

European Carbon Farming Summit 2027

Guidance for contributors, 05/10/2026

Advertisement

This is the only call for contributions for ECFS27. If you wish to propose a session, a presentation or a poster, this is your call. We do not intend to ask for session mergers this year to make things easier for you. This means that relevance and quality will be the main selection criteria. Remember also that the Summit is not a scientific conference. Be ready to work interactively with the participants. You can find guidance on how to make your presentation/session as interactive as possible.

Deadline

The deadline for contributions to the European Carbon Farming Summit 2027 is **Thursday 5 November 2026**.

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The European Carbon Farming Summit

The aim of the European Carbon Farming Summit (ECFS) is the development of a pan-European carbon farming community of practice supporting exchanges between practitioners, farmers and land managers (including foresters), scientists, public authorities, corporate and finance actors. Organised every year in early spring over a three-day duration, it mobilises several hundred (700 at ECFS26) on-site participants together with as many online. The Summit also supports and interacts with the European Commission in its development of the Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming (CRCF) Regulation. Three annual Summits have been organised since 2024, in Valencia (Spain), Dublin (Ireland) and Padua (Italy).

The context

Carbon sequestration and removals as well as the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions need to be enhanced to meet the climate objectives of the European Union (EU). The global

continental carbon sink, which currently absorbs around a quarter of anthropogenic GHG emissions¹, has been declining over the past twelve years in Europe², notably because of forest degradation and increased harvest rates. The EU has nonetheless adopted a target to restore this function, because it underpins the net-zero achievement to be reached by 2050.

Carbon farming concerns carbon sequestration or emission reductions that are not permanent, whereas carbon removals designate longer-term sequestration, either for centuries as in biochar, through direct atmospheric carbon capture and storage (DACCS) or bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), or for at least 35 years for carbon storage in products such as wood. Five types of carbon farming can be distinguished. The first is additional carbon storage in agricultural soils, to reverse its steady decline over recent decades. Agroforestry also fits in this category. The second is the reduction of non-CO₂ emissions related to fertilisation. This component, reflected in the recent Fertiliser Action Plan of the European Commission, has become strategically important given the current geopolitical context. The third is reversing the decline of the forest sink through afforestation or improved forest-management practices. The fourth is the reduction of emissions from degraded peatlands through restoration, which requires their rewetting. A fifth component under discussion concerns non-CO₂ emissions from livestock management. **The Summit aims to cover all these solutions.**

The CRCF Regulation is the major driving force behind this change of trajectory for the land, yet it needs to be implemented in close connection and coherence with several other policy areas, among them agriculture, nature restoration and the bioeconomy. While the CRCF focuses on carbon, there is broad agreement that carbon should be seen as a catalyst of a regenerative transformation in the way we manage land: carbon, biodiversity and water issues need to be increasingly addressed holistically. Discussion of nature credits is also welcome at the Summit. Remember that the Summit goes beyond the CRCF Regulation: it needs to cover all implementation issues in the five areas mentioned above.

The ECFS has progressively become the arena where these different issues are discussed, and where recommendations for progress are worked out by a large array of stakeholders. Be ready to prepare concrete recommendations to help all stakeholders progress and learn from each other.

Practicalities

The Summit will take place over three days, on 16-18 March 2027. It gathers around 700 participants representing carbon farming practitioners, farmers and land managers (including foresters), advisers, researchers, the European Commission, companies aiming to reduce their carbon footprints, financial institutions, local authorities and students. Credit buyers were mostly absent from previous editions, and their increased participation would be welcome. Over the three days,

¹ Source: [Global Carbon Budget](#)

² Source: [European Environment Agency \(EEA\)](#)

around 3-5 plenary panels and around 40 breakout sessions are organised. These sessions last 1.5 hours. Certain sessions, if well justified, can cover two slots of 1.5 hours.

What you can propose is explained below:

Propose either:	Description
Individual contributions	
Individual oral presentation	- A presentation that aligns with the topics of the Summit - If approved, organisers will decide how best to include the presentation in the programme - Duration: max. 20 minutes (including questions and answers (Q&A))
Poster	- A classical poster (in A0, portrait-oriented format) that will be displayed in the networking area of the Summit
Poster & poster pitch	- A poster that will be presented in an innovation pitching session and can also be displayed in the networking area of the Summit. These innovation pitching sessions: • are designed by the organisers and last 1.5 hours • consist of short pitches (3 minutes) supported by a poster, followed by interactions between participants (in small groups)
Sessions	
A complete session (with a panel or a series of presentations)	These sessions: - are not designed as workshops (see below) - need to specify their planned interactive approach - can be made up of collections of stand-alone presentations grouped by the thematic areas of the Summit (designed by the organisers) - should keep at least half of the session for exchanges with participants (to derive concrete conclusions) - Duration: 1.5 hours
A workshop session	These sessions: - are designed to discuss subjects in depth to achieve collective understanding or specific outcomes - need to be well moderated and in a round-table format - need to specify their planned interactive approach - Duration: 1.5 hours

Propose either:	Description
A training session	These sessions: - propose topics for participants willing to learn about certain topics (e.g. a method, a certification process, a specific issue) - Duration: 1.5 hours

For all contributions, please indicate your main carbon farming related focus:

Main focus related to carbon farming (no more than 2)	- Soil - Fertilisation - Livestock - Forest - Peatland - Agroforestry - Biodiversity - Water
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For sessions, to facilitate participants' choices, we ask you to indicate, beyond the expected content, the following information, which may be further adjusted during the preparatory process:

Primary expected audience (no more than 2)	- Open to all - Beginners - Practitioners - Specialists/researchers
Technical approach (select the most appropriate)	- Implementation-based (i.e. any concrete lesson learnt from implementing carbon farming) - Deep dive into certain issues (which need to be explained in your session description) - Holistic approach (covering the entire spectrum of issues, from practice to the certificate market)
Draft run of show	- Describe the sequence of activities planned during the session
Planned interactive approach	- Online tool (e.g. Mentimeter), exchanges in small groups... See below for more guidance
Expected outputs	- Describe in a few words (recommendations, answers to specific questions, finalisation of an initiative...) - Try to be realistic but as concrete as possible: your outcomes create the value of the Summit

Thematic priorities

The table below provides guidance on the expected thematic priorities of the Summit. It has been prepared from the recommendations of the previous Summits and from priorities identified by the European Commission and the partners in the second phase of Project Credible. We ask you to prioritise **no more than two topics** among the 8 proposed ones. The column on the right is there to provide suggestions and wording that can be used in the description of your session/presentation/poster.

Do not pick more than 2 thematic priorities. Try to stick to one if possible.

Thematic priorities	What to investigate?
1. Lowering barriers to MRV: from development to implementation	- Streamlined group-certification and simplified-audit pathways that keep costs proportionate to the value of the practices, with documented transaction-cost benchmarks. - Harmonised minimum data and metadata requirements, common definitions and interoperability rules embedded in the CRCF implementing / delegated acts. - 'Good-practice' cost-allocation business models showing how MRV can scale without eroding project viability and how MRV costs can be a function of the types of claims (proportionality principle). - Methods to ensure small-scale farmers and foresters can get involved in carbon certification. - Approaches to recognise and certify early movers while preserving environmental integrity and avoiding unintended incentives. - Differentiating or combining MRV systems for offsetting and insetting (Scope 3) purposes. - Recommendations and connections with the Knowledge Hub in preparation and the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) reporting of Member States. - Recognition of carbon farming models and certification schemes under CRCF.

Thematic priorities	What to investigate?
2. Scientific robustness of MRV for carbon farming	- Science-based (and, where appropriate, dynamic) baseline methodologies for soils (taking more than the topsoil into account), including for Improved Forest Management (IFM), with region-calibrated model guidance and standardised benchmark test cases per pedo-climatic zone. - Robust approaches to permanence and reversal-risk management, including monitoring, buffer mechanisms, permanence funds, liability allocation and treatment of natural disturbances and climate-related risks. - Validated hybrid MRV protocols combining measurement, modelling and Earth observation (EO), plus explainable, Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act-compliant tools and farmer-facing interpretable indicators (e.g. soil moisture, cover, EO-based indices) that build trust, including accuracy thresholds and requirements for ground truth verification. - Broadening MRV to whole farming systems and bundles of practices. - Addressing the carbon allocation issue in Scope 3 climate reports (i.e. when carbon farming benefits different crops in the rotation).
3. Interoperable data, registries and farmer data governance	- Contributions to the design of an EU CRCF registry for all projects, ensuring traceability and anti-double-counting (building on existing solutions). - 'Collect once, use many times' permission-based data systems that keep ownership and access control with farmers while ensuring data integrity. - Design of an open-access platform of benchmark and long-term-monitoring sites and properly harmonised datasets used for model calibration/evaluation and verification. - Methods to ensure comparability and mutual recognition of MRV and certification results across methodologies, certification schemes and Member States.

Thematic priorities	What to investigate?
4. Beyond carbon: co-benefits, trade-offs and safeguards	- Multi-metric MRV frameworks capturing biodiversity, water, soil health and resilience alongside carbon, with clear anti-double-counting rules for stacking or bundling. - Contributions to 'Beyond carbon' nature credits that mobilise private capital and translate co-benefit key performance indicators (KPIs) into financial valuation terms. - An evidence base for a price premium on co-benefit-verified units versus carbon-only units.
5. Building demand and financing the transition: public support, value chains, carbon markets and fair risk-sharing	- Contribution to an operational design for a Buyers' Club that aggregates demand, plus an EU CRCF demand framework covering offset and inset buyers with co-claiming rules and EU guidance on claim integrity, chain-of-custody and Scope 3 emission reduction. - Investigating the feasibility and relevance of a high-integrity suppliers' club (or framework) in the form of a voluntary but formally endorsed club of carbon project developers meeting strict, independently verified quality criteria aligned with CRCF requirements. - Pre-financing schemes through EU guarantee / first-loss facilities and/or minimum-price mechanisms, with shared-liability and income-loss-compensation models that move risk off farmers. - Replicable blended-finance vehicles articulating public funds with private capital, and aggregation models that pool costs for small farms. - Utilisation of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies to support carbon farming implementation. - Possible connections/integration with compliance mechanisms and with a possible Permanence Fund. - Assess potential benefits, risks and safeguards of compliance-linked demand.

Thematic priorities	What to investigate?
6. Supporting whole-farm carbon farming systems through advisory and peer-to-peer learning	- Farmer-centred advisory, peer-learning and demonstration networks. - Publicly funded, long-term (≈5-year) on-farm demonstration hubs combining peer-to-peer learning with dedicated, trained advisers. - Scaled, trusted public advisory networks in a 'full-service' role, plus farmer-led validation networks linked to research, policy and markets. - Regional 'lighthouses' for emerging systems (e.g. paludiculture) and train-the-trainer programmes on healthy soils. - Broadening MRV to whole farming systems and bundles of practices.
7. Governance, policy coherence and landscape-scale delivery	- Provide guidance to test which one-stop-shop / governance models work, at what territorial scale, under which institutional conditions and with which functions. - Contribute to a policy-coherence roadmap aligning the CRCF with the emerging nature-credit framework and the CAP, with transparent data governance. - EU-co-funded full-value-chain demonstration programmes and aggregation mechanisms (cooperatives, farmer groups, Landscape Enterprise Networks) that pool MRV costs and unlock landscape investment packages.
8. Sector- and region-specific pathways (forestry/IFM, agroforestry, livestock, peatlands, small farms)	- A forest-specific economic model within the CRCF and simplified group-certification for small forest holdings. - A unified European Agroforestry Strategy, improved agroforestry risk / reversal data, and livestock methodologies covering methane / N₂O with rewards for pioneer farmers. - Dedicated paludiculture financing and knowledge transfer, and removal-accounting adapted to arid / Mediterranean soils and management practices.

Making your session interactive

The Summit is not a scientific conference: every session is expected to generate exchange, not just transmit information. This section gives you methods for that exchange, matched to the format you are proposing, so that you can complete the 'Planned interactive approach' and 'Expected outputs' fields above with something concrete.

Choosing an interactive format for your session type

The table below matches each format to methods that work well for it. Use it as a menu, not a mandate: combine methods, or bring your own, as long as you describe your approach in the ‘Planned interactive approach’ field.

Session type	How to make it interactive
Individual oral presentation	A focused input to inform discussion on the thematic topics of the programme. - Open with one live poll question to prime the room (Mentimeter/Slido). - Crowd-source and upvote Q&A questions instead of a raised-hand queue. <i>Reserve at least 5 of the 20 minutes for this.</i>
Poster & poster pitch	The pitching session: many contributions surfaced quickly, then tested in conversation. - Speed-dating rotation between posters, or a gallery walk with dot-voting (for organisers). Poster feedback: - A short, structured feedback prompt per poster on sticky notes (e.g. “one strength, one question, one next step”). <i>Presenters should prepare 2–3 discussion prompts, not just a pitch script.</i>
A complete session (with a panel or a series of presentations)	Several stand-alone contributions on a shared theme, opened up for collective discussion. - Fishbowl — convert into an open dialogue after the initial input. - Live polling to select which questions the room actually wants answered. - Table breakouts feeding two or three questions back to the presenters before the session closes. - A graphic recorder or rapporteur capturing the “so what” live, visible to the room. <i>At least half of the 90 minutes must be devoted to exchanges with participants.</i>
Workshop session	In-depth work towards a collective understanding or a defined output. - World Café — rotating small-group conversations across 2–3 questions, harvested in plenary.

Session type	How to make it interactive
	- 1-2-4-All — individual thinking, then pairs, then fours, then a whole-group share. - Fishbowl or Troika consulting for peer problem-solving in small groups. - Graphic-facilitation templates to structure the discussion (templates are available online, for instance from Grove Tools). <i>Give small-group work at least 45 of the 90 minutes; build in 15–20 minutes to harvest and agree conclusions.</i>
Training session	Building a practical skill or shared method (e.g. a certification process, a monitoring tool). - Hands-on practice in pairs or small groups, using a real case, dataset or tool. - Case-study application, or peer teach-back in small groups. <i>Front-load the framing (max. 20 minutes) so most of the session is practice, not a lecture.</i>

Short descriptions of suggested methods:

- **World Café:** Small groups rotate between tables, each exploring the same one or two questions in turn, building on the previous group's notes.
- **1-2-4-All:** A timed sequence — think alone, discuss in pairs, combine into fours, then share the best point with the whole room. Every voice is heard before anyone speaks publicly.
- **Fishbowl:** A small inner circle holds the discussion while the rest of the room listens; empty chairs let others rotate in and out.
- **Troika consulting:** Groups of three take turns: one presents a real challenge, the other two offer advice, then roles rotate.
- **Graphic facilitation:** A drawn template that guides a group through several angles of a topic; can be custom-designed or a generic template from a provider such as Grove Tools.
- **Graphic recording / harvesting:** A dedicated person captures the discussion visually or in structured notes, in real time, so conclusions are visible to the room as they emerge.

Designing for inclusion and accessibility

- **Method choice:** pick at least one method that does not require speaking in front of the whole group (e.g. 1-2-4-All, Troika consulting) alongside any open-floor discussion.
- **Line-up:** aim for a mix of practical and theoretical input, and for diversity of background and perspective across your moderator and panellists.
- **Language:** write for a broad, non-specialist audience. Define acronyms on first use and avoid jargon your audience would not already share.

Practical toolkit

- **Moderator:** owns timing, introduces speakers, keeps the session to its stated purpose.
- **Facilitator:** runs the interactive method itself (can be the same person as the moderator in small sessions).
- **Rapporteur:** captures outputs and reports them back — essential if the Summit is to use your session's conclusions afterwards.

Panels: ensure a good gender balance among session presenters

Example of a session run of show for a 1.5-hour workshop:

This example is to help you get started on your session design. You can adjust and tweak it to match your audience and purpose.

Time	What happens	Who leads
0:00–0:05	Welcome, purpose and desired outcome stated in one sentence; one background slide only.	Moderator
0:05–0:15	Framing input from contributors — enough to prompt discussion, not a lecture.	Speakers
0:15–1:00	Interactive core — small groups, fishbowl, or hands-on practice, built around your chosen method.	Facilitator + participants
1:00–1:20	Harvest: groups report back; rapporteur consolidates into 2–3 concrete conclusions.	Rapporteur
1:20–1:30	Synthesis and next steps — what participants take away, and what the organisers will do with the input.	Moderator

Adjust the proportions for other formats, but keep the principle: framing is short, the interactive core takes up the majority of the time, and harvesting is never cut for time — it is where the Summit's recommendations come from.