

No.: E67

TITEL:

Saving forests through plant-based action: How plant-based policies can work towards multiple SDGs

Date	Friday the 21.11.2025
Time	12.00 -13.00
Place	SDG Pavillon, Blue Zone

Panel Participants			
Role in Panel/ Subject	Name	Titel	Asked / Confirmed
Gov Rep –	TBA		
DK representative	TBA		
Farmers organisation Kenya NAFF	Eng. Lily Tanui,	Climate Action Lead, Kenya National Farmers’ Federation	Confirmed
IP or LC representative from Brazil.	TBA		
Moderator	Rune-Christoffer Dragsdahl	Executive Director, Vegetarian Society of Denmark	Confirmed

Organizers:

Danish Plant-Based Diplomacy is a coalition of Danish organizations, that promotes Denmark’s pioneering policy work, to share knowledge, experience, and tools to support a greener and more resilient Europe – one plant at a time. Danish Plant-Based Diplomacy is a collaboration between: The Danish Agriculture and Food Council, The Danish Chamber of Commerce, The Danish Food and Drink Federation, The Danish Plant-Based Business Association, Organic Denmark, Think Tank Frej, LandboUngdom, and The Vegetarian Society of Denmark.

Description of the debate:

In this debate we set out to explore if policies and initiatives that support the development of a plant-based food system could be an efficient tool to accomplish more than one SDG. We also explore how plant-based initiatives can ensure that cultural diversity such as traditional food cultures and farming techniques are not only respected but also included whenever it can inspire and amplify a national and international food-system transformation. Finally, we will discuss how Denmark's pioneering plant-based policies can be relevant and adapted in different political, economic and cultural contexts.

Objective of debate:

Explore how food systems impact certain SDG’s and how plant-based production for human consumption might be able to address these SDGs in a sustainable and long-term way.

Structure of Debate:

Short introduction of each panelist followed by a panel discussion based on predetermined guiding questions. If time allows a Q&A with the audience might be considered.

Guiding Questions:

- Which SDGs could plant-based foods help accomplish?
- How can plant-based initiatives ensure that the cultural diversity such as traditional food cultures and farming techniques is not only respected but also included?
- How did Denmark overcome traditional agricultural resistance and rural political concerns - and what lessons does this offer for other countries?

Target Group Audience:

- Government representatives and negotiators working on food systems or agriculture
- Farmers representatives, who are curious or hesitant about plant foods
- Industry representatives
- Green NGOs working with the food system
- Media
- Other stakeholders working towards a more sustainable food system

Background for debate:

The ecological consequences of our current food system are becoming ever more visible, and there is an increased understanding among many stakeholders that we need a shift in our food systems towards more sustainable production and consumption of foods. Plant-based production and consumption are part of the solution to many challenges and would positively impact climate, biodiversity, the environment, human health, and increase the food security of individual countries.

Transforming our food system is not a simple task, but dialogue among stakeholders across the food value chain is key if any lasting change is to be achieved. Denmark is an example of a country that, although it has a strong livestock sector with the largest production of meat per capita in the world, also is investing in developing a strong plant food sector alongside animal production.

Denmark was the first country in the world to launch an Action Plan for Plant-Based Foods in 2023. With the plan the Danish Government wants to strengthen the Danish plant-based food sector and support the plant-based and organic value chain. Together with the Action Plan, the Danish Government launched a Plant-Based Food Grant. The success of the Plant Based Food Grant both by the number of applications and different stakeholders applying has spurred the Danish Parliament to allocate further funding, so the Grant now has reached a total of 170 million Euros towards increasing production and consumption of plant-based foods in Denmark. Both initiatives enjoy wide support - from civil society, researchers, farming organizations, industry, and parties across the political spectrum.

Several initiatives to build bridges across the food value chain and build support among farmers, industry organisations and green organisations preceded the Grant and the Action Plan. Among others the Network for Plant Proteins, which currently gathers 270 members across the value chain. In addition, several reports were drafted by different stakeholders, including a R&D Strategy for a New Area of Growth in Denmark's Food Production System, written by The Danish Agriculture and Food Council, The Vegetarian Society of Denmark and The Think Tank Frej.

Denmark is now working towards an EU Action Plan for Plant-Based Foods, and recently the Danish EU Presidency co-hosted Plant Food Summit in Copenhagen, which became a very successful event with 450 participants from 38 countries.

Many countries inside and outside of Europe have enquired for more information to understand how Denmark, a top meat-producing country, was able to create support for these plant-based initiatives – without triggering protests in the streets. The ability to build bridges across both sectors and interests has been a cornerstone in paving the way for the Danish plant-based initiatives. With the Danish groundbreaking policies as a background, this debate explores how and if the Danish bridgebuilding can be replicated and how the political initiatives can inspire other countries where the political, cultural, economic and demographic contexts are different.