



Clubul  
Fermierilor Români  
pentru agricultură performantă

FULL REPORT MAY 2026

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE · BUCHAREST

# AGRIVISION FORUM 2026.

Knowledge transfer, the importance of human and natural resources, and agricultural digitalisation — the first CFRO international conference, co-organised with the New Club of Paris and the World Capital Institute.

## DATES

11–12 May 2026

## VENUES

Cubic Centre  
USAMV Bucharest

## PARTICIPANTS

40+ experts from  
10 countries

CHAPTER 01

# Executive summary.

AgriVisionForum 2026 marked the first international agriculture conference organised by Clubul Fermierilor Români (CFRO), with direct participation from the New Club of Paris (NCP) and the World Capital Institute (WCI) — two of the most widely recognised global networks dedicated to knowledge management and intellectual capital.

The conference addressed three main thematic strands: **(1)** knowledge management and know-how transfer in agriculture; **(2)** natural capital and sustainability measurement frameworks across the agri-food chain; **(3)** the digitalisation of Romanian agriculture in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy 2028–2034.

**Overall conclusion.** Romania holds exceptional natural capital and significant untapped potential, yet it faces structural barriers — a lack of continuous professional training, limited access to finance aligned with agricultural cycles, and a research gap compared with Western countries.

**The unanimously agreed direction.** Digitalisation is no longer optional. It is the only viable way to boost competitiveness as production costs rise and the CAP budget for 2028–2034 is reduced.

**CFRO's recognition.** The Club was recognised by all international participants as a model agricultural advocacy organisation, combining policy advocacy, knowledge creation and professional training.

**"The Ministry of Agriculture should be renamed the Ministry of the Future — because food security is the defining issue for every country in this century."**

**PROF. STEFAN GÜLDENBERG · PRESIDENT, NEW CLUB OF PARIS**

Four operational conclusions

**1 Digitalisation as the only lever for competitiveness.**

Fertilisers won't get cheaper, pesticides will be more tightly regulated, and interest rates will stay high. The one variable a Romanian farmer can control is efficiency — and efficiency comes through digitalisation.

**2 Tacit vs explicit knowledge — complementary, not opposites.**

AI can handle explicit knowledge (data, recommendations, timing); human mentoring remains the only route for tacit know-how.

**3 Targeted subsidy allocation.**

Romania subsidises 750,000 CAP beneficiaries, 85% of whom farm under 5 ha. Funding should be focused on viable holdings, with social compensation schemes for those that are abandoned.

**4 Natural capital as a strategic asset.**

Romania holds exceptional stocks of natural capital (soil, biodiversity, water) which, if embedded in TNFD/ESRS mechanisms and biodiversity crediting, can become a competitive edge.

DAY 1 · 11 MAY 2026

01

# Knowledge, intellectual capital and digital transformation.

The international session opened by Stefan Güldenbergh (New Club of Paris) and Cathy Garner (World Capital Institute). Seven talks on how knowledge is shared across European agriculture — and why it matters to every generation.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL

AI & AGRICULTURE

MENTORING

**VENUE**

Cubic Centre, 6th floor  
Bucharest

**MODERATOR**

Petru Dumitriu  
CFRO

**PRESENTATIONS**

7 speakers  
NCP / WCI / French Embassy

SESSION 1 · INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS NCP / WCI

# How knowledge is shared across European agriculture.

The first session brought together six international experts invited by the New Club of Paris and the World Capital Institute, co-founders of the AgriVision dialogue. Moderated by Petru Dumitriu, the discussion centred on one key question: in agriculture, how does know-how pass from an experienced farmer to a younger one — without getting lost in the data?

**OPENING  
REMARKS**

## Prof. Stefan Güldenber

President  
New Club of Paris

École Hôtellerie  
Lausanne

Güldenber opened the conference with an analysis of the **central paradox of modern agriculture**: farms generate enormous volumes of data, yet rarely turn that data into strategic decisions. Agricultural knowledge is, at its core, tacit — passed on through experience, direct observation and mentoring — and it does not lend itself to being easily codified in databases.

Referring to Ikujiro Nonaka's **Knowledge Ecology** model, he argued that European agriculture suffers from a lack of platforms that enable the tacit knowledge of experienced farmers to be combined with the digital skills of the next generation.

He introduced the concept of a **«farm digital officer»** — a six-month post-graduation placement where agronomy graduates apply digital skills directly on commercial farms, mentored by experienced farmers.

**INTELLECTUAL  
CAPITAL**

## Cathy Garner

Director  
World Capital Institute

Garner outlined WCI's community-led knowledge-transfer model, tailored to the agricultural context. Drawing on the experience of the «Center for Aging Better» in England, she showed how geographic closeness and interpersonal "chemistry" can matter more than any digital platform.

Applied to agriculture: knowledge transfer cannot be purely digital. Proximity, relationships and real-world farming cycles remain essential. Any digitisation strategy that overlooks this element will only ever be superficial.

In closing, Garner reiterated: **digitisation and tacit knowledge aren't opposites — they complement each other.**

**AI & PRECISION  
AGRICULTURE**

**Ignacio (Nacho)  
Esteve Pamias**

Co-founder,  
Sowify Global  
Solutions

Agronomy  
engineering  
student, Spain

The young farmer from northern Spain introduced the **Sowify** start-up and the AI app “Luca”, developed with his brother after eight years’ experience in precision agriculture. Luca analyses farm-generated data and recommends what, where and when each intervention should be carried out — with one goal: profitability.

He identified the main barrier to adopting technology: **not a lack of performance, but the complexity of using it**. Sowify invested heavily in simplifying the interface — complex data becomes clear, actionable recommendations.

A key point: he described **envy** as an invisible barrier to knowledge transfer. “A farmer with 30 years’ experience doesn’t want to be taught by a 23-year-old.” This cultural resistance matters just as much as the lack of digital infrastructure.

**MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORKS**

**Waltraut Ritter**

Director  
Knowledge for  
Development

Ritter presented a framework for measuring knowledge capital in agricultural systems. She argued that farming cannot be assessed solely through productivity and profit — **knowledge capital, social capital and natural capital** are just as important for long-term resilience.

She shared examples from **Asia and East Africa** where farmers’ local knowledge, integrated into digital decision-support systems, delivered productivity gains of **15–25%** — with no additional inputs, simply by optimising the timing and placement of agricultural interventions.

**“With every generation of farmers leaving the sector without a formal handover mechanism, irreplaceable practical know-how is lost. Codifying knowledge isn’t a luxury — it’s essential for continuity.”**

**SESSION 1 – KEY TAKEAWAYS**

**TRAINING  
PROFESSIONAL**

## Cyrille Schweizer

Agricultural Adviser  
Embassy of France  
in Bucharest

Schweizer highlighted the French model of lifelong vocational training — „**Formation Professionnelle tout au long de la vie**” — as a practical answer to the skills gap in Romanian agriculture.

A point that’s often overlooked: **knowledge transfer doesn’t start at university**, but in agricultural secondary schools („Lycée Agricole”), where pupils engage directly with farmers in their community. Romania has a strong tradition here — it should be built on.

He proposed setting up **regional centres for continuing professional development**, physically based in rural areas close to farms, where both recent graduates and experienced farmers can come together again on a regular basis.

**KNOWLEDGE  
ECOSYSTEMS**

## Günter Koch

European Knowledge  
Exchange Network

Koch outlined the structure of Europe’s agricultural knowledge ecosystems and how Romania can plug into existing know-how transfer networks. He pointed to the key gap as **the lack of an institutional link** — organisations such as CFRO can act as knowledge brokers, bringing together academic research, on-farm practice and public policy.

He spoke about the importance of **documenting local knowledge**: with each generation leaving the sector without a formal handover mechanism, knowledge is lost that simply can’t be recovered from books or digital platforms.

**MENTORING &  
POLICY**

## Petru Dumitriu

Moderator,  
Romanian  
Farmers’ Club

Dumitriu presented CFRO’s experience in knowledge management and the club’s mentoring policy. He also referred to his own mentoring model at the **Council of Europe** — six-month placements where students took an active role, wrote reports and delivered contributions as representatives.

He stressed that a mentoring policy works only when there is **strong personal rapport and geographical closeness**, and that CFRO is developing a mentor–student matching framework tailored to farm profiles.

CUBIC CENTRE · 11-12 MAY 2026

## The AgriVision Hall in pictures.

The conference took place at the Club's Agriculture Innovation and Training Centre at Cubic Centre, 6th floor — a venue that has previously hosted the Young Leaders in Agriculture series and the Entrepreneur in Agriculture 4.0 sessions.



DAY 2 MORNING · 12 MAY 2026

02

# Natural capital in agriculture.

Academic session at USAMV Bucharest — the “Petre S. Aurelian” Aula Magna. Presentation of an integrated, five-layer framework for restoring natural capital in European agriculture, followed by a Q&A with students.

NATURAL CAPITAL

CREDITS

BIODIVERSITY

**VENUE**

USAMV Bucharest  
Great Hall "Petre S. Aurelian"

**PRESENTER**

Julià Manzanás Mondéjar  
Natural capital specialist

**HOST**

USAMV Rectorate,  
founded 1852

SESSION 2 · NATURAL CAPITAL IN AGRICULTURE

# A five-layer framework for restoring natural capital.

The session's keynote presentation — delivered by Julià Manzanas Mondéjar — set out an integrated framework linking ecosystem accounting, true-cost assessment, non-financial reporting, science-based targets and the EU Nature Restoration Law.

**1**

## **SEEA statistical foundation**

Ecosystem accounting — System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. A database for assessing natural-capital stocks at regional and national level, integrated with the system of national accounts.

**2**

## **TIBA Agri-Food – “through-costs”**

Assessing the true impact of agricultural production through the lens of the four capitals: **natural** (soil, water, biodiversity), social (rural communities), human (health and skills) and financial.

**3**

## **TNFD + ESRS – non-financial reporting**

Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures & European Sustainability Reporting Standards — the transparency framework for investors. Farms need to be able to measure and report their impact on nature.

**4**

## **Science-Based Targets – SBTi FLAC**

Scientifically validated targets for cutting the carbon footprint — Food, Land and Agriculture Component. A mechanism that enables farms to credibly evidence climate progress, recognised by buyers and retailers.

**5**

## **EU Nature Restoration Law + biodiversity credits**

EU nature-restoration legislation and emerging biodiversity credit mechanisms — a potential additional income stream for farms adopting regenerative practices.

## Three critical gaps in today's frameworks

Smallholders are excluded from certification schemes — audit costs become prohibitive below a certain scale.

Lack of indicators for soil biodiversity — standard measurement happens above ground, not below it.

Misalignment between TNFD and ESRS frameworks and national subsidy systems, which still don't "speak" to one another.

## USAMV STUDENT DIALOGUE

# The questions that brought the Aula Magna to life.

The session sparked a rich, wide-ranging exchange with the students, spanning five themes—each among the most sensitive issues in modern agriculture.

### **“Farm Digital Officer” – a new profession?**

The idea of a six-month post-graduation certificate, combining agronomy with digital skills, delivered through placements on commercial farms. Students asked whether a similar programme exists in Europe and how it could be nationally accredited.

### **Tacit knowledge vs explicit knowledge.**

A lively debate on Nonaka’s “Knowledge Ecology” model: students challenged the assumption that older farmers’ know-how cannot be transferred digitally. The experts’ response added nuance: it can be codified in part, but not in full.

### **Student entrepreneurship – at home or abroad?**

Güldenbergh put two questions to the room: how many want to become entrepreneurs? How many want to do that in Romania? The answers exposed a tension between ambition and local conditions.

### **Intellectual property in agriculture.**

Petru Dumitriu cited a striking figure: the stock of intellectual property in US agriculture was valued at USD 7,800 billion in 2019—a category largely overlooked in European farm accounts.

### **Corporations and regenerative agriculture.**

Students asked about **LVMH** (Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton) and the Living Soils Forum — luxury brands investing in regenerative agriculture to secure high-quality raw materials. Could similar partnerships be developed with Romanian producers?

**„Students aren’t any less prepared than previous generations – they’re simply less convinced they should stay in Romania. The AgriVision conference showed them there’s an international agenda that needs them.”**

POST-SESSION OBSERVATION · PETRU DUMITRIU

DAY 2 AFTERNOON · 12 MAY 2026

# Roundtable – knowledge transfer, digitalisation, agricultural policy.

Three hours of open discussion bringing together farmers, analysts, funders, lawyers, public policy experts and representatives from related industries. The conference's most wide-ranging session.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION

AGRICULTURAL DRONES

FUNDING

CAP 2028–2034

**VENUE**

Cubic Centre, 6th floor  
Bucharest

**MODERATOR**

Petru Dumitriu  
CFRO

**DURATION**

~3 hours  
18 participants

SESSION 3 · ROUND TABLE

# The 18 participants and their key contributions.

The round table brought together the conference's most diverse mix of professionals — farmers, analysts, financiers, lawyers and representatives from agriculture-adjacent industries. Below is a map of the contributions.

PARTICIPANT	ORGANISATION / ROLE	KEY CONTRIBUTION
Dr Lucian Buzdugan	PhD, Agricultural Engineering	Compulsory year on-farm after graduation
Dan Grigore	CFRO — Agrinnovator Manager	Digital twin, farm digital officer
Florin Constantin	AgXecutive / ProxyDrones.eu	Drones-as-a-service, the knowledge economy
Cezar Gheorghe	Grain market analyst	Romanian agricultural statistics, depopulation
Cathy Garner	World Capital Institute	Community-based knowledge transfer
Andrei Măruțescu	Syngenta / AISR	PPE, drone regulation
Robert Arsene	Agridrone / DJI Partner	Technical arguments in favour of drones
Jennifer Gilberg	Bayer Crop Science RO/BG/MD	Farm financial management
Cyrille Schweizer	Embassy of France	Vocational training, agricultural colleges
Liviu Dobre	Agricover Holding — CEO	Financial education delivered through the lender
Iulian Lole	Concordia Employers' Confederation	Human capital, energy, access to credit
Achim Irimescu	Romania's Ambassador for Agriculture to the EU	CAP, research gaps, food security
Dan Manolescu	Tax expert / former ANAF	Tax environment, VAT, trade credit
Lucian Bondoc	Top 10 law firm in Romania	85,000 statutory instruments — simplifying the framework
Prof. Bologa	IT & agriculture lecturer	"Agricultural Informatics" programme
Paul Markovic	Researcher / Consultant	PLS-SEM study on farm digitalisation
Carmen Turcu	BASF Romania — Communications	Leadership within the Ministry of Agriculture
Nacho Esteve Pamias	Sowify / student farmer	Envy as a barrier to knowledge transfer

THEME 1 · AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & HANDS-ON KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

# A compulsory year on a farm — and a new career path.

The roundtable's first major theme began with a proposal from Dr Lucian Buzdugan, relayed by Petru Dumitriu, and developed through a series of complementary contributions. The core argument: **agronomy is learnt in the field, not in the lecture theatre.**

**Dr Lucian Buzdugan – A compulsory post-graduation year.**

They proposed a compulsory year of on-farm practice after graduation — akin to mandatory military service — and the creation of a national network of accredited mentor farms. Without direct exposure to the real agricultural cycle, no graduate will be able to put theoretical knowledge into practice.

**Dan Grigore (CFRO) – Farm Digital Officer.**

They presented the initiative: a six-month post-graduation placement in which agronomy graduates apply digital skills on commercial farms. The Farmers' Club has a network of over 600 graduates — what's missing is a formal framework.

**Jennifer Gilberg (Bayer Crop Science) – Win-win.**

They highlighted the opportunity: experienced farmers pass on tacit know-how, while young graduates bring digital skills. Universities must refresh their curricula — not just classic agronomy, but drones, digital tools, and data management.

**Cyrille Schweizer (French Embassy) – Agricultural secondary school.**

They took the discussion beyond the university: the agricultural secondary school (“Lycée Agricole”) is where it begins. Romania has a tradition here, but the curricula have fallen behind. The answer: farm–school–CFRO partnerships.

**Nacho Esteve Parnias (Sowify) – Envy.**

They introduced a often-overlooked cultural factor: envy. A 23-year-old farmer trying to show peers what they're doing in precision farming is met with scepticism. “The barrier isn't just technological — it's a mindset.”

**Petru Dumitriu – Council of Europe.**

They cited the experience of interns at the European Institute in Geneva: within six months, interns with no prior experience were drafting reports and delivering statements. The model can be replicated — provided there is a genuine mentor, not merely one in name.

TOPIC 2 · AGRICULTURAL DRONES – INNOVATION VS REGULATION

# The liveliest exchange of the roundtable.

A real "hot potato", as Jennifer Gilberg put it — pitting strong technical arguments against a more cautious regulatory stance. Two leading voices, two complementary viewpoints.

**PRO · TECHNICAL ARGUMENTS**

**Robert Arsene**

**AGRIDRONE · DJI PARTNER**

- **Accuracy:** 2 cm versus 30–50 cm with conventional equipment.
- **–85–90% water use** for treatments.
- **Cost:** €15,000–30,000 vs €200,000–300,000 for ground equipment.
- **60,000 drones** operating in China; Romania: ~60,000 ha treated over the past year.
- **Tall crops:** 2.5 m maize — the drone can treat where conventional machinery can no longer reach.
- **Oilseed rape harvest:** 3–5% losses avoided through aerial application.
- **Labour:** 1 person vs 2–3 for conventional equipment.

**PRO · LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

**Andrei Măruțescu**

**SYNGENTA · AISR**

- Syngenta supports the use of drones — but argues for an **appropriate regulatory framework** before accelerating adoption.
- An analogy with **PPE**: farmers avoid it because “the neighbour would look at them oddly”. A permissive framework that isn’t properly formed risks chaotic uptake.
- **The risk:** if adoption is rushed without clear protocols, the first major incident could set the industry back for years.
- Not all **plant protection products** are approved for aerial application — a legislative gap that needs closing before scaling up.

**ROUND-TABLE CONSENSUS · THE DRONES TOPIC**

TOPIC 3 · AGRICULTURAL FINANCE & THE CURRENT CRISIS

## The numbers behind the structural strains.

The third topic brought the structural strains in Romanian agriculture into sharpest focus. Below are five figures put on the table during the discussion.

# 50%

### of Romanian farms – effectively insolvent by the time input payments fall due

Estimate by Florin Constantin (AgXecutive).

**Law 72/2013**, which caps B2B payment terms at 60 days, has never been properly enforced in agriculture — in practice, terms run from harvest through to the point of sale.

# 37%

### of Romanian agriculture's 2024 turnover – public funds

A mix of EU funds (CAP) and national support. A key indicator of the sector's structural reliance on transfers.

# 13,400

### farms over 100 ha – holding 56% of the arable land

Extreme concentration: 70% of Romania's agricultural output comes from these 13,400 farms. The other 85% of CAP beneficiaries are farms under 5 ha — subsistence and semi-subsistence.

# 85k

### active regulations in force in Romania (Lucian Bondoc)

Of these, 17,000 are laws. The legal complexity goes beyond any farmer's ability to stay compliant. The solution: CFRO-style organisations or the state provide "off the shelf" compliance packages.

# 8%

### bad debts – Bayer Crop Science · Romania 2024

The longest payment terms in Europe for Bayer Crop Science. Jennifer Gilberg: „It's not down to any one player — it's a system-wide issue."

TOPIC 4 · COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY & EUROPE'S CHALLENGES

## Achim Irimescu's political snapshot.

Romania's Ambassador for Agriculture in Brussels since 1998 and a former Secretary of State, he offered the session's most comprehensive political overview. Five points that set the agenda for 2028–2034.

### **Extreme concentration.**

70% of Romania's agricultural output comes from 13,400 farms. 85% of CAP beneficiaries are farms under 5 ha — subsistence. Subsidies are paid to 750,000 CAP beneficiaries with no selection strategy.

### **Research disparity.**

Romania receives **€5 per head** from European research funds. Western countries receive 100–500 times more. "How can you deliver innovation with €5?"

### **Generational renewal – proposal withdrawn.**

The Commission proposed an extra €50/ha for young farmers — a proposal now withdrawn from the new CAP. Commissioner Hansen mentions 6% of the budget for young people, but as a recommendation, not an obligation.

### **Structural issues.**

No co-insurance fund, no reinsurance for climate-related disasters, and four consecutive years of drought losses. Wheat production costs in Romania: ~€1,000/ha; Ukrainian or South American competitors produce at €500/ha.

### **The future CAP – 43% for the environment.**

43% of the EU budget allocated to environmental measures. The current eco-schemes (25%) disappear — Member States will have to find their own green transition solutions.

**ACHIM IRIMESCU · ROMANIA'S AMBASSADOR FOR AGRICULTURE TO THE EU**

"THE MINISTER'S GAME"

## Your first decision as Minister of Agriculture.

Petru Dumitriu suggested a practical thought exercise: each participant should put forward just one top-priority proposal for a hypothetical term as Minister of Agriculture. The interventions were succinct — and telling.

**PARTICIPANT**

**FIRST DECISION AS MINISTER**

Florin Constantin

"I appoint Achim Irimescu as minister, and Cezar Gheorghe as adviser."

Dan Manolescu

"I'll get stuck in." — We can't keep waiting for state support; solutions have to be built from within.

Lucian Bondoc

"I'm picking the winners." — Romania subsidises too many recipients with too few resources. Focus on farms that can genuinely stand on their own feet.

Cezar Gheorghe

Assess civil servants, introduce structured reporting by crop and export, and set up 7 regional processing centres.

Liviu Dobre

Rebrand it as the "Ministry of Agriculture and Food Processing", with end-to-end oversight of the supply chain. A 10–20 year strategy, plus staff performance reviews and a 30% headcount reduction.

Jennifer Gilberg

Bigger investment in national R&D capability — solutions tailored to Romanian realities, not imported from the West.

Achim Irimescu

"Send robots into the fields." — the only way to tackle labour shortages and the need for precision at the same time.

Petru Dumitriu

Roll out the "PAI" — the Integrated Agricultural Policy developed by CFRO, sent to President Nicușor Dan during the campaign, then overlooked after the election.

**GÜLDENBERG OBSERVATION**

"The Ministry of Agriculture should be renamed the Ministry of the Future."

Because food security is the central issue for every country in this century.

**SCHWEIZER OBSERVATION**

"Food sovereignty, not just food security."

A deeper idea: not merely having food, but controlling the supply chain that produces it.

CHAPTER 05

## Five key directions for the conference.

### 01

#### Tacit knowledge vs explicit knowledge

The most recurring theme across both days. The tacit know-how of experienced farmers can't be fully captured in digital form — it's passed on through direct relationships, time spent on the farm, and real growing seasons. Sowify shows AI can handle the explicit; human mentoring remains the only route for the tacit.

### 02

#### Digitalisation: the only workable path

Fertilisers won't get cheaper, pesticides will be more tightly restricted, and interest rates will stay high. The only lever a Romanian farmer truly controls is efficiency — and efficiency comes through digitalisation. Prof. Bologa launched "Agricultural Informatics" — training 1,000 people.

### 03

#### The generational crisis

**52%** of European farmers are aged 55+. Romania: 21% of the population works in agriculture, yet 85% of farms are under 5 ha. Generational renewal is being held back by three barriers at once: **access to land, access to finance, and the sector's appeal**. The risk: losing a generation of farmers, with no mechanism to transfer knowledge and assets.

### 04

#### Food security and sovereignty

Agriculture contributes 1.2% of EU GDP, yet it feeds **450 million people**. The sector's political clout shrinks in step with its share of GDP, leaving it exposed in trade negotiations. Deals with Mercosur, Ukraine and Australia — taken together — distort the EU's internal market.

### 05

#### CFRO's role

The Club was recognised by all external participants as **a benchmark agricultural advocacy organisation**— bringing together political advocacy, knowledge creation and professional training. The "PAI" document — the only comprehensive sector strategy produced by Romania's agricultural civil society. The Club also gained international recognition through the award received by alumnus Alin Luculeasa.

CHAPTER 06 · PRIVATE SECTOR & CFRO

# Five actions for CFRO and the private sector.

These conclusions are not formal conference resolutions, but an editorial synthesis of the main action directions identified across the three sessions.

## 01 Pilot programme: “Farm Digital Officer”

Launch a six-month programme in which digital agronomy graduates help farms digitise their operations, under mentorship. CFRO has the network; what’s missing is the formal framework: a matching protocol, university accreditation, and a joint farm–programme pay scheme.

## 02 CFRO Digitalisation Study

Publish and promote the **PLS-SEM** study widely (30 June 2026) — the first nationwide academic study with national representativeness on the digitalisation of Romanian farmers. It should be turned into policy recommendations and a communications toolkit.

## 03 Mentor-Farm Network

Formalise an **accredited register of mentor farms**, with a mentor–student matching protocol based on geographical proximity and profile fit. A response to the ‘envy’ dilemma flagged by Nacho Esteve Pamias.

## 04 “Agriculture Innovator of the Year”

Establishing an **annual CFRO award**, proposed by Stefan Guldenberg, to showcase Romania’s most innovative farms — modelled on “Entrepreneur of the Year”. Categories: digitalisation, regenerative, young leaders, efficiency.

## 05 Sowify Collaboration / Nacho \* Alin Luculeasa

Florian Ciolacu proposed linking Nacho Esteve Pamias with Alin Luculeasa, an alumnus of Young Leaders for Agriculture, for joint Romania–Spain projects. A real-world case that could test a model for cross-border transfer of young agricultural know-how.

CHAPTER 06 · PUBLIC POLICY

# Five proposals for the new government.

The directions below are set out as proposals for the Ministry of Agriculture, AFIR, and Romania's representatives at the European Commission. They will be revisited in the "PAI" document during the public consultation starting autumn 2026.

## 01 PAI — Integrated Agricultural Policy

Updating and resubmitting the Club's strategic document to the new Government and the new Ministry of Agriculture, as a basis for consultation. The document exists — what's missing is the official consultation process.

## 02 Legal framework for drones

Fast-track the approval of **plant protection products for aerial application**, alongside the adoption of clear safety standards — so innovation isn't held back by legal uncertainty. Uptake in the field is already happening; regulation needs to catch up.

## 03 Targeted subsidy allocation

Redirect resources from subsistence farms (under 5 ha, economically unviable) to viable commercial farms, with social compensation schemes for abandoned holdings. „I pick the horses" — Lucian Bondoc.

## 04 Public-private partnership in research

Making the most of Europe's competitive funding framework through **partnerships with institutions in countries with a strong track record of winning funds (Germany, France, Spain)**. A way to close the gap of 5 € vs 100–500 € per capita.

## 05 National agricultural data system

Roll out a **national programme for shared access to interpreted agricultural data**, involving universities and the private sector — inspired by models in France and Spain (an interoperable data space). A core building block for the "farm digital officer" role and for bringing AI into agronomic decision-making.



**Clubul  
Fermierilor Români**  
pentru agricultură performantă

# Together, we're transforming Romanian agriculture.

The Romanian Farmers' Club extends its thanks to the experts from the New Club of Paris, the World Capital Institute, the French Embassy, USAMV Bucharest, our partners Agricovert, Bayer Crop Science, Syngenta, Agridrone, BASF and Concordia, as well as all Club members who helped make this conference possible.