

Q&A ON BIOSOLUTIONS

What are some concerns about biosolutions?

Are biosolutions safe for consumers?



Consumer safety is important, but should be weighed up against the current risk of status quo. We are facing an unprecedented crisis on our planet, and biosolutions can help us mitigate this. But if we ignore the potentials of biosolutions, it will be much harder to ensure a sustainable future.

Still, EU has the highest safety standards and we rely on a system based on precautionary principles that meticulously assess the products before their authorisation is granted.

Biosolutions have been consumed for centuries - just think of bread, cheese, and beer.

Should new inventions on biosolutions be patented?



There is much debate on the patenting of biosolutions. Some want to eliminate the use of patents on biosolutions to keep costs down, and in the case of agricultural biosolutions to avoid new dependencies for farmers and breeders.

But patents also secure a source of revenue for the businesses which allows for more research and innovation, thus leading to the development of new biosolutions.

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What are some concerns about biosolutions?

Do biosolutions threaten the livelihood of farmers?

With biosolutions, a future food production can happen to a larger degree without the use of agricultural land and thereby freeing more land for nature restoration. This can be seen as a threat to farmers' livelihood. On the contrary, agriculture is a source of important raw materials and biomass both for plant-based proteins and alternative food, and also for other bioeconomy applications such as textiles and building materials because biosolutions do need agriculture, as the crops are produced by farmers.



A number of biosolutions can be helpful tools for farmers, e.g. crops developed with New Genomic Techniques, which can lower farmers' use and costs on pesticides, and drought-resistant crops, increasing their yield while preserving arable land. Many biosolutions are plant-based, and therefore needing involvement from farmers.

The world population will increase, to bn. 9.7 in 2050, and so will the need for protein. In future, consumers will continue to eat proteins from both animals and plants. Together, farmers and the biosolutions sector can close the protein gap.

What about jobs in agriculture and industry?

The biosolutions sector is growing in Europe and around the world and will create many new job opportunities in a new form of food production; both in agriculture and in industry.



According to WifOR (2020), the biotechnology industry will strengthen the labour market by directly creating 223,000 jobs within the healthcare, industrial and agricultural biotechnology sectors.