



DCA
Danish Centre for Food
and Agriculture
Strategy 2025



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COLLABORATIVE AND SOLUTION-ORIENTED – WITH GREEN AND DIGITAL IMPACT



Since 2011, the Danish Centre for Food and Agriculture (DCA) has been the framework for the collaboration between the research environments within the agricultural and food areas at Aarhus University (AU).

The primary purpose of DCA is to ensure the fulfilment of the contract with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark on the provision of research-based policy support within the areas of plant production, livestock production and food quality and consumer behaviour. In addition, DCA serves as a unifying framework for cross-disciplinary activities in the field of agriculture and food.

DCA comprises the departments at Aarhus University that carry out research activities in food and agricultural science. The activities in DCA are supported by a centre unit, which is in charge of tasks relating to research-based policy support, sector and industry cooperation, international cooperation and communication.

The DCA strategy 2025 is setting the direction of our centre. The DCA strategy is aligned with the AU and TECH strategies and thereby ensuring a coherent strategic direction. A vital part of the AU strategy is to contribute to a knowledge-based democracy. This includes:

- increased visibility of expert contributions to public debate,
- continued development of research-based public sector consultancy and
- increased dialogue with decision-makers.

Our ambition is to be a collaborative and solution driven centre creating green and digital impact that contributes to fulfill the AU strategy. Our focal points and complementary activities are the pathways to reach the ambition.

Kind regards
Niels Halberg, director, DCA



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Collaborative and solution-oriented

*We create green
and digital impact*

Prioritisation and
development of
new partnerships

Meeting our
students where
they are

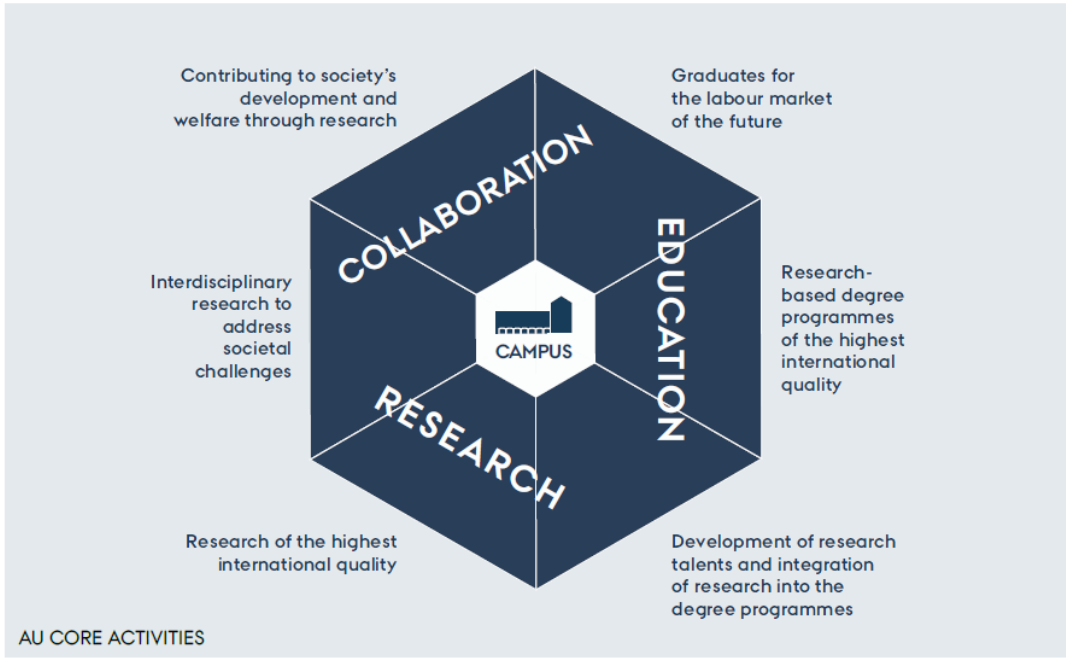


Recognized
research, stronger
entrepreneurship,
science-based
policy advice,
and talent
development

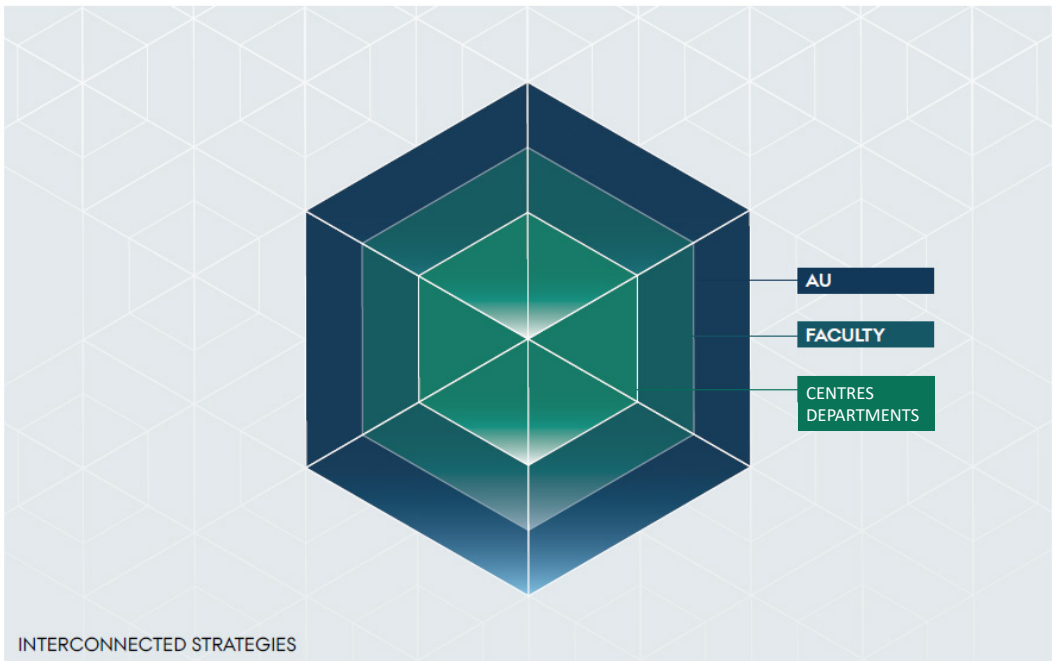
Joint responsibility
for collaborative
culture

AU AND TECH STRATEGY 2025

The vision of Aarhus University is to be a research-intensive university that aspires to the highest international quality and excels in creating value through knowledge, new insights and collaboration, in addition to facilitating connections between Denmark and the world. The hexagon shows AU's core activities that will contribute to realising the AU vision.



The AU strategy 2025 is translated into the Tech strategy and the centres' and departments' strategies. The diamond illustrates the interconnectedness between the strategies at AU level, faculty level and centre and department level.





DCA vision

DCA is recognised as an outstanding provider of science-based policy advice of the highest quality. DCA is a key contributor to the green and digital transition of food & agriculture systems in Denmark and Europe.

DCA ambition

DCA ensures science-based policy advice at a high technical level and highest quality in accordance with ISO9001 certified standards by efficient coordination and timely interaction with scientists and civil servants .

DCA is the portal to research and policy advice regarding food and agriculture at Aarhus University.

DCA maintains high levels of communication and dissemination regarding science advice, specific tasks delivered and the scientific activities at their core, in collaboration with TECH and departments.

DCA supports scientists and departments in maintaining high levels of knowledge and engagement in European collaboration regarding policy related science and advice.

DCA contributes to EU research strategies and research programmes, involves industry as active partners in both projects and application of AU facilities, and hosts major events presenting latest research.

DCA communicates proposals to EU strategies and research and innovation agendas.



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FOCAL-POINT 1

PRIORITISATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND ORGANISATIONAL PATHWAYS

DCA INITIATIVE

1. Support TECH input and participation in EC Horizon Europe partnerships & Mission.
2. Facilitating that TECH/DCA departments benefit from EU and Horizon Europe calls.
3. To support departments in project acquisition within interdisciplinary research areas
4. Improve TECH collaboration on critical advisory tasks.
5. Support industry collaboration.
6. Strengthen legal aspects of DCA collaboration with stakeholders.

PLANNED ACTIVITY

1. Leading/supporting European coordination activities in Soil Mission, and partnerships such as Sustainable, Food Systems, and Animal Health and Welfare Partnerships in collaboration with departments.
2. Supporting new practices for upscaling emission data to farm and national levels.
3. Identification and support to relevant interdisciplinary project calls relevant to TECH Strategic Centres, which include industry participation.
4. Supporting establishment of DK living labs (LL) in collaboration with local/regional authorities, industries, farmer organisations.
5. DCA supports and manage transdisciplinary inter departmental initiatives.
6. Coordination of program level communication initiatives including FoodHay, Arla Food for Health, EIT Food, EJP SOIL, PREPSOIL, NATI00NS.
7. Communication in transdisciplinary new initiatives/centres in the area of food and agriculture will be offered to use the communication channels of DCA in order to reach specific target groups (e.g. CBIO).
8. Support from DCA to research departments to benefit from HE through influencing strategic research & Innovation agendas, reducing barriers for applicants and supporting applications.
9. Participation in EU organizations, such as SCAR Groups, Animal Task Force, EU Partnerships, RefreSCAR, BIC, EIP AGRI, EIT FOOD, and EFSA, EJP Soil
10. Leading/participating in HE CSAs in DCA relevant science areas
11. Identification and support to relevant interdisciplinary project calls relevant to TECH Strategic Centres, which include industry participation .
12. Support to identification of external writing companies and relevant industrial partners, including legal aspects.
13. Communication support to interdisciplinary centres
14. Facilitate and strengthen legal aspects of collaboration agreements with collaboration partners.

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE

- Director,
- Science advisors
- Communication advisors
- International coordinator
- DCA business advisor
- DCA legal advisor

FOCAL-POINT 2

RECOGNISED RESEARCH, INTEGRATED RESEARCH-BASED CONSULTANCY

DCA INITIATIVE

1. Support and coordination of the provision of independent research-based advice.
2. Strengthen legal aspects and quality assurance across all advisory tasks.
3. Ensures science based policy advice at a high technical level and highest quality in accordance with ISO9001.
4. Strengthen legal aspects of quality assurance.

PLANNED ACTIVITY

1. Continuous development of procedures of the quality management system and the engagement of scientists in their use.
2. Develop new practises, for science advice with trans-European partners.
3. Build international cooperation in science advice based on joint understanding of principles and governance.
4. Legal advice and contract preparation.

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE

- Director,
- Science advisors,
- DCA legal advisor.

FOCAL-POINT 3

ENGAGE OUR STUDENTS IN THE CHALLENGES FACING SOCIETY

DCA INITIATIVE

1. Support student uptake by creating activities that engage potential future students in the challenges facing society.

PLANNED ACTIVITY

1. In collaboration with departments, we will host visits and develop educational day-programs targeting potential students at AU Viborg.

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE

- Coordinator of visits and student activities.
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FOCAL-POINT 4

JOINT RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPENNESS, COLLABORATION, CO-ORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT WITH TRUST AND RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER

DCA INITIATIVE

1. Strengthen cooperation with departments, centres and faculty regarding all our main activities i.e., communication and dissemination on DCA related research, and advice through cooperation with ministry, departments/centres, industry, media, and stakeholder organisations in order to utilize research based advice from the DCA area.
2. Entrance for industry collaboration in new research areas.
3. Identification of new interdisciplinary research areas.
4. National and international scouting of relevant industries.

PLANNED ACTIVITY

1. Educational activities related to collaboration, coordination, and the development of good praxis in science advice.
2. Implementing high-quality and up-to-date dissemination and communication of science and science advice in collaboration with departments and faculty.
3. Facilitation and coordination of DCA activities through the organisation of seminars and meetings (e.g. with industry or ministries).
4. Focus on internal working environment.
5. Develop new communication and dissemination practises (e.g. webinars held with FVST) together with collaborative agreements with stakeholders about communication (e.g. Arla Food for Health, Foodhay).
6. Scouting and contact to relevant industries, which could benefit from TECH/DCA research facilities and researchers.
7. Collaboration with TECH Business and Innovation Committee and AU Kitchen.
8. Update of industry-relevant content on DCA website, including showcasing industry collaboration
9. Organizing events profiling research capabilities to promote industry collaboration

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE

- Director
- Science advisors
- Communication advisors
- International coordinator
- DCA business advisor
- DCA legal advisor
- The secretariat

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