



NextFood has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 771738.



**Funding:** Horizon 2020, European Union

**Call:** Rural Renaissance – Fostering Innovation and Business Opportunities

**Topic:** RUR-13-2017 Building a future science and education system fit to deliver to practice

**Grant agreement:** No 771738

**Duration:** May 2018 to April 2022

**Coordinator:**

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**WEBSITE:**

<https://www.nextfood-project.eu/>



## Nextfood - Educating the next generation of professionals in the agrifood system

### Practice Abstract #39: Gaps analysis in research and education of agri-food and forestry sectors

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To respond to the needs of the agri-food and forestry sector, education and research is required to adapt and update their curricula so that any gaps in providing the necessary skills are filled. To steer current and new educational programmes and research agendas in line with the sector's needs NextFood conducted a skill gap analysis within the project consortium based on data provided by 21 partner institutions' course programmes (education) and results of an online survey distributed among the project partners (research).

Educational programmes were analysed in terms of catering for different categories of skills considered crucial for the sectors of interest. This was guided by a skill inventory carried out in a different project activities and fed by multiple relevant sources (NextFood D1.1). Results revealed that learning methodologies are mostly relying on traditional class lectures, while action and experiential learning tools, although currently adopted, are still lagging. Delivery of technical skills prevails over soft skills, i.e. collaborative, system thinking, change management, etc.

Research gaps were assessed through a survey including both closed and open questions and focused on the identification of current gaps especially concerning alignment between sector needs and educational/research offer.

Recommendation: stronger focus should be placed on participatory and multi- and inter-disciplinary research, while in terms of thematic areas a stronger role should be given to research on social aspects. To close the current gaps, a multi-stakeholder steady dialogue should be ensured and results should inform the design of educational programmes and research agendas to effectively respond to the sector's needs.