

Unlocking the legume economy

EU policy considerations for legume production and consumption

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15 January 2026

Climate mitigation in agriculture: problem definition



Insufficient integrated **planning** at MS level



Barriers to the **uptake** of emission reduction practices



Complicated monitoring, reporting and verification (**MRV**) systems

Barriers to cultivation of high protein crops



- Lock-in by major EU crops
- Revenue-related profitability barriers
- Cost-related profitability barriers
- Limited capacity, ability, willingness

Incentivising climate action for a sustainable and competitive agri-food value chain

Study for DG Clima

Partners: Trinomics, IEEP, Wageningen University Research, Ricardo



Boosting finance for certified on-farm climate mitigation activities



Stronger alignment of CSRD reporting with CRCF rules



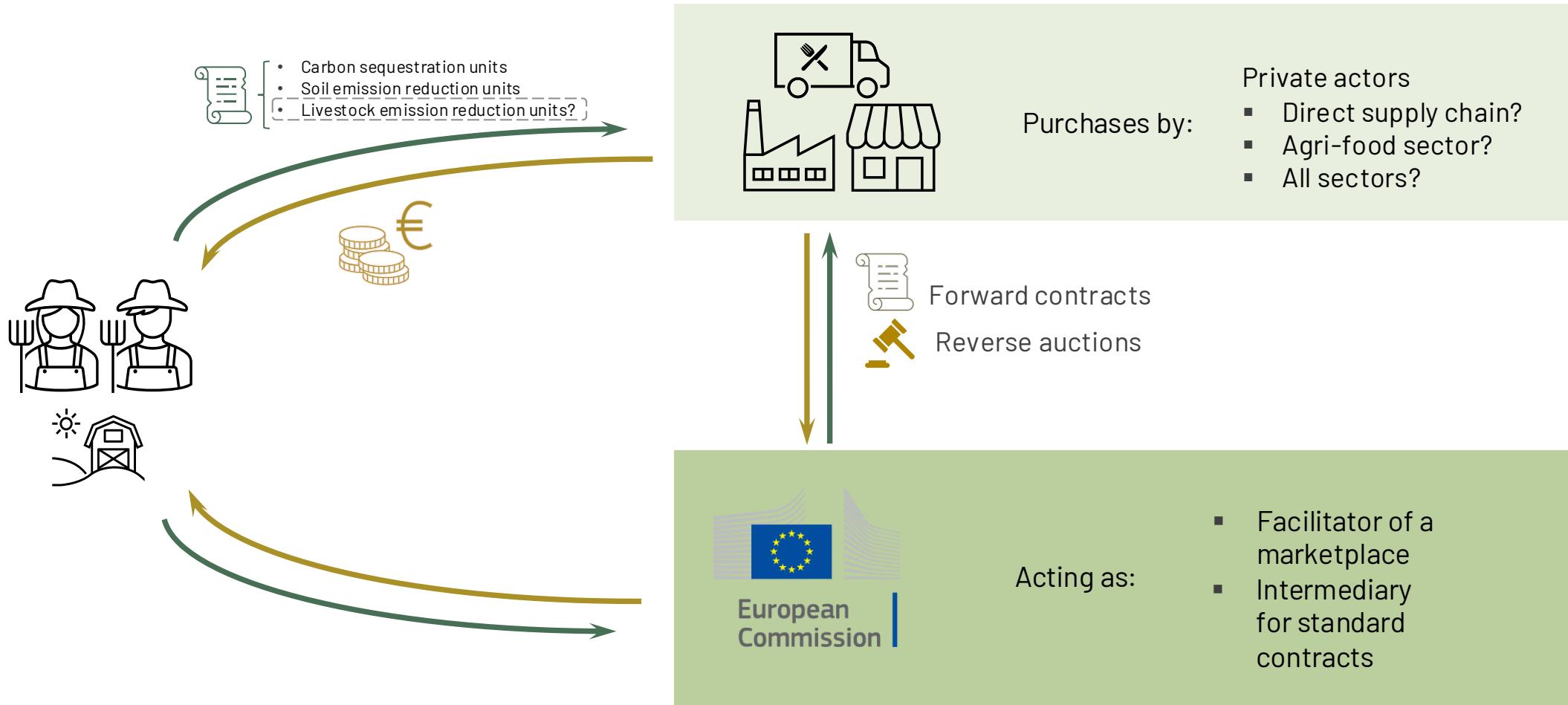
Public procurement of CRCF units



Facilitation of forward contracts for CRCF units by public authorities

Policy options

CRCF Procurement



Design choices for trading CRCF units

All sectors

Sellers: all farmers or land managers

Buyers: any private or public entity, also from other sectors

Whole agri-food value chain

Sellers: All farmers in the agri-food supply chain

Buyers: Any entity in the agri-food sector

Direct supply chain

Sellers: only farmers in the direct supply chain of a buyer

Buyers: limited to those in the seller's direct supply chain

Centralised pool

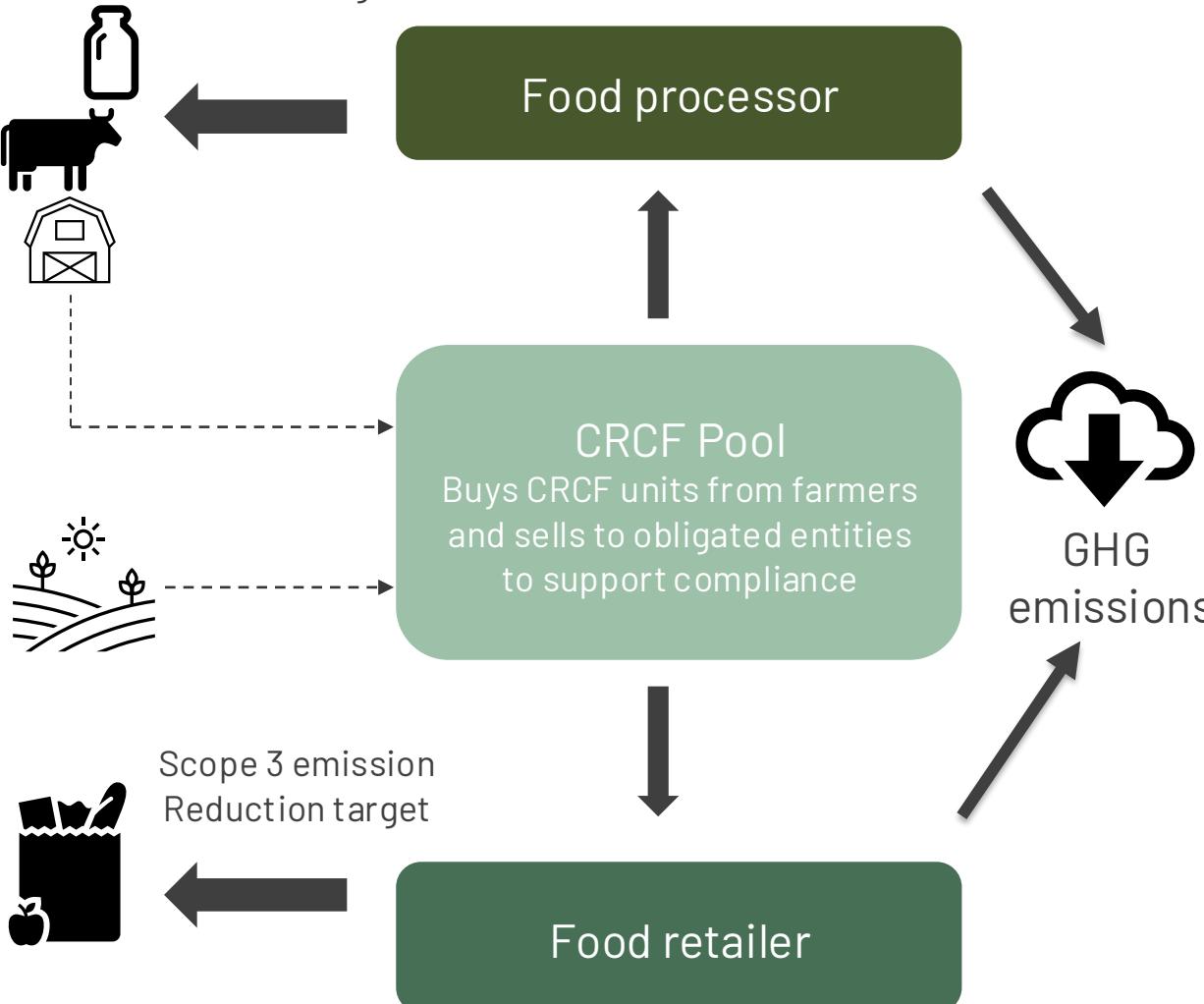
Separate contracts for food and carbon delivery

Contracts for both food and carbon delivery

Policy Options

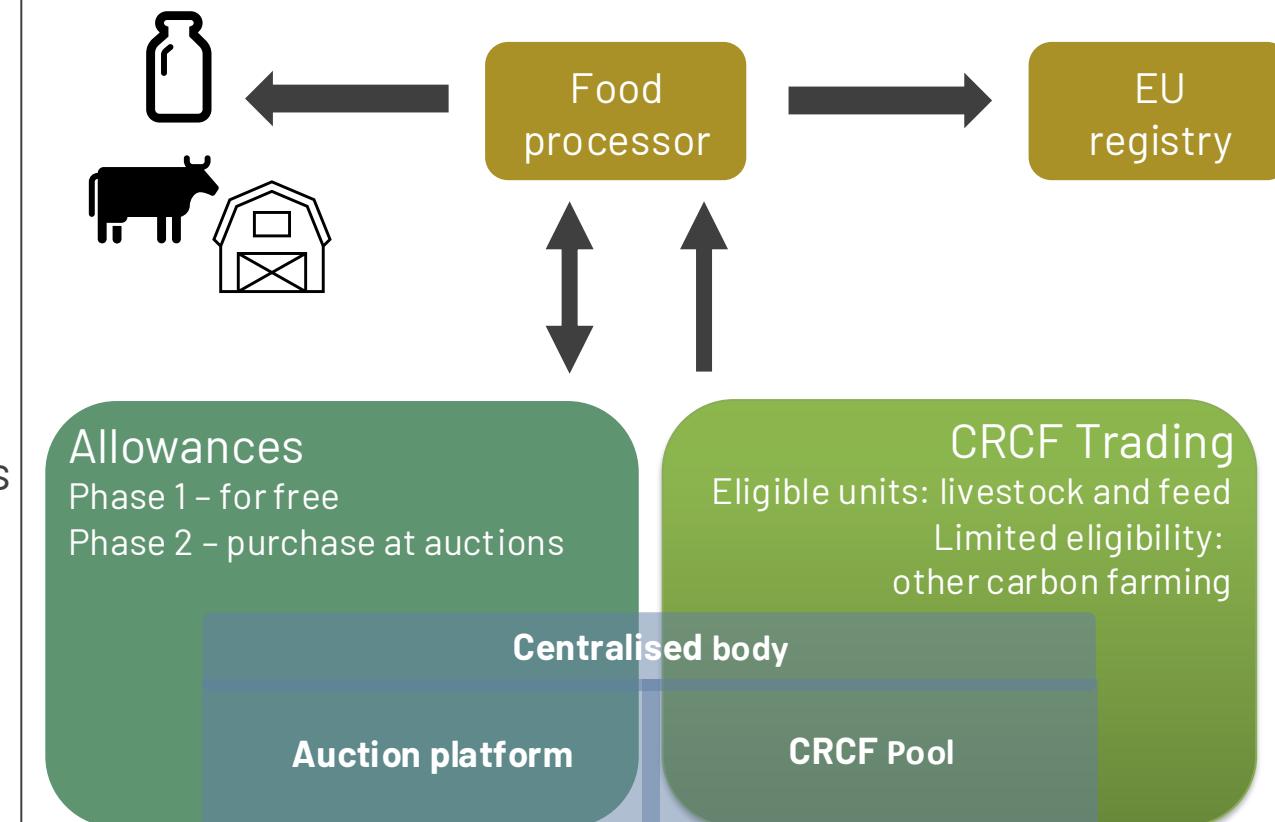
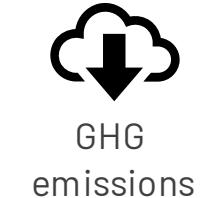
Mandatory Climate Standard

Scope 3 emission
Reduction target



Emission Trading System

Overall amount of allowances
gradually declines



Downstream levers

- Supplier engagement and incentives: contracts, finance, insurance, performance requirements
- Product portfolio and innovation: diversification, plant-based options, reformulation
- Consumer-facing levers: information, placement, pricing, marketing



Key Enabling Factors





Knowledge & advisory

- Challenges
 - Access to knowledge unevenly distributed across the EU
 - Relatively low public budget allocations
 - Transfer of knowledge into practice lacking
- Potential enablers
 - New governance mechanisms – stronger role for the public sector?
 - Advisor training and capacity building



Financing

- Challenges
 - Unmet credit demand exacerbated by rising input costs and extreme weather
 - Significant barriers to accessing finance for new entrants/young farmers
 - Growing demands on public budgets
- Potential enablers
 - Clarity over direction of travel and policy certainty
 - Just transition finance
 - Public-private finance



Transaction costs: MRV

- Challenges
 - Fragmented landscape of sustainability and accounting standards
 - Costs of data provision to different stakeholders
 - Allocation of emission reductions to value chain actors
- Potential enablers
 - Standardised digital MRV system → benchmarking
 - Decision support
 - Data provided once for multiple stakeholders and purposes



New value chains

- Challenges
 - Existing infrastructure and traditional value chains not always fit for purpose
 - Lack of stable demand and infrastructure
- Potential enablers
 - Targeted development of markets and infrastructure
 - Public procurement
 - New forms of organisation



Policy consistency

- Better alignment between Common Agricultural Policy and climate ambition
- Ensure downstream actors support mitigation through reporting in Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive
- Develop emerging benchmarking systems



Addressing consumer demand

- Sustainability labelling to understand footprint of products
- Public procurement guidance and minimum requirements/targets to make plant-rich food the default option
- Fiscal tools at Member State level to make low-emissive foods more affordable



European protein diversification: growing opportunities for farmers

2025 report by IEEP



Profitability drivers for farmers to diversify to legume cultivation

- Increase legume crop revenues by raising legume demand, producer prices and yields
- Reduce or compensate legume crop diversification switching and opportunity costs

Policy recommendations



Develop an EU protein diversification strategy



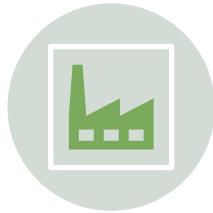
Redirect CAP funds to de-risk and reward crop diversification initiatives by farmers



Support diversified value chains with a strong position for European farmers



Leverage research and establish an innovation cluster



Balance plant-based demand



Improve access to finance

Resources

- Study for DG Clima
 - Workshop 1 - policy options: [Input paper Recording Report](#)
 - Workshop 2 - effectiveness: [Input paper Recording Report](#)
 - Workshop 3 - competitiveness: [Input paper Recording Report](#)
 - Workshop 4 - cohesion: [Input paper Recording Report](#)
 - Workshop 5 - enabling: [Input paper Recording Report](#)
- IEEP Report on European Protein Diversification
 - [Report Event](#)
- IEEP How farming in the EU can benefit from plant-based protein
 - [Brief](#)



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