

# The Danish Action Plan for Plant-Based Foods – a multi-stakeholder co-creation process

November 21<sup>th</sup> 2024

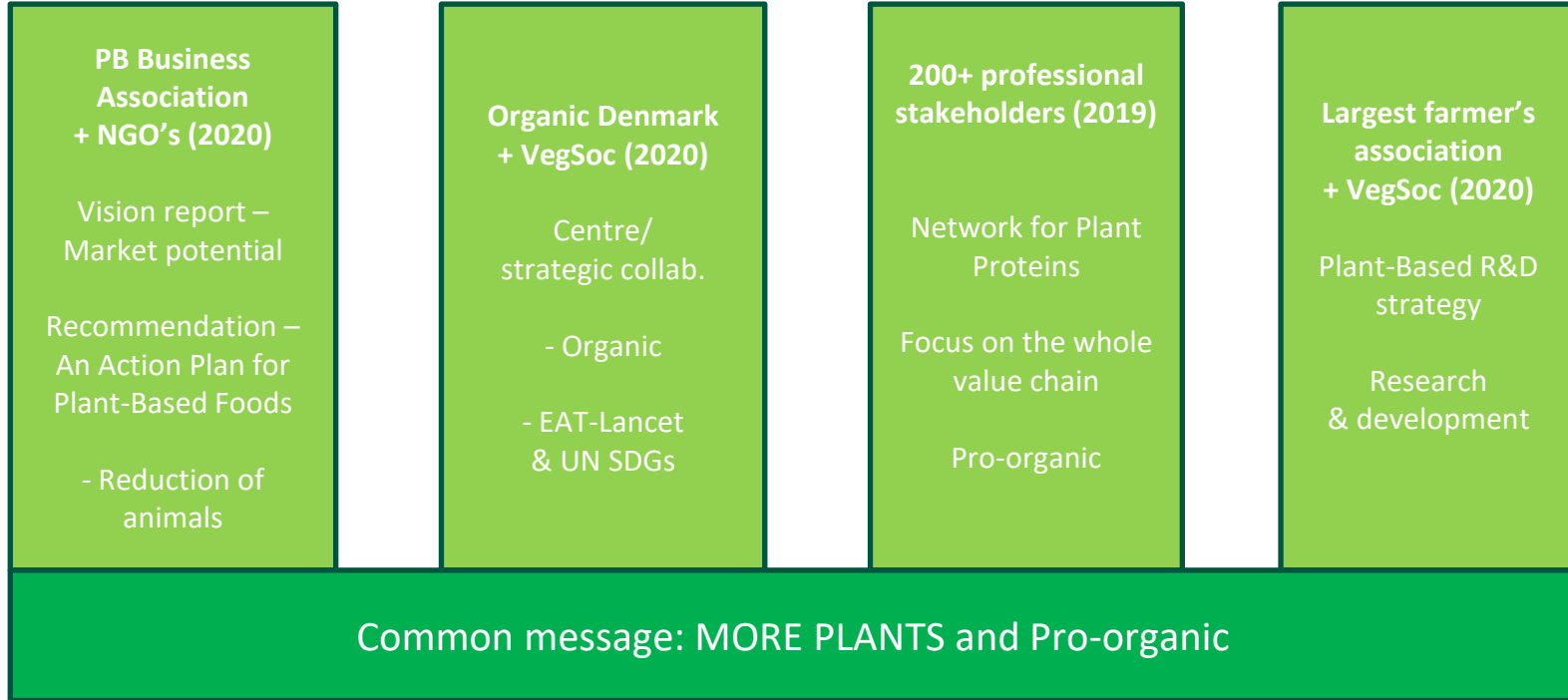


Louise Johansen, Head of Programme, The Vegetarian Society of Denmark



# Background:

## The combined effect of four Danish initiatives



**Effect:** Political support for plant-based foods (incl. synergies with organic)



# Denmark's plant-based policy initiatives

1. National Action Plan for Plant-Based Foods
2. Plant-Based Food Grant
3. Plant Eco-Scheme under the CAP

# Towards Denmark's Action Plan for Plant-Based Foods

Based on:

- Stakeholder inclusion and negotiation through a hearing process with businesses, farmers, NGO's, researchers
- University analysis of pitfalls and bottlenecks in the plant-based value chain
- Involvement of many ministries in the process – which have led for a discovering of multitude of existing initiatives and policies

## Danish Action Plan for Plant-based Foods

Published 13th October 2023





# Why a Plant-Based Action Plan?



“Plant-based foods are the future. [...]

We continue to become more people on a planet where **climate change** puts society under pressure. There is a great demand for food, especially in times of crisis, as **the war in Ukraine** has shown us. There is competition over the areas that both must be used to secure a **clean water environment**, development of renewable energy, **increased nature and biodiversity**, crops for food and feed and at the same time deliver a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, **the nutritional and health consequences of unhealthy eating habits**.

**Increased production and consumption of plant-based foods is part of the answer to these challenges.”**

*Signed by the Minister of Food and Agriculture*





# Content of the action plan

## **Strengths:**

- Holistic – Focusing on both education and training, public sector kitchens, research/innovation, export and production and processing
- The rhetoric is ambitious and positive, the message being that the development of this sector will be supported onwards; and that Denmark will also work for this at EU level

## **Weaknesses:**

- No measurable targets (the government argues it first needs a meaningful baseline)
- Too little new action

## **Key points:**

- Most of the 'action' is on education, public sector kitchens, and research/innovation
- Initiatives on processing and exports are seen as mostly industry-led
- Raw materials/farming: An incentive is already there; no new initiatives



More countries will develop action plans similar to the Danish one?

An EU Action Plan for Plant-Based Foods?

Initiatives which will facilitate development of national action plans in different EU countries?

## What now?

More funding for plant-based initiatives in the coming CAP?

More funding for plant-based R&D in Horizon Europe Programme?

More funding for plant-based initiatives across different countries?





Thank you!