



Co-funded by
the European Union

Biodiversity pilot of Navarra 360

Call Guidelines

EIT Food/Call for Biodiversity pilot of Navarra 360
/2026-2028

EIT FOOD

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Call Fact Sheet

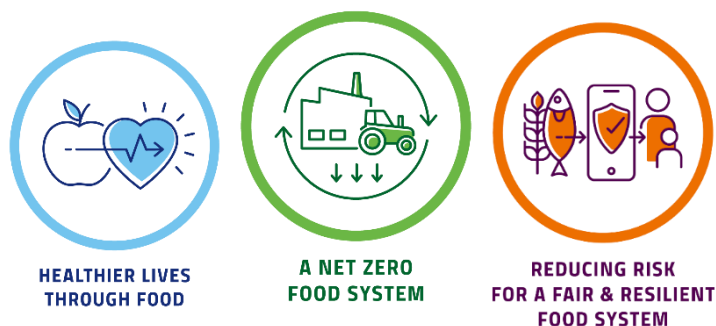
Title of Call	Biodiversity pilot of Navarra 360°
Objective and Scope	Through this call, EIT Food seeks to select a technical partner to design and implement a system to measure and monitor biodiversity impact, tailored to the agricultural and landscape context of Navarra.
Call Deadline	02/04/2026 12:00 CET
Available Funding	30,000 euros
Project Duration	June 2026 – February 2028
How to apply	MyEITFood Portal
Contact Information	Laura Lopez - laura.lopezcortijo@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](#).

1.1. Navarra 360°

As part of its mission to make food systems healthier and more sustainable, EIT Food has created the [Regenerative Agriculture line of action](#), one of whose main aims is to help farmers learn about and transition to more sustainable methods of agriculture.

Navarra 360^º is the first initiative within EIT Food's Regenerative Agriculture Portfolio. Its goal is to support farmers in Navarra, Spain, in transitioning to regenerative agriculture within cereal crop rotations over a three-year period. Through a holistic 360^º approach, the project aims to quantify the impact of regenerative practices on carbon sequestration, soil health, biodiversity, water management, and socio-economic factors.

Biodiversity is recognized as a cornerstone of the project: not only as an indicator of ecosystem health, but also as an added value for the agri-food chain, consumers, and society at large.

1.1.1 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

All **EIT Food funded** projects should achieve relevant Core Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). For the Navarra 360, the main KPIs are:

Code	KPI	KPI Definition
EITHE08	Participants (Farmers) in non-labelled education and training	Participants (farmers) in EIT professional development courses, online training courses and other education/training activities delivered. Only activities which have clearly defined learning outcomes, and which carries out competency assessment method are applicable.
EITHE03	Supported start-ups/scale-ups	Start-ups and scale-ups supported for at least 2 months, provided the services contribute to the company's growth (including potential growth).

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. Description of Activities

This call has the objective of recruiting one technical partner to design and implement a pilot system to measure and monitor biodiversity impact in Navarra 360^º project. The entity should be open to an exploratory approach for measuring biodiversity in large-scale crop systems and build on the existing Navarra Context Analysis (see Annex I).

This pilot will:

1. Measure the real impact of agricultural practices on biodiversity (flora, fauna, pollinators, soil, water) according to SAI "Regenerating Together Framework" indicators and others such as, the following indicators could be considered:
 - a. Soil life, including earthworms, for farmers practicing conservation agriculture (ACS, TCS)
 - b. Beneficial organisms
 - c. Pollinators (for pollination in seed-producing crops)
 - d. Partridges

- e. Butterflies
- f. Birds

2. Define and validate new key performance indicators (KPIs) that could potentially empower farmers to act, improve decision-making, increase knowledge in agricultural biodiversity, and be used for communicating purposes.
3. Incorporate technological innovation that provide scientific rigor and cost-efficiency (including but not limited to sensors, geospatial analysis, remote sensing, natural bioindicators, data analytics, environmental DNA...) in combination with traditional field-based methodologies.

Key indicators related to practice are already being measured and help us monitor indirectly biodiversity's current impact.

Indicator	Description
On-farm habitat area	Area dedicated to natural habitats within the farm (ha).
Number of cultivated crops	Diversity of crop species grown throughout the year.
Integrated pest management	Use of combined methods to reduce the use of chemical pesticides. <u>Today</u> : Efficiency in the use of phytosanitary products
N, P, K use efficiency	Optimization of nutrient input (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium).
Environmental Impact Quotient	Composite indicator measuring the environmental impact of agricultural practices.
Soil micro-organisms	Richness and diversity of soil microbial life. <u>Today</u> : Shannon Wiener Index, Bacterial biomass, Fungal/Bacettial biomass ratio
Soil meso-organisms	Presence and abundance of earthworms and other soil-dwelling organisms.

2.1. Milestones and deliverables

Grant recipients must submit milestones and project deliverables. For this activity the milestones are:

Milestones	Deadline
Study protocol: detailed work plan, methodology, and tools	June 2026
Data collection	/
Intermediate report	December 2026
Final report	December 2027
Physical presentation of results	February 2028

For this activity the deliverables are 1) Intermediate Report and 2) a Final Report.

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 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](#).

3. Description of Role & Profile

3.1 Role

The selected entity will:

1. Conduct methodological review and international alignment

Review of frameworks and standards (e.g., GBF Kunming-Montreal, TNFD, SBTN, EU biodiversity indicators) to define and validate KPIs relevant and adapted to the regional context.

2. Define of indicators and measurement methodology (Flora / fauna / soils / ecosystems)

For example, the following indicators could be considered:

- a. Soil life (e.g. earthworms) for farmers practicing conservation agriculture (ACS, TCS)
- b. Beneficial organisms
- c. Pollinators (for pollination in seed-producing crops)
- d. Partridges
- e. Butterflies

The indicators should be as precise as possible.

3. Pilot implementation

- a. Installation of equipment or measurement systems.
- b. Collection of data is conducted in compliance with ethical standards in place.
- c. Potential integration of innovative technologies (e.g., natural bioindicators, sensors, remote sensing).

The entity will then develop a comprehensive technical report presenting pilot results, key findings, and recommendations to enhance biodiversity within this project considering identified challenges and opportunities. These results will be shared at a sensemaking workshop with stakeholders for future policy and activities.

The selected entity must carry biodiversity monitoring activities in at least 5.000 hectares within the Navarra 360.

3.2 Profile

Navarra 360 seeks to engage a qualified organisation with proven expertise in **biodiversity assessment and monitoring in agricultural landscapes**, combining scientific robustness with operational feasibility and scalability.

The organisation should demonstrate:

1. Technical and Scientific Expertise: Proven experience in measuring biodiversity in agroecosystems, including areas such as species richness and diversity (flora and fauna), pollinator monitoring, soil health and soil biodiversity indicators, habitat quality, ecosystem connectivity, environmental DNA (eDNA), remote sensing, bioacoustics, and/or sensor-based monitoring. Familiarity with

internationally recognised biodiversity and sustainability frameworks (e.g., EU indicators, GBF, SBTN, TNFD) is expected.

2. Experience in Agricultural Contexts: Hands-on experience working with farmers and implementing biodiversity monitoring methodologies in agricultural or regenerative systems. The organisation must be able to translate scientific methods into practical, field-applicable protocols.

3. Innovation with Scalability: Capacity to design a scientifically robust pilot for a limited number of reference farms while developing a simplified, cost-efficient approach scalable to a broader group of farmers. Solutions must balance methodological rigor with economic viability.

4. Data Management and Reporting Capacity: Ability to manage multi-source datasets and deliver clear, decision-oriented reporting. Experience in developing dashboards or structured reporting tools for different stakeholder audiences is desirable.

5. Collaborative Approach: Experience working in multi-stakeholder environments and the ability to co-design solutions with project partners, ensuring adaptability to local conditions.

Preference will be given to organisations demonstrating transparent methodologies, cost awareness, and a clear pathway from pilot implementation to scaled deployment.

4. Funding

The total budget for this call is 30,000 euros. Recipient will receive a subgrant to fund their cost.

The project runs from June 2026 to February 2028. The maximum funding available for that period per application is 30,000 euros (lump sum).

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 lump sum 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.

The total lump sum contribution will be disbursed in instalments. It is conditional upon the delivery of the project deliverables mentioned above. Each deliverable is associated with proportional cost allocation and deduction rate. In cases where deliverables are not completed or only partially fulfilled, a deduction will be applied up to the amount associated with the incomplete deliverable.

Deliverable 1: Intermediate report (to be delivered in January 2027) with study protocol

- Allocated Value: 19.500€ (65% of the lump sum)

Deliverable 2: Final report (to be delivered in January 2028) with physical presentation of the results

- Allocated Value: €10.500 (35% of the lump sum)

The lump sum is intended to support a broad set of activities aligned with Horizon Europe and EIT Food priorities. It covers the following cost categories:

- **Personnel (up to €21,000):** Partial salaries for core team members engaged in the activities.
- **Other Goods & Services (up to €2000):** Specialised analytical and measurement tools (e.g. insect traps/cages). External laboratory services for biodiversity-related sample analysis.
- **Travel (up to €1,000):** Field trip to farms to data collection.
- **Indirect Costs (up to €6,000)**

4.1. Financial Sustainability

This project forms part of a co-financed portfolio implemented in partnership with corporate stakeholders committed to advancing regenerative agriculture practices.

5. Call Timeline and Application

5.1 Timeline

This funding opportunity follows the timeline below:

Call Open Date	02 March 2026
Call Deadline	02 April 2026
Evaluation	02 April – 13 April 2026
Communication to selected participants	15 April 2026
Standstill period, Onboarding, Validation and Contracting	Until 15 May 2026
Indicative start of project implementation	01 June 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 legal entities and target to mono-beneficiaries. Consortium are not eligible to apply. Please read Annex 1, in addition to the following eligibility criteria:

Organisation Eligibility	Each entity must:
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	• Be a legally incorporated entity in one of the EU or Horizon Europe eligible country listed above for a minimum of X years. • Provide a PIC Number: https://www.eitfood.eu/files/PIC-Guidance.pdf
Application Eligibility	Each application must:
	• Be complete, with all mandatory application documents uploaded. • Be submitted on time via our submission template. • 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 1 external 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.

6.2.1. Evaluation Criteria

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

Criteria	Sub criteria	Score
<i>Excellence (50%)</i>	• Experience with data integration, verification standards and monitoring of biodiversity • Familiarity with the agricultural context in Navarra/Spain • Proposed methodology and indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the 5.000 hectares within Navarra 360	1-5
<i>Quality and efficiency of the implementation (30%)</i>	• Proposed workplan and calendar • Value for money	1-5

Impact (20%)	Technical feasibility and scalability to more hectares within Navarra 360 and other regions/countries	1-5
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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 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:

1. Lump-sum subgrant agreement

Any other legal agreements to make this grant eligible.

7.3 Payment Schedule

The total lump sum contribution will be disbursed in instalments and is conditional upon the delivery of the project deliverables mentioned above. Each deliverable is associated with proportional cost allocation and deduction rate. In cases where deliverables are not completed or only partially fulfilled, a deduction will be applied up to the amount associated with the incomplete deliverable.

To prove that the activity has been successfully implemented, the following compulsory deliverables and KPIs must be submitted and approved.

	Value assigned to deliverables as percentage of total EIT Food contribution
Deliverable 1	65% of the subgrant
Deliverable 2	35% of the subgrant

Please note: the amount and timing of funding is dependent on the dispersal of funds to EIT Food from the EIT.

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 call, please contact Laura Lopez laura.lopezcortijo@eitfood.eu.

Please visit our website for any updates to this call and information about upcoming events to support your application.

ANNEX 1 – Context analysis

A contextual analysis of biodiversity across agricultural regions in Navarra has been carried out and can be useful to deep dive in the regional biodiversity context. The table below presents justification, evidence, and references that can be used to assess each area based on its impact and relevant criteria.

Biodiversity	Soil compaction	3	High compaction. Severe soil compaction problems, which hinder root development and water movement.	12
	Loss of crop diversity	3	High Diversity Loss Risk. Significant risk of crop diversity loss, with a maximum of 1 to 3 species cultivated and few varieties. The typical rainfed rotations are: Wheat-Barley-Alternative (Oats, Rapeseed or some legume: pea).	
	Habitat loss	1	Low risk of land-use change. Stable land-use patterns are observed with minimal conversion of natural habitats.	
	Pesticide leachate	2	Moderate Risk of Pesticide Leach. There is some risk of pesticide leaching, which requires greater attention to application methods and timing. A certain risk is detected in the surface water quality network.	
	Nutrient leachate	3	High risk of nutrient leaching. There is a severe risk of nutrient leaching, leading to amounts of nutrient leached into water bodies and the environment, causing eutrophication of ecosystems. Part of the region is within the zone vulnerable to nitrates, so it is considered that there is a high risk of nutrient leachate.	

- Region VI Ribera Alta

Biodiversity	Soil compaction	3	High compaction. Severe soil compaction problems, which hinder root development and water movement.	12
	Loss of crop diversity	3	High Diversity Loss Risk. Significant risk of crop diversity loss, with a maximum of 1 to 3 species cultivated and few varieties. The typical rainfed rotations are: Wheat-Barley-Alternative (Oats, Rapeseed or some legume: pea). In the case of areas under the conditions of protection of steppe birds, they must follow the restrictions of this standard, so it reduces the number of different crops in the rotation, since a year is usually left fallow between two production seasons.	
	Habitat loss	1	Low risk of land-use change. Stable land-use patterns are observed with minimal conversion of natural habitats.	
	Pesticide leachate	2	Moderate Risk of Pesticide Leach. There is some risk of pesticide leaching, which requires greater attention to application methods and timing. A certain risk is detected in the surface water quality network.	
	Nutrient leachate	3	High risk of nutrient leaching. There is a severe risk of nutrient leaching, leading to amounts of nutrient leached into water bodies and the environment, causing eutrophication of ecosystems. Part of the region is within the zone vulnerable to nitrates, so it is considered that there is a high risk of nutrient leachate.	

- Region VII Ribera Baja

Biodiversity	Soil compaction	3	High compaction. Severe soil compaction problems, which hinder root development and water movement.	12
	Loss of crop diversity	3	High Diversity Loss Risk. Significant risk of crop diversity loss, with a maximum of 1 to 3 species cultivated and few varieties. The typical rainfed rotations are: Wheat-Barley-Alternative (Oats, Rapeseed or some legume: pea). In the case of areas under the conditions of protection of steppe birds, they must follow the restrictions of this standard, so it reduces the number of different crops in the rotation, since a year is usually left fallow between two production seasons.	
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ANEXX 2 - 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.