

CHALLENGE AREA

Workforce & Skills Challenges in the Agrifood Sector

SECTOR SNAPSHOT

The agrifood ecosystem employs **over 16 million people across Europe**.

Food manufacturing alone represents **15.7% of EU manufacturing employment**.

The **twin digital and green transition** is rapidly **transforming job profiles** and required competencies.

KEY BARRIERS

**Digital skills gap**

Many workers lack the competencies needed to operate advanced technologies.

**Ageing workforce**

Several regions face difficulties attracting younger professionals to the sector.

**Limited access to training**

SMEs often lack structured upskilling programmes or connections with training providers.

**Worker reluctance to digitalisation**

Fear, uncertainty or lack of confidence can slow technology adoption.

**Leadership capability gaps**

Managers may lack strategic knowledge to guide digital transformation.

IMPACT ON COMPANIES AND WORKFORCE

- Slower implementation of digital technologies
- Increased recruitment difficulties for specialised profiles
- Uneven access to reskilling opportunities
- Risk of workforce disengagement during transformation processes

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Expand sector-specific digital and green skills training
- Promote lifelong learning and microcredentials
- Strengthen collaboration between companies, VET centres and universities
- Support leadership capabilities for digital transformation

HOW TAURUS ADDRESSES THIS CHALLENGE

TAURUS identifies **priority skills needs and workforce profiles**, supporting the design of targeted **reskilling and upskilling pathways** for the agrifood sector.