

*Socio-economic Sciences and the  
Humanities*

**The Seventh Framework Programme**

Opportunities in

Theme 2

Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology



# Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology in FP7

## Three Activities (Pillars)

1. Sustainable production and management of biological resources from land, forest, and aquatic environments
2. “Fork to farm”: Food, health and well being
3. Life sciences and biotechnology for sustainable non-food products and processes



# Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology in FP7 Objectives

- **Respond to social and economic challenges:**
  - High quality food and sustainable food production
  - Food-related disorders (cardiovascular disease, obesity....)
  - Infectious animal diseases and zoonoses
  - Sustainable agriculture / fishery and climate change
  - Clean biomaterials from renewable bio-resources

## *Integration of ethical, social, economic and wider cultural aspects*

- Experts in ethics, law, economy and social sciences are encouraged to participate actively in research projects
- Take due account of ethical and societal concerns, obligations towards future generations and the rest of the world

# Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology in FP7 - Rationale

- **Biotechnology and food companies / SMEs need to be competitive on the world market ('European Strategy on Life Sciences and Biotechnology' COM(2002) 27)**
- **Society demands safe and healthy food**
- **Renewable resources and biomass for non-food applications help reduce dependence on hydrocarbon-based economy**
- **Society demands sustainable and eco-efficient production methods in agriculture / fishery / forestry**
- **International cooperation ensures optimal exploitation of resources and application of results**



# Activity 1: Sustainable biological resources from land, forest, and aquatic environments

- Enabling research ('omics', converging technologies, biodiversity) for micro-organisms, plants and animals
- Improved crops and production systems incl. organic farming
- Sustainable, competitive and multi-functional agriculture, forestry and rural development
- Animal welfare, breeding and production
- Infectious diseases in animals, including zoonoses
- Policy tools for agriculture and rural development



## 2.1 Sustainable production and management of biological resources from land, forest and aquatic environments

### 2.1.4 Socio-economic research and support to policies

Providing the tools needed by policy makers and other actors to support the implementation of relevant strategies, policies and legislation

## 2.1.4 Indicative priorities for 2008

- Non-tariff barriers
- Societal benefits of organic farming
- Assessing the pros and cons and monitoring the perception of GM animals
- GMOs and possible long term impacts on biodiversity
- Impact of decoupling and implementation of cross-compliance on the environment and on rural economies

# Activity 2: “Fork to farm”- Food, health and well being

- Consumer, societal, industrial and health aspects of food and feed
- Nutrition, diet related diseases and disorders
- Innovative food and feed processing
- Improved quality and safety of food, beverage and feed



- **Total food chain concept**

- **Traceability**

**ESASTAP**

European - south african science and technology  
advancement programme

## 2.2 Fork to farm: food, health and well being

### 2.2.1 Consumers

Understanding consumer behaviour and consumer preferences .....attitudes towards food including traditional food, understanding societal and cultural trends, and identifying determinants for food choice and consumer access to food.

## 2.2.1 Indicative priorities for 2008

- Assessment of intervention measures aimed at promoting healthy eating habits
- Risk perception and communication in the food chain and the role of the media
- Applying behavioural models for the prevention of obesity, with a particular focus on children

## Activity 3: Life sciences and biotechnology for sustainable non-food products and processes

- Improved crops, feed-stocks, marine products and biomass for energy, environment, and high added value industrial products; novel farming systems
- Bio-catalysis; new bio-refinery concepts
- Forestry and forest based products and processes
- Environmental remediation and cleaner processing

## 2.3.1 Improved biomass and plant renewables

..incorporates life cycle analysis of biomass production practices, transportation, and storage and market practice of bio-products

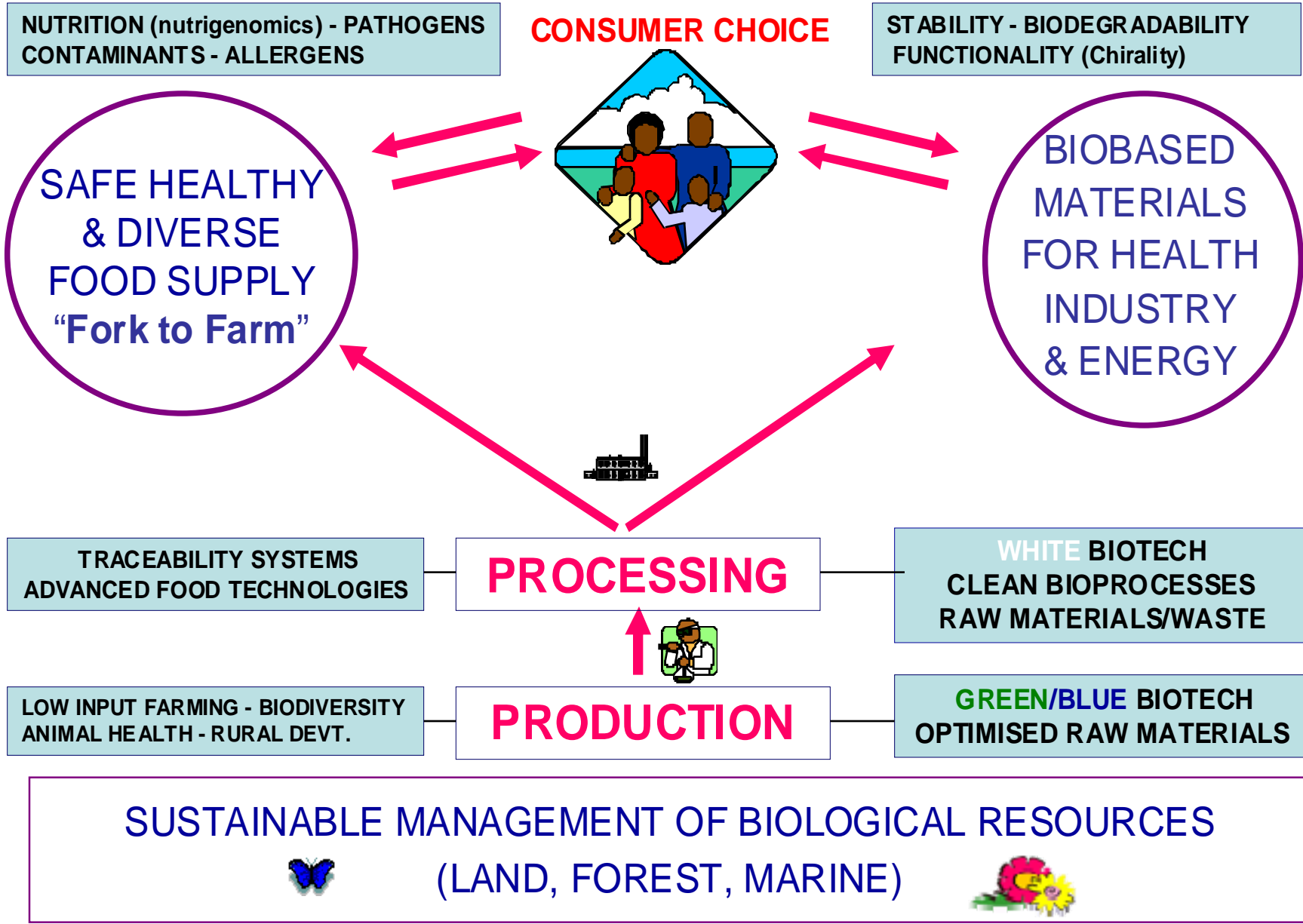
## 2.3.2 Bioprocesses

Biorefinery approach...including socioeconomic, agroeconomic, ecological and consumer aspects

(Various topics in 2008 that may have relevance)



# THE EUROPEAN KNOWLEDGE-BASED BIOECONOMY



# Thank you!

*More information*  
**[www.esastap.org.za](http://www.esastap.org.za)**



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