIBILITY

1 out of 5 scenarios in the
Horizon Europe project



In 2040, no collective responsibility is taken for societal issues, global commons, nutrition of people or other issues. Individual responsibility for others is very limited. The most important criteria for purchasing food are price and availability, with quality taking a backseat. Health or nutrition safety are not the priorities - people eat what is available and affordable. We live in an erratic and permanently changing world - without any trust in science or ourselves. Europe as a plaything for global (economic) interests tries to defend itself in a world of heatwaves, cold and hot spots, drought or floods and erratic weather phenomena.



No responsibility – own interests?
(Source: Kerstin Cuhls created with DallE 12-2024)

ACTORS OF CHANGE ARE MANIFOLD – PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROCESS, TOO



Expert knowledge is required



Meetings and workshops to bring in different perspectives



Foresight ahead!



Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and
Innovation Research ISI

Contact:

Prof. Dr. Kerstin Cuhls

CC Foresight

Fraunhofer Institute for Systems-
and Innovation Research (ISI)

Breslauer Straße 48 | 76139 Karlsruhe

kerstin.cuhls@isi.fraunhofer.de

