

Abstract

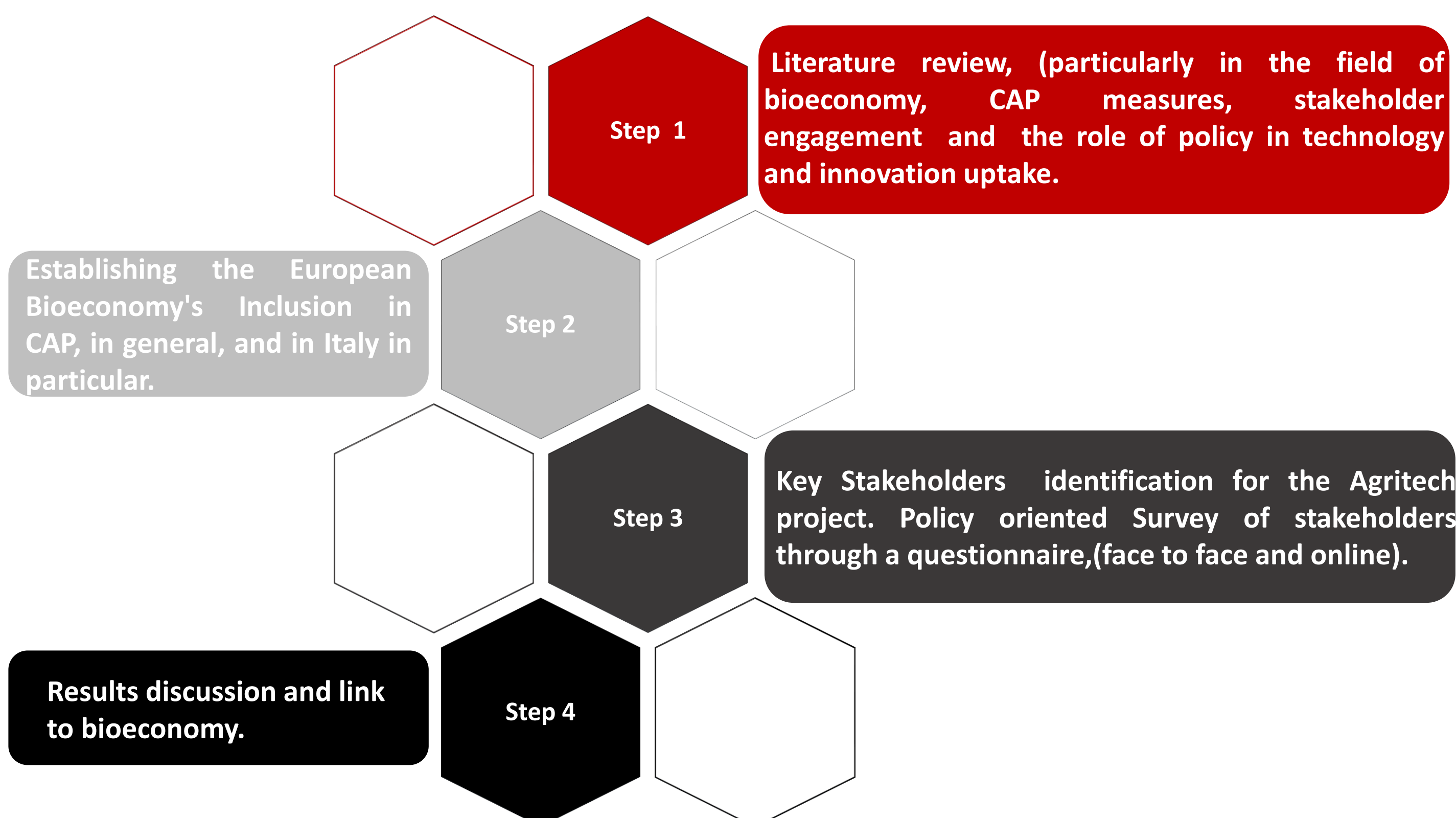
The European bioeconomy is at the crossroads of numerous challenges, including climate change, resource depletion, and population growth. To meet these challenges, innovation and sustainability are imperative. This poster presentation delves into the instrumental role of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in stimulating technological innovation and promoting sustainable practices within the European bioeconomy. The CAP, with its financial support and policy measures, has been a cornerstone for European agriculture for decades. The presentation emphasizes how the CAP's current and evolving reforms are increasingly aligning with the objectives of a sustainable bioeconomy, by encouraging technological innovation, climate-smart agriculture, resource efficiency, and the circular economy, from one side, and bioeconomy being an integral aspect of a specific objective in this new CAP, from the other. Moreover, this analysis includes operational screening of CAP measures in Italy, evaluating their innovation components and examining their alignment with the principles of bioeconomy. It also explores the potential of CAP in raising awareness and bringing diverse stakeholders together, including farmers, industry representatives, policymakers, and consumers, to build a shared vision for a resilient and sustainable bioeconomy. Through insightful data, collected through in-person and online questionnaires under the Agritech project, this poster intends to foster dialogues and collaborations among the stakeholders, highlighting CAP's significance as a policy tool in driving transformation towards an innovative holistic and sustainable European bioeconomy.

Introduction

In the journey toward a robust and resilient bioeconomy, the convergence of digitization and bio-economic principles marks a groundbreaking shift. This convergence incorporates an array of digital technologies, such as big data analytics, AI, IoT, and advanced computational tools, spanning domains like precision agriculture, biotechnologies, genomics, and bioinformatics. Within this transformative landscape, the role of policies like the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) becomes crucial. Evolving from its roots as a conventional agricultural support mechanism, CAP has transformed into an innovative policy framework that leverages this convergence to address global challenges like climate change and food security. By embracing both technological innovation and sustainable practices, the latest reforms in CAP serve as a critical foundation for guiding Europe's transition into a digitally-integrated, sustainable bioeconomy.

Objective and Methodology

The objective of this poster presentation is to explore the transformative influence of the recently revised Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) on shaping the future of the European bioeconomy through technological advancement, innovation uptake, and sustainability. By conducting an in-depth literature analysis, and collected data from the Agritech project, the poster aims to highlight the compatibility between CAP's objectives and the overarching goals of the bioeconomy, focusing on specific operational measures that embody this synergy.



Literature Key findings

Bioeconomy's Inclusion in CAP

In the recent evolution of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), there's an explicit acknowledgment of the importance of the bioeconomy. Notably, the bioeconomy has been made an integral aspect of a specific objective within the CAP for the 2023-2027 period. This inclusion recognizes the synergy between sustainable agricultural practices and the broader vision of a European bioeconomy. By incorporating bioeconomy principles directly into its framework, the CAP has taken a definitive step toward ensuring that Europe's agricultural future aligns with sustainable, bio-based economic principles

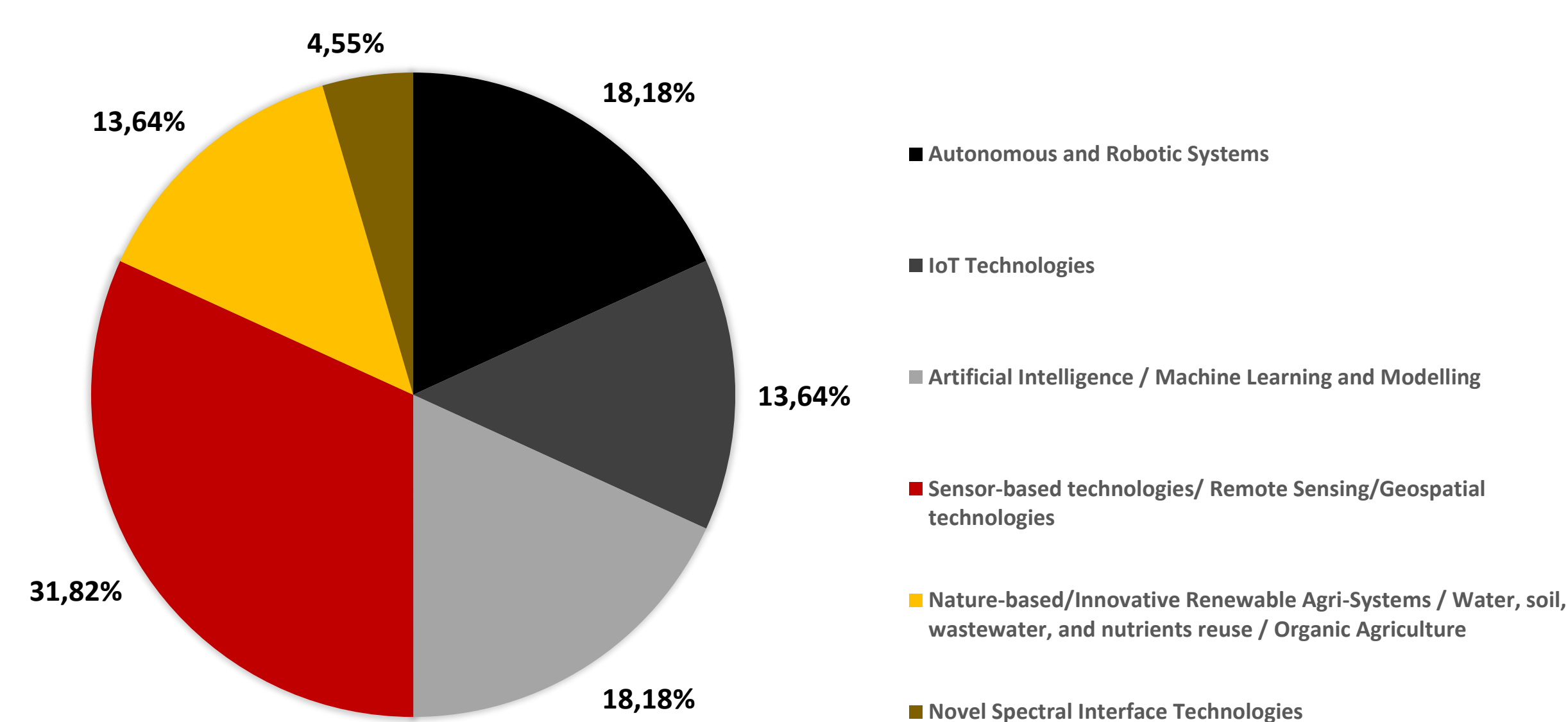
Implications

The integration of bioeconomy within the CAP's objectives has wide-ranging implications for the European agricultural and bioeconomic landscape in general and the Italian one in particular:

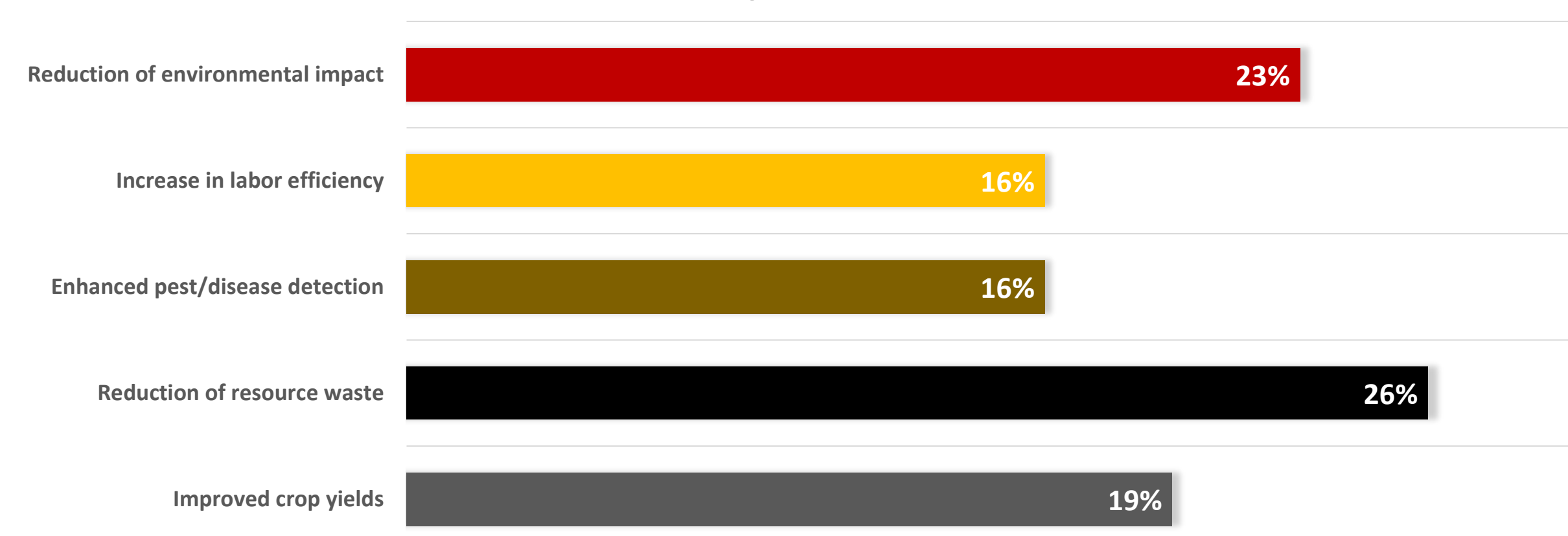


Project's Results

Graph 1. Key stakeholders' familiarity with Agritech project innovative technologies



Graph 2. - Contributions of the innovative technologies to agricultural sector, according to key stakeholders



Discussion

The recent discussions with key stakeholders in the agricultural sector revealed a shared vision for integrating nature-based technologies and innovative methods to combat pollution, ensuring sustainability and climate resilience. The emphasis on agroecology, organic farming, and energy-efficient AgriTech solutions highlights a broader commitment to sustainability and combatting climate change. Stakeholders also call for a holistic policy approach, advocating for integrating technological packages into policy design. These insights align well with the goals of the bioeconomy, particularly in balancing ecological integrity with agricultural productivity. Societal acceptance and adaptability in policy and technology emerge as critical factors for success. The findings indicate also that stakeholders are generally supportive of the policy direction in agriculture, including the bioeconomy-focused objectives within the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), but stress the need for ongoing adaptability and public engagement.

Conclusion

The inclusion of bioeconomy in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) marks a transformative shift, converting agriculture from mere cultivation to a sector that holistically contributes to the European bioeconomy. This change has significant implications for financing, stakeholder engagement, and policy evolution. The policy-oriented analysis of key stakeholders regarding different Agritech innovative technologies, shows that CAP is not just adapting but leading the way in sustainability and innovation. These technologies serve as key enablers, catalysing CAP's goals of resource efficiency, stakeholder engagement, and environmental stewardship.

Thus, our poster serves as both a presentation and a platform for collective dialogue, highlighting CAP as a guiding framework for a more sustainable, technologically advanced, and inclusive European bioeconomy.

Acknowledgment

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