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Future Farm Lab Call Guidelines

EIT Food/Future Farm Lab Call/2026

EIT FOOD

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Call Fact Sheet

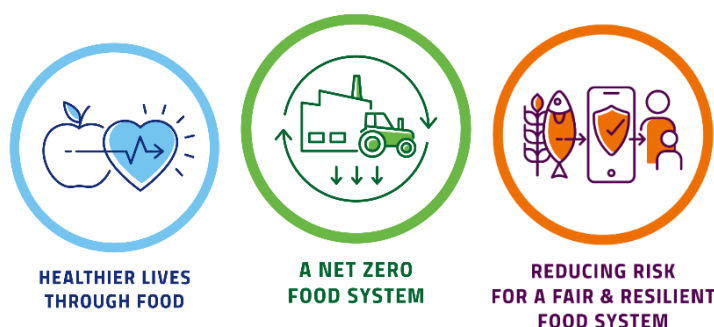
Title of Call	Future Farm Lab
Objective and Scope	This call aims to recruit one entity to enhance and scale an existing digital learning platform to deliver immersive, systems-based education in regenerative agriculture for diverse learner groups across the EIT Food ecosystem. The selected entity will work on the extension and optimisation of an existing 3D learning platform and content catalogue, including new modules, improved functionality, and scalable SaaS infrastructure to support deployment, integration, and commercialisation within Future Farm Lab.
Call Deadline	7 July 2026 12:00 CET
Available Funding	370.000 euros
Project Duration	2026-2028
How to apply	MyEITFood Portal
Contact Information	Pamela Pokorny, pamela.pokorny@eitfood.eu

1. Introduction

EIT Food is the world's largest food innovation community, creating connections right across the food system. Supported by the European Union (EU), we invest in projects, organisations and individuals which share our goals for a healthy and sustainable food system.

We have built a unique not-for-profit business to carry out transformative programmes in skills, education, entrepreneurship, start-up investment and communications. We deliver these programmes in partnership with our members to create a culture and build a community which sees the long-term value in the food innovation we fund.

Our Missions



EIT Food's Missions respond to major societal challenges within the food system. The alignment of our chosen challenges towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and EU policy is detailed in our main funding [strategy document](#) agreed with EIT (European Institute of Innovation & Technology). For more about our Missions-led approach please visit [our website](#).

2. Adding Implementing Participants to Future Farm Lab

This EIT Food Request for Implementing Participants aims to recruit a participant responsible for the implementation and scaling of the Future Farm Lab initiative (2026–2028).

Future Farm Lab is a digital learning and innovation programme focused on accelerating the transition to regenerative agriculture through immersive learning experiences, applied innovation, and ecosystem engagement. The activity builds on an existing 3D learning platform and content catalogue and seeks to expand its functionality, content offering, and deployment across professional, non-degree education and training contexts. It targets a broad range of learners across the agrifood system, including farmers, students, industry professionals, and policy makers, supporting upskilling and capacity building for sustainable food system transformation.2.1.

Description of Activities

The selected implementing participants will contribute to the further development, deployment, and scaling of the Future Farm Lab platform and learning ecosystem. Activities include:

- Extension and enhancement of the existing 3D digital learning platform, including new modules and improved functionality
- Co-development of learning content on regenerative agriculture topics (e.g. soil health, biodiversity, water and resilience)
- Design and implementation of immersive, systems-based learning scenarios and micromissions
- Integration of the platform into educational and professional training programmes (vocational, higher education, industry upskilling)
- Support for Proof-of-Concept (PoC) activities and real-world validation in collaboration with partners
- Contribution to platform operations, including user onboarding, analytics, and continuous improvement
- Development of supporting materials for educators and trainers (e.g. toolkits, guidance, learning pathways)
- Participation in stakeholder engagement, workshops, and co-creation activities within the EIT Food ecosystem
- Support for dissemination, outreach, and demonstration activities to drive adoption
- Contribution to the development of scalable licensing and commercialisation models

2.2. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

All **EIT Food funded** projects should achieve relevant Core Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). For the Future Farm Lab, the main KPIs is:

Code	KPI	KPI Definition
EITHE07.1	Graduates from EIT-labelled education programmes	Number of learners who have successfully completed an EIT Food-supported education or training activity (e.g. completion of modules, learning pathways, or micromissions)

Please note: At the end of the funding period, EIT Food requires specific structured data and documentation to verify the achievement of KPIs. Grantees must report their KPI achievements through the grant management tool and ensure that all required structured data and supporting

evidence is submitted in accordance with the guidelines provided (see [EIT Food KPI Guidance Document](#) for details).

2.3. Deliverables and Milestones

Grant recipients must submit project deliverables. For this activity, the deliverables include:

- Communication, Dissemination and Outreach Plan (Month 3)
- Enhanced 3D learning modules and simulation components (Initial release: Month 12; updates ongoing)
- Structured and expanded learning content catalogue (Month 12, with annual updates)
- Proof-of-Concept (PoC) pilot implementation and validation report (Month 18)
- Educator and facilitator support materials (e.g. toolbox, guidance documents) (Month 12)
- Platform functionality upgrades and SaaS infrastructure improvements (continuous, with major release Month 12)
- Learner engagement and KPI monitoring reports (annually)
- Final activity report including impact, KPI achievement, and recommendations (Month 36)

Grant recipients have obligations on communication, dissemination and visibility rules. Please see Article 17 of the [Model Grant Agreement](#) and EIT Food's [Brand Guidelines](#).

Grant recipients retain intellectual property rights. Grant recipients must adhere to [EIT Food Intellectual Property's \(IP\) Policy](#) which complies with the IP provisions outlined in Article 16 of the Horizon Europe [Model Grant Agreement](#). Grant recipients shall retain ownership of all intellectual property rights (IPR) generated during the implementation of the activity ("foreground"), in accordance with the provisions of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.

Grant recipients must adhere to EIT Food's Intellectual Property (IP) Policy, which is aligned with Article 16 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement, including provisions on ownership, access rights, exploitation, and dissemination.

Where the activity builds on existing platforms, technologies, or content, pre-existing intellectual property ("background") shall remain the sole property of the respective owner. In particular, any pre-existing software, platform infrastructure, tools, or proprietary technologies brought into the project shall not be transferred to EIT Food or third parties.

EIT Food shall be granted appropriate access rights to the results for use, dissemination, and educational purposes, including the right to use and showcase the outputs within its programmes and platforms, under fair and reasonable conditions.

Grant recipients are expected to define a clear exploitation and commercialisation strategy for project results, ensuring that intellectual property is effectively leveraged to support market uptake, revenue generation, and long-term sustainability of the activity.

Where relevant, arrangements regarding jointly developed outputs, licensing, and revenue sharing must be clearly specified and aligned with EIT Food's financial sustainability objectives.

All IP arrangements must ensure:

- Protection of proprietary technologies and know-how
- Enabling of continued use and scaling of the solution within the EIT Food ecosystem

- Compliance with applicable EU and EIT Food regulations

3. Description of Role & Profile

The implementing participant will play a key role in the further development, deployment, and scaling of the Future Farm Lab digital learning platform and associated activities, building on the existing infrastructure and content base.

Specifically, the participant(s) will:

- Contribute to the enhancement and expansion of the existing 3D learning platform, including development of new modules, features, and user experience improvements
- Co-develop and implement high-quality learning content on regenerative agriculture topics, ensuring pedagogical robustness and alignment with EIT Food frameworks
- Design and deliver immersive, systems-based learning experiences, including simulations and micromissions
- Support the integration of the platform into education and training programmes, including vocational, higher education, and professional upskilling contexts
- Contribute to learner recruitment, onboarding, and engagement, supporting achievement of participation and completion KPIs
- Support platform deployment, testing, and continuous improvement, including user feedback loops and analytics-driven optimisation
- Engage in Proof-of-Concept (PoC) activities and real-world validation, working with partners and stakeholders
- Contribute to stakeholder engagement, outreach, and dissemination activities, including demos, workshops, and ecosystem collaboration, supporting engagement KPIs
- Support the development and implementation of scalable licensing and commercialisation approaches, contributing to long-term sustainability
- Deliver agreed project deliverables and reporting, including content outputs, activity reports, and KPI tracking in line with EIT Food requirements

This call is open to **single (mono-beneficiary) applicants only**. The applicant must demonstrate the full range of capabilities required to deliver the activity, either through in-house expertise or clearly defined subcontracting arrangements. The applicant will be solely responsible for project coordination, delivery of all tasks, reporting, and acting as the primary liaison with EIT Food.

3.2 Profile

EIT Food is seeking one organisation with demonstrated expertise in digital learning innovation, immersive technologies, and agrifood or sustainability domains, capable of delivering high-quality, scalable education solutions.

The ideal applicant should demonstrate:

- Proven experience in the development and deployment of digital learning solutions, preferably including 3D simulations, AR/VR, or interactive platforms
- Strong capabilities in learning design and pedagogy, particularly in experiential, challenge-based, and systems-oriented learning approaches
- Experience in content development related to agriculture, sustainability, food systems, or environmental topics

- Technical expertise in platform development and/or management of scalable SaaS solutions, including user management, analytics, and modular content architectures
- Ability to work within and build upon existing platforms and content, ensuring interoperability and continuity
- Experience in multi-stakeholder collaboration, including working with industry, academia, and innovation ecosystems
- Demonstrated capacity to support learner engagement, outreach, and programme delivery at scale
- Understanding of commercialisation pathways, including licensing models, productisation of learning content, or market deployment of education services
- Strong project management capabilities, including delivery of EU-funded or multi-partner projects, reporting, and KPI tracking

4. Funding

The total budget for this call is 370.000 euros. Implementing participant recipients will receive a subgrant to fund their cost.

The project runs from July 2026 to December 2028. The maximum funding available for that period per application is 370.000 euros (actual costs). Applicants should bring a minimum of 10% co-funding contribution to the project.

There is a 6 million EUR limit per participants from Member States of the European Union (EU) and from [Horizon Europe Associate Countries](#) for the whole 3-year Grant Agreement. Legal entities from non- Horizon Europe Associate countries can participate in consortia but are limited to funding of 60 000 over 3 years for a Grant Agreement. This funding is implemented under GA 101269771. In those limits are included all the EIT Funding awarded to an organization across all the activities and prizes for the 3-year grant agreement.

The Subgrant is based on actual costs and value for money. All costs, including co-funding, need to comply with Horizon Europe regulations regarding the eligibility of expenses. Please refer to Article 6 of the [Model Grant Agreement](#) and the [Annotated Model Grant Agreement](#).

Participants are not permitted to give a subgrant to another third party.

4.1. Financial Sustainability

The Future Farm Lab activity is designed to contribute to EIT Food's financial sustainability objectives by combining co-funding commitments with a scalable, revenue-generating education model.

Applicants are required to provide a minimum of 10% co-funding of the total eligible project costs, which may include financial or in-kind contributions from non-EU sources, including own resources, private sector contributions, or other non-EU funding streams.

Proposals should demonstrate a credible pathway to achieving **minimum revenue targets**, including:

- At least **€40,000 in Year 1**,
- Scaling progressively to at least **€180,000 by the final year of the activity**.

Applicants must outline a clear and realistic commercialisation strategy, including pricing models, target customer segments, and routes to market.

Proposals that demonstrate the potential to exceed these minimum revenue targets, through scalable business models, strong market demand, or accelerated adoption pathways, will be positively evaluated under the Impact criterion.

The activity is expected to generate revenue through a scalable licensing and service-based model, building on the existing Future Farm Lab platform and content catalogue. Revenue streams may include:

- Organisation licences for access to the platform by educational institutions, corporates, and training providers
- User-based licences linked to active learners on the platform
- Customised implementations or tailored content development for specific clients
- Network-originated projects leveraging the EIT Food ecosystem
- These revenue streams will support the transition towards a self-sustaining education service, reducing reliance on grant funding over time.

A success-sharing approach is expected, whereby revenues generated through the platform and related services are shared between EIT Food and implementing participants, subject to formal agreement.

5. Call Timeline and Application

5.1 Timeline

This funding opportunity follows the timeline below:

Call Open Date	6 May 2026
Call Deadline	7 July 2026 12:00 CET
Evaluation	8-10 July 2026
Invitation to interviews, panels	13 July 2026
Interviews/Panels	14-15 July 2026
Communication to selected participants	20 July 2026
Standstill period, Onboarding, Validation and Contracting	21 July- August 2026
Indicative start of project implementation	1 September 2026

The standstill period is a set time after funding selection for appeals, final administrative checks, and compliance in the award process. The project cannot start before this period. The standstill period of 30 days applies to this call.

5.2 Application Submission

Applications must be submitted via [MyEITFood Portal](#) no later than the call deadline.

6. Eligibility, Evaluation and Selection Process

6.1 Eligibility

This call is open to all partners and non-partners of EIT Food and targets mono-beneficiaries. Please read Annex 1, in addition to the following eligibility criteria:

Organisation Eligibility	Each implementing participant must:
	• Be a legally incorporated entity in one of the EU or Horizon Europe eligible country listed above for a minimum of 5 years. • Provide a PIC Number: https://www.eitfood.eu/files/PIC-Guidance.pdf • Own or have access to an existing digital platform infrastructure or reusable digital learning assets at the time of application
Application Eligibility	Each application must:
	• Be complete, with all mandatory application documents (Budget Template) uploaded. Visit call website for the mandatory template. • Be submitted on time via our submission platform. • Be fully written in English.

Equal opportunity: The call is open to all applicants, including those without an existing partnership agreement with EIT Food. All members of the KIC Partnership (as defined in the Partnership Agreement) shall have equal opportunity to participate in this funding opportunity.

6.2 Evaluation Process

All submitted applications will undergo an eligibility check and evaluation to determine their feasibility and suitability for funding opportunity.

During the eligibility check, if EIT Food identifies obvious or technical errors in a proposal, applicant will have the opportunity to correct or resubmit their proposal within three (3) calendar days following the call submission deadline. Such errors may include system malfunctions, typos, or missing supporting documents.

The correction window is intended to ensure that these issues do not unduly affect the evaluation of otherwise eligible proposals. Please note that this opportunity is strictly limited to rectifying technical errors and does not permit substantive modifications to the proposal content.

The evaluation will be conducted by a minimum of 3 external evaluators and 1 internal evaluator, based on the criteria below.

All external evaluators have been selected in an open and transparent process. All evaluators, both internal and external, are trained extensively on the European Union's Code of Conduct for Evaluators, namely on the importance of transparency, fair treatment of all applicants, confidentiality and how to avoid conflict of interest. Evaluators must contractually agree to recuse themselves in the event of a conflict of interest. EIT Food aims for representation of either women or men not falling below 40% as a parity threshold within evaluation committees.

6.2.1. Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria and weighting will be used in the assessment:

Criteria	Sub criteria	Score
<i>Excellence (30%)</i>	• Clarity and relevance of the proposed approach in relation to the Future Farm Lab objectives • Quality and innovation of the digital learning solution, including use of immersive technologies (e.g. 3D, AR/VR, simulations) • Soundness of the pedagogical approach, including experiential and systems-based learning design • Quality and relevance of proposed content in regenerative agriculture and food systems • Degree of building on and enhancing existing platform, content, and infrastructure • Integration of gender and diversity dimensions in the design of the solution, including consideration of accessibility, inclusivity, and representation of different user groups	1-5
<i>Impact (30%)</i>	• Expected learner reach, engagement, and completion • Potential for scalability and adoption across education and industry contexts • Strength of the commercialisation and financial sustainability strategy (e.g. licensing, revenue generation) • Contribution to ecosystem engagement and stakeholder involvement • Potential to position Future Farm Lab as a leading European reference platform	1-5
<i>Quality and efficiency of the implementation (25%)</i>	• Quality and coherence of the work plan, including tasks, timelines, and deliverables • Appropriateness of resource allocation and budget justification • Capability to deliver enhancements on an existing platform (technical and operational feasibility) • Quality of project management, governance, and risk mitigation measures • Monitoring and reporting approach, including KPI tracking and data collection • Capacity to collaborate effectively with EIT Food and other partners	1-5
<i>KIC portfolio strategic fit and compliance with the financial sustainability principles and knowledge triangle integration (15%)</i>	• Alignment with EIT Food strategic objectives • Contribution to the Regenerative Agriculture cluster and education portfolio • Synergies with existing EIT Food programmes, platforms, and initiatives • Contribution to financial sustainability and long-term portfolio value	

Additional Notes

- Criteria (a), (b), and (c) will be assessed by independent external experts.
- Criterion (d) may be assessed by internal EIT Food experts.

Each evaluation sub-criterion will be scored from 1 to 5 using the following scoring system.

The quality threshold for selection is a total weighted score of 3.5. The top highest-scoring applications will be selected.

Score		Description
1	Poor	The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses
2	Fair	Application broadly addresses the criterion but there are significant weaknesses
3	Good	Application addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present
4	Very good	Application addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present
5	Excellent	Application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

All applicants will be alerted in writing to the outcome of their proposal.

The recipients of EIT Funding must take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in the implementation of the action and, where applicable, in line with the gender equality plan. They must aim, to the extent possible, for a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action, including at supervisory and managerial level.

6.3 Appeal on Evaluation Results

Applicants can submit an appeal within 15 calendar days of receiving their result, if:

- The evaluation of their proposal has not been carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in this document.

For more details, please refer to [EIT Food Redress guidance](#).

7. Administrative Items

7.1 Onboarding

Entities that have never been part of projects funded by the EIT Food and that do not have a PIC validated by the Research Executive Agency (REA) of the European Commission will be subject to a PIC validation process managed by the EIT Community Onboarding Service. All validated entities will proceed with the signature of legal agreements with EIT Food.

As part of the onboarding process, selected entities must:

- Sign and submit the Declaration of Size.
- Sign and submit the Financial Information Form.
- Register on EIT Food grants management platform.

Additionally, EIT Food reserves the right to request the EIT Community Onboarding Service a Financial Assessment Capacity to check the financial capacity of any entity of a selected proposal. In such case, EIT Food may require:

- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several liability for all subgrantees or joint and several liabilities of Affiliated Entities if any
- prefinancing paid in instalments (multiple/additional prefinancing)
- (one or more) prefinancing guarantees

or

- propose no prefinancing or
- request that the entity be replaced or, if needed, might reject the entire proposal

In other words, if the assessment results are not satisfactory, the EIT Food might reject the participation of this entity and will then check whether the proposal is still eligible.

For further information on the project implementation, please read the [EIT Food Activity Implementation Guidelines for Participants](#).

7.2 EIT Food Legal Framework & Legal Documents to be signed

Selected applicants will receive a second communication with instructions regarding the completion of the following documents, as well as agreeing to EIT Food's conflict of interest policy:

To be signed between the participant and EIT Food:

If cost based call:

- 1. Framework Agreement**
- 2. Kava Contract**

Any other legal agreements to make this grant eligible.

7.3 Payment Schedule

EIT Food will transfer funding in instalments. A proportion of the Activity budget will be prefinanced according to the Company Size, with subsequent payments being linked to eligible cost reported. In multi-year projects, EIT Food will transfer yearly instalments calculated based on the latest cost report.

For more information, please see [EIT Food Project Financing Policy](#).

7.4 Monitoring

The project will be monitored and may be audited. All Activities selected for funding undergo continuous monitoring by EIT Food to ensure effective progress and implementation in accordance with the Project Agreement.

EIT Food may request regular reporting of actual costs incurred with the subgrant, as well as regular reporting of KPIs and deliverables, together with the supporting documentation. The monitoring process may result in an amendment to the Activity workplan and/or budget, however the Financial Return Mechanism Agreement cannot be re-negotiated following the approval of the Activity.

In the case of under-performance, significant delay of implementation, misconduct, misalignment with the project specifications in the grant management system or any other reason jeopardizing the timely implementation of the Activity identified during the monitoring process, EIT Food reserves the right to discontinue or restructure the funding of the Activity at any point during the Activity duration.

A formal ex-post impact assessment within at least five years of the end of the activity and its outputs is required for each activity, including those implemented by third parties.

7.5 Support

If you have any questions about this Request for Implementing Participants, please contact pamela.pokorny@eitfood.eu.

Please visit our website for any updates to this call and information about upcoming events to support your application. You will also find our list of Frequently Asked Questions.

ANNEX 1 – Eligibility

Please Note:

1. Failing any of the above call specific criteria will make your application ineligible. If an applicant is ineligible, the participant will be informed.
2. [According to EU policies and measures](#), Russian and Belarus entities will not be authorised to participate in any new grant under the EU Research and Innovation programmes. This ban applies not only to their potential participation as beneficiaries, but to their potential participation in any kind of role: beneficiaries, linked third parties/affiliated entities, subcontractors, in-kind contributors, international partners/associated partners, and third parties receiving financial support. Find the full statement from the European Commission [here](#).
3. Pursuant to Article 2 (2) of the [Decision 2022/2506](#) of 15 December 2022 on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary *where the Commission implements the Union budget in direct or indirect management pursuant to of Article 62(1) points (a) and (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046*, ***no legal commitments shall be entered into with any public interest trust established on the basis of the Hungarian Act IX of 2021***

or any entity maintained by such a public interest trust. This prohibition applies to financial support to third parties (sub-grants and prizes), hence the proposal of any entity or group of entities where a Participant is included in the list of public interest trusts shall be considered as not eligible.

4. Applicants will be deemed ineligible if:

a. bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding-up procedures, where its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, where it is in an arrangement with creditors, where its business Activities are suspended, or where it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under national laws or regulations;

b. it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the organisation is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the applicable law;

c. it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the organisation is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the organisation belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which has an impact on its professional credibility where such conduct denotes a wrongful intent or gross negligence;

d. is found to be attempting to influence the decision-making process of the call during the process;

e. attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon its undue advantages in the call process;

f. it has been established by a final judgment that the organisation is guilty of fraud, corruption or money laundering.