



Building on the successful 2018 Joint Call; SusAn, ERA-GAS and ICT-AGRI 2 „did it again“: together with the **ERA-NETs FACCE ERA GAS, SusAn and this time also SusCrop, ERA-NET Cofund ICT-AGRI-FOOD** will launch a **call on circularity and mixed crop/livestock farming systems** at the end of 2020 or early 2021.

The goal of the call for research is to investigate prospects of land use optimisation through circularity concepts of combined crop and livestock farming, i.e. to try to use synergies between crop and livestock production while recognising the limitations.

Future agricultural systems are expected to be more efficient at using natural resources, minimise GHG emissions, be resilient against climate change and volatile prices and, ideally, less dependent on pesticides and mineral fertiliser.

Circularity integrates crops, animals and soil as cornerstones of agricultural production. While livestock obviously is mandatory for some biotopes and landscapes to exist (grassland), the soil plays a more hidden, yet central role in the cycles of nutrients and water, but also in reducing pathogens and pollutants. More recently, the role of the soil to store carbon is being examined. C-sequestration also contributes to soil organic matter which has the potential to increase the resilience of soil and plants against extreme weather events. We regard soil as the key element in a circular farming system.

Currently, a writing team is taking care of the call text involving partners of all four ERA-NET initiatives active in this process. The European Commission is also in favour of this call, which covers a broad theme on “circularity” while marshalling resources, capacities and funds.