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Request for Seedbed Implementing Participants Guidelines

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EIT FOOD

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eitfood.eu

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History of Changes

V1.0	21/11/2025	Initial version
V2.0	23/01/2026	Changes to Eligibility Criteria Changes to dates for: - Call closing - Evaluation - Applicant interviews - Decision notification dates - Project start dates

Call Fact Sheet

Title of Call	Request for Seedbed Programme Implementing Participants (2026-2028)
Objective and Scope	This call is open to established Venture Builders across Europe operating in the Food & Agriculture sectors. It will select implementing participants to work with Seedbed over the next 3 years. By participating in Seedbed, the teams in each Venture Builder's programme will become eligible to apply for subgrant funding to unlock progress towards a successful agrifood business.
Call Deadline	11 February 2026
Available Funding	525,000 euros
Project Duration	January 2026 – December 2028
How to apply	Please submit your online application, including necessary attachments via myeitfood.eu .
Contact Information	Ian Collingwood, Senior Tech Transfer and Venture Creation Manager ian.collingwood@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 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](https://eitfood.eu).

1.1 Seedbed & EIT Food's Support for Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs play a vital role in helping EIT Food achieve its Missions. In recognition of this, we have developed a set of programmes and funding mechanisms that support the creation and growth of new ventures.

Our three Entrepreneurship flagship initiatives - Seedbed, EIT Food Accelerator Network (FAN), and RisingFoodStars (RFS) - support ventures at different points in their journey, from early discovery through to market entry and international growth.

Seedbed sits right at the beginning of this - supporting projects even before a company has been incorporated, before a team has fully formed, or before the technology has been tested in a real-world setting.

Seedbed has been part of EIT Food from the very beginning, and like the food and agriculture ecosystem in Europe, it has evolved over the years - adapting to shifts in what founders need and in the types of support and resources available to them.

So, for the 2026–2028 business cycle, Seedbed is evolving. We are creating a new structure to give financial support directly to teams and projects in Venture Builder startup programmes.

Through this Request for Implementing Participants, we will select the best Venture Builder programs operating in Food & Agriculture in Europe and help their startups by awarding subgrants at crucial stages along their journey to market.

1.2 Intended Outcomes of this RFIP

Our ambition is that the selected Implementing Participants will help us make real progress towards the following systemic outcomes:

- Creating more impactful and viable European agriculture and food startups with higher survival rates
- Removing obstacles for ambitious Founders that would otherwise prevent them from succeeding

2. Adding Implementing Participants to Seedbed

EIT Food is seeking applications from Venture Builders and Venture Studios to become Implementing Participants and help us deliver a new subgrant scheme for science-based startup projects in Food & Agriculture.

Applicants to this Call need to show a deep understanding and significant experience in delivering Venture Building and/or Venture Studio programs in Europe and demonstrate they are currently running an active Venture Builder program focused on bringing Food & Agriculture innovations to market.

An annual grant of €25,000 will be given to each Implementing Participant. By becoming part of the Seedbed programme these Venture Builders will unlock up to €100,000 each year in subgrants for their startups (subject to the separate Call for Startups, outlined in Annex 1).

Only startups enrolled in Venture Builder programmes selected through this Call will be eligible to apply for subgrants. Funds awarded will be paid directly to the startup projects.

We anticipate a maximum of 7 Implementing Participants will be appointed, but we reserve the right to appoint fewer or more at our sole discretion.

Single bidder and consortium bids (with no more than 2 entities in the consortium) are acceptable.

Activities

The selected Implementing Participants will:

- Continue to run their own Venture Builder / Venture Studio programmes for the whole three years of this Seedbed programme.
- Support the identification of eligible projects from within their currently active cohorts.
- Participate in a light-touch validation process with EIT Food when projects apply for subgrants.
- Liaise with EIT Food to ensure funds are received by projects.
- Facilitate light-touch reporting on the outcomes for the project after they receive the subgrant.
- Ensure that EIT Food can remain in contact with projects for up to 3 years following a subgrant award.

Support to Startups

EIT Food will open a separate call for the startups participating in a Venture Building Programme (pre-incorporated entities). See Annex 1 for details.

We recognise that startup projects have limited resources to apply for public money, so our intention is to make this application and evaluation process as simple and lightweight as possible. Our ambition is to transfer funds to successful projects within two months - subject to relevant documentation, administrative processes and eligibility checks.

Implementing Participant Requirements

Who Should Apply

EIT Food is looking for Venture Builders (see Annex 3 - Venture Builder (VB) Profile) with a strong track record of building science-based ventures from scratch in the Food and Agriculture sector.

Applicants must:

- Be actively involved in the creation of new teams and ventures.
- Demonstrate that their programme is entirely or largely focused on projects relating to the Food and Agriculture sector.
- Demonstrate experience running multi-phase Venture Building or Venture Studio programmes where most teams are created from scratch.
- Demonstrate an ability to recruit commercial and technical co-founders from countries across Europe into their programmes.
- Show a clear programme schedule and well-defined stage-gates with established go/no-go decision criteria for each gate.
- Provide evidence of past successes, but also of failures (e.g. number of ventures formed, follow-on funding raised, IP commercialised, survival rates, in-programme attrition, common challenges).
- Show that projects have been successful in raising seed or pre-seed funding soon after they leave the programme.

- Show that they deploy expert, hands-on support to those projects that make it through the later stage gates in their program (e.g. entrepreneurs in residence, IP lawyers, finance specialists). This support should go beyond coaching and mentoring and will typically include deployment of support services or fractional staff that are paid for by the programme.
- Demonstrate evidence of significant collaboration with academic institutions and/or TTOs in the creation of startups, search and licensing of technologies and search for founders.

Note: We will only collaborate with organisations that can show they are already undertaking true Venture Building activities. We do not foresee collaborations with Incubators or Accelerators under this call.

Preferred Attributes

- Access to founder talent pools or recruitment platforms.
- Strong monitoring and reporting capabilities.
- Strong relations with relevant public or private investment entities.

Support Provided by EIT Food

Over the duration of this programme, selected Participants may have access to the following EIT Food assets:

- TeamUp: Matchmaking platform connecting technical and commercial founders.
- Global Food Venture Programme: PhD candidates interested in entrepreneurship in food systems.
- Empowering Women in Agrifood (EWA).
- Masters in Food Systems: Students with business, innovation, and food sector backgrounds.
- Corporate Venturing Network: Large industry players offering potential opportunities for pilots or challenges.
- Facilities and Piloting Infrastructure: testbeds, labs, and scale-up facilities across Europe.
- Investment team: EIT Food's own investment team and fund for agrifood ventures.
- FAN and Rising Food Stars: Seedbed's sibling programmes for ventures at later stages of development.

2.2. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

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

Code	KPI	KPI Definition
EITHE04.4	Start-ups created	Number of start-ups established based on the output(s) of the programme having financial transactions of at least 10 000 EUR for services/products sold to customers, or at least EUR 200,000 raised via private investment into start-up equity.
EITHE06	Investment attracted by KIC supported start-ups and scaleups	Total EUR amount of private and public capital attracted within year N by supported start-up/scale-ups (per country) that have received KIC business creation services support of total

		duration of at least two months, within a maximum of three years following the last received KIC support activity.
EITHE02.4	Marketed Innovations	Number of innovations introduced on the market during the KAVA duration or at the latest within 18 months from the start of the project with a sales revenue of at least 10 000 EUR documented. Innovations include new or significantly improved products (goods or services) and processes sold.

Please note: 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).

In addition to the Core EIT KPIs, the EIT Food Seedbed Programme also tracks the following internal performance indicators for each Implementing Participant (target to be set at the beginning of each year):

KPI	KPI Definition
Programme satisfaction rate	Percentage of satisfaction reported by participating projects regarding the quality and value of the VB's delivery (measured via post-programme survey).
Number of Eligible Applications Submitted per VBs/TTOs	Total number of complete and eligible subgrant applications received per VB/TTO. Used as an indicator of outreach and ecosystem engagement.

2.3. Deliverables and Milestones

Implementing Participants must submit final deliverables at the end of the implementation period and interim deliverables during implementation. For this activity the deliverables include:

- Communication, Dissemination and Outreach Plan.
- At the close of each cohort, each Venture Builder should provide a short report covering the main statistics related to the program, e.g. number of applicants to their programme, number of projects formed, rates of completion, number of companies formed, overall programme outcomes, etc.

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. Funding

The total budget for this call is €525,000 from 2026-2028. Each Venture Builder will receive €25,000 per year for their participation in this programme. The maximum funding available to any single Venture Builder over the 3-year duration of this programme is €75,000.

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](#).

In addition to the guidance provided by Horizon Europe, the proposals must comply with the following maximum threshold:

- Subcontracting can amount to a maximum of 30% of total costs.
- Participants are not permitted to give a subgrant to another third party.

4. Call Timeline and Application

4.1 Timeline

This funding opportunity follows the timeline below:

Call Open Date	2 nd December 2025
Call Deadline	11 th February 2026
Evaluation	13 th February – 9 th March 2026
Communication to selected participants	10 th March 2026
Standstill period, Onboarding, Validation and Contracting	March 2026
Indicative start of project implementation	10 April 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.

4.2 Application Submission

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

5. Eligibility, Evaluation and Selection Process

5.1 Eligibility

This call is open to all eligible Venture Builders and Venture Studios. Single applicants and consortium with no more than 2 entities are eligible. Please read Annex 1, in addition to the following eligibility criteria:

Organisation Eligibility	Each implementing participant must:
	• At least one of the consortium members must be operating as a Venture Builder/Studio since at least December 31st 2025. • Demonstrate that most projects emerging from the programme over the past two years are related to Food & Agriculture. • Demonstrate experience of successfully working with TTOs and/or RTOs as partners in search for technology, IP or as co-founders or collaborators. Details of referees, including project names and contact information are required. • Be a legally incorporated entity in one of the EU or Horizon Europe eligible country by 31st December 2025. • 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 fully written in English. • Include a budget, using the template available in the call webpage. • Be submitted on time via the official application platform, using the prescribed submission template. • Ensure compliance with EIT Food principles, including transparency, impartiality, and balanced. • Adhere to the EIT Seedbed delivery structure for the period 2026-2028.

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.

5.2 Evaluation Process

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

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.

The evaluation will happen in two phases:

1. Remote evaluation: assessment of proposals. Applications will be evaluated on the criteria defined in section 5.2.1. Those that reach the cut off level will be invited to interview/pitch sessions.
2. Online interview/pitch sessions with applicants that met the minimum cutoff level.

5.2.1. Evaluation Criteria

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

Criteria	Sub criteria	Score
<i>Excellence (35%)</i>	• Portfolio and scope of action is relevant to EIT Food Missions. • Clear and effective scouting methods. • Clear “stage gates” in the programme where underperforming projects are eliminated based on defined criteria. • Clarity and credibility of methodology, stages, milestones, and expected outputs.	1-5
<i>Impact (25%)</i>	• Number of participating teams who incorporated as a legal entity during or within 3 years of completing the programme. • Activities, policies or practices to encourage applications from, and participation by women, people who identify as LGBTQ+, people with caring responsibilities, people on low income, people with migrant/refugee status	1-5
<i>Quality and efficiency of the implementation (15%)</i>	• Adequate resources (human and financial) to achieve programme objectives. • Value for money. • Proven ability to collaborate with TTOs and/or RTOs.	1-5
<i>Strategic & portfolio fit (25%)</i>	• Alignment with EIT Food strategic focus.	1-5

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 3.0. The 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.
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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.

5.3 Appeal on Evaluation Results

Applicants can submit an appeal within 5 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](#).

6. Administrative Items

6.1 Onboarding

Entities that have never been part of projects funded by 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 to 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, 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](#).

6.2 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. **Framework Agreement**
2. **Kava Contract**

It is highly recommended that this document be signed by all members of the consortium:

Consortium Agreement. It is suggested to consider using the [DESCA](#) model as a framework for the consortium agreement.

6.3 Payment Schedule

EIT Food will transfer funding in instalments. A proportion of the Activity budget will be prefinanced, with subsequent payments being linked to the completion of deliverables, EIT label award, and accountable KPIs. The majority of the grant will be transferred at the end of the Activity, once eligible costs have been determined and following the completion of final Activity reporting and the fulfilment of all obligations specified in the Project Agreement.

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

6.4 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.

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.

6.5 Support

If you have any questions about this Request for Implementing Participants, please contact ian.collingwood@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 – Future Call for Startups

Projects/startups participating in a Seedbed Venture Builder programme will become eligible to apply for EIT Food funding. This Annex describes a future call in which those funds will be distributed.

It provides broad guidance on the Call but should not be taken as definitive because all aspects of the Call remain to be defined.

Subgrant applications will be managed under a new Call for Startups that will be published after all the selected Implementing Participants have been onboarded into Seedbed. We anticipate the Call will happen in Q1 2026 and it will only be open to projects currently participating in the Seedbed-supported Venture Builder programmes.

During our onboarding of the Implementing Participants, the Seedbed team will establish with each Venture Builder the criteria under which their projects can become eligible to apply and the number of subgrants available to each Venture Builder programme.

We expect that available funding will be approximately €25,000 per project selected, plus an additional €5,000 available to startups to spend on external coaching and expertise delivered by selected organisations. Note that these amounts may change.

We estimate that up to 16 startup projects will be supported during each year across all Implementing Participants' programmes, but this is not guaranteed and should not be considered binding.

We are working to ensure that the application process is as lightweight as possible and that the evaluations happen quickly once each cutoff period closes. Our hope is that the time between making an application and receiving funds will be two-three months for successful projects - subject to evaluation and approval processes, the responsiveness of the project team and the application's alignment with a cutoff period.

Basic eligibility criteria for the Startups call are as follows:

- Projects must not yet be legally incorporated as a company
- Projects must be currently participating in a Venture Building programme managed by an Implementing Participant appointed through this call
- Projects must submit a simple budget showing how funds will be used to achieve well-defined, near-term activities to help the team make progress.

Annex 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 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.

Annex 3 - Description of Profiles & Roles

Venture Builder (VB) Profile:

A Venture Builder creates new startups from the ground up. They may be funded publicly or privately or a mix of the two. They may operate independently, or they may be associated with other entities or institutions such as universities, TTOs, VC or Seed funds, local or regional governments, NGOs and foundations.

Among other activities, a Venture Builder identifies unmet market needs, develops and tests business ideas, recruits founding teams, and provides “hands-on” operational support across product, design, tech, marketing, finance etc.

It is important to distinguish between Venture Builders or Studios and other startup support schemes, such as incubators and accelerators. Venture Builders begin their work before a company or a team is even formed and they stay closely involved along the journey. Sometimes they act as co-founders to guide ventures through early market and product exploration, team building, initial growth and other crucial parts of the journey towards a successful startup.

As a result, they work with projects for a much longer time than an accelerator or incubator - typically 9-18 months. This deeper engagement means that the number of teams they support may be much smaller – fewer than 10 per cohort in some cases. And this number is often reduced even further as teams exit the programme due to issues in market validation, team dynamic, tech challenges and so on. A large Venture Builder may produce only 5 actual companies per cohort.

The support provided by a Venture Builder is also very “hands-on”. Many employ “Entrepreneurs in Residence” or “Venture Partners” (experienced founders and entrepreneurs) to work inside teams for a certain period as a co-founder. Some provide back-office services such as accounting, recruitment, marketing, financial planning or data analysis. Some provide access to production or test facilities as part of their offer.

The programme may be delivered in person, remotely or in hybrid format. Often Founders enter as solo individuals and are matched with each other during the earliest stages of the programme, meaning that the projects they create exist in the programme prior to formation of any company or legal entity. Only those seen as potentially viable, after being subject to several rounds of “stress-testing” will actually become companies.

A programme normally has a defined start and end date and runs for at least 9 months from initial recruitment to a project’s “graduation” or launch. It should also have very clear stage gates at which projects that are not making progress or which face irreconcilable challenges are removed.

Venture Builders applying for Seedbed must have a significant presence in one or more countries in the European Union. The teams and projects they are supporting must also be based within the European Union.

Applicants should demonstrate a portfolio of alumni projects in the AgriFood sector and a working pipeline for potential future projects, tech and talent. It is essential that Venture Builders have demonstrable experience of successful collaborations with Technology Transfer Offices, either as providers of technology (eg through negotiating IP licensing or spinout agreements), as direct collaborators (eg as “co-founders” of spinouts) or as sources of technology talent for the Venture Builder’s programme. We recognise also that there are some TTOs who actually run their own Venture Builder programmes – applications from these entities are most definitely welcome.

By assisting in the deployment of EIT Food's funds in this way, the Venture Builders will contribute towards the achievement of the EIT KPI for Startups Created. Venture Builders should demonstrate how their activities and policies align and support the achievement of these KPIs and the broader Missions and Values of EIT Food.

Venture Builder (VB) Role:

Venture Builders will play a major role in delivering this part of the Seedbed programme. They will be the source of startup and spinout projects that receive our funding. Their ability to attract, select and support the highest quality founders and projects will be crucial to enabling us to deliver on our ambitions and goals.

We will adopt a "light touch" approach to working with the selected Implementing Participants (Venture Builders). Our aim is not to steer or control their programmes but to remove financial obstacles hindering those teams who have already demonstrated progress, competence and commitment through the programme.

Over the course of the programme, Venture Builders will be expected to provide opportunities for EIT Food to connect with and get to know the projects in their cohort. This will help the projects to understand the support available to them and will help EIT Food to build and maintain strong connections with the projects and the state of the art in the Venture Building ecosystem.