

COLAB template

This COLAB activity is closely linked to food production, food and food matters ranging from farm to fork, including consumer health and behaviour, and is organized by Kristianstad University. All activities in the program are in English.

COLAB INFO

Organising Institution Partner of this Topic: Kristianstad University together with partners Krinova Incubator & Science Park and The Municipality of Kristianstad.

Executive Contact at the Organising Institution Partner: Fredrika Braw,
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COLAB Topic: *Food production challenges in The Region of Southern Sweden: Perspectives from the COLOURS University Alliance*

Main Knowledge Fields: *Economics, Environment, Social Sciences, health*

Registration link, Please use DISSCOUNTE CODE: Colours2024

Day1 - Research spot, Fredrika.braw@hkr.se

Day 2 - Food Raodtrip/Field Study, [Spot on Food \(confetti.events\)](https://confetti.events)

Day 3 - The Conference day, [Program | Spot on Food \(confetti.events\)](https://confetti.events) (only available with the conference ticket)

Day 1-3 Hackathon, [Food Hack 2024 \(confetti.events\)](https://confetti.events) (DISSCOUNTE CODE: Colours)

The first day of the co lab aims to share current and ongoing research of the topic with the participans of the conference "Spot on food" to gain knowledge and to identify common challenges and collaboration opportunities. The questions raised will be further explored through the Spot On event.

For those interested in the topic "from farm to fork" and its connections to entrepreneurship, diversity and preparedness are most welcome to join the conference "Spot on food".

1. Background (max 5 pages)

Today's societies are struggling with significant challenges related to sustainable food production and consumption. Climate changes pose fundamental threats to people, societies and ecosystems. Combined with global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war, these changes have created new conditions affecting how we produce and consume food. This has led to increasing food prices, food insecurity, and even shortages, highlighting the vulnerability of the global food system. Addressing these issues through innovative approaches in food production and consumption may provide solutions to many of these challenges as well as to related health issues.

Recognizing these challenges, the European Union has developed the Farm to Fork Strategy, which seeks to expedite our transition towards a more sustainable food system. This strategy focuses on critical areas such as preventing food loss and waste, promoting sustainable food production and consumption, and enhancing the sustainability of food processing and distribution.

Given these strategic priorities at the European level, Kristianstad University, located in the southernmost region of Skåne, is directly confronted with many of these challenges. The region's significant role in Sweden's agriculture and food production places it at the forefront of addressing such issues.

Skåne is known for its rich agricultural landscape and significant contributions to the country's economy. As of 2023, Skåne has a population of approximately 1.4 million people. Agriculture and food production play vital roles in Skåne's economy, with the region producing a substantial portion of Sweden's food, including grains, vegetables, and dairy products.

2. Main challenges related the proposed COLAB and institution/persons (max 1 page)

How to feed a growing population without compromising the health of the planet and its people while fostering innovation that is inclusive, equitable, competitive, and sustainable?

The food system is navigating a new risk landscape, where crises seem to follow each other. We see a world situation with uncertainty in many places, floods, drought, energy crisis, as well as food and water scarcity.

One of the biggest challenges identified is global population growth. By 2030, the world's population is expected to reach approximately 8.5 billion, leading to an increased demand for food, water, and energy by up to 50 percent.

Health and malnutrition present another significant challenge. Many people worldwide suffer from both malnutrition and obesity, leading to premature deaths and reduced productivity. Food safety is a critical global issue, with many people falling ill from unsafe food.

Climate change is expected to make food production more difficult in many regions, resulting in large food and energy shortages. Although climate change may initially lead to increased agricultural yields in Sweden, careful management of long-term effects and forest growth is required.

The rapid digitalization is changing how we communicate, work, and consume, necessitating adaptation within agriculture and food production. Increased use of technology and sensors enables more efficient and sustainable production methods.

In response to these myriad challenges, the European Union is adopting a proactive stance. A key element of the EU's Green New Deal—its plan for environmental sustainability and economic equity through green investments—is the Farm to Fork Strategy. This strategy seeks to cultivate a fair, healthy, and environmentally-friendly food system by promoting sustainable practices in food production. It addresses crucial issues such as reducing environmental impact, adapting to and mitigating climate change, ensuring food security, nutrition, and public health, while also maintaining affordability and boosting the competitiveness of the EU supply sector.

Regarding the region of Skåne, several critical challenges have been identified that must be addressed to create a sustainable and competitive food system. These challenges are described in Food Strategy 2030 (Region Skåne, 2017).

The processing sector and primary production in Skåne are developing more poorly than in the rest of the country. Large food companies and investments in research and development (R&D) have moved abroad.

Productivity and competitiveness challenges are also prominent. Swedish food production has significantly decreased since joining the EU, making the country more vulnerable to crises. Higher costs for input goods and labor compared to other countries require improved productivity and business development.

Regulations and conditions are often complex, making it difficult for companies within the food sector/area. Simplifications and better coordination are needed to support both production and businesses. There is also a need to develop new business models to strengthen companies' positions in global value chains.

Social and environmental challenges include the food chain's vulnerability due to its dependence on transportation, energy, water, and imported inputs. Other challenges are aging farmers, increasing urbanization, global competition, and a lack of innovation capacity.

How can we adapt to these risks, increase preparedness, and make our food system more resilient? As essential as food is for human survival and well-being, it also poses significant challenges for the environment and society. But in the food system, we also find the solutions to many other global challenges.

3. Associate partners interested in the proposed COLAB (max 1 page)

Krinova Incubator and Science Park
The Municipality of Kristianstad

4. References (max 1 page)

Region Skåne (2017). *Skånes livsmedelsstrategi 2030*.

https://utveckling.skane.se/siteassets/publikationer/rs_smartmat_0111_low.pdf