Co-funded by
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Request for Polish Regenerative Agriculture Landscape (Lower Silesia)

MRV System

Implementing Participants Guidelines

IMP-23808-01

EIT FOOD

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Call Fact Sheet

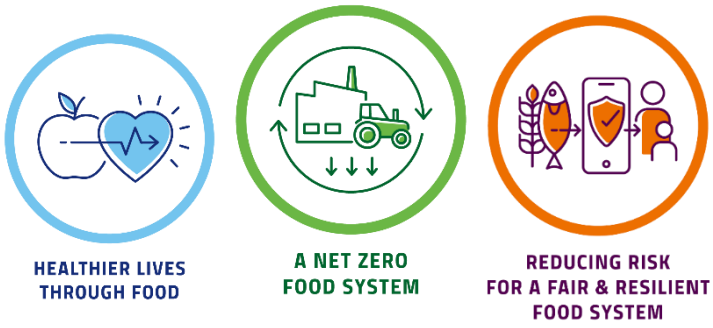
Title of Call	MRV System – Polish Regenerative Agriculture Landscape (Lower Silesia)
Objective and Scope	Seeking a consortium to deliver an MRV system for a regenerative agriculture landscape made up of four components: 1. Farm Data Management Platform 2. Carbon Accounting Methodology 3. Soil Carbon Quantification Model 4. Ongoing Technical Support
Call Deadline	3 September 2025
Available Funding	€150,000-€550,000
Project Duration	October 2025 – March 2029
How to apply	MyEITFood Portal
Contact Information	Cameron.davies@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.

Regenerative Agriculture Landscape

EIT Food, in collaboration with its partners, is initiating a Regenerative Agriculture Landscape Programme in the Lower Silesia region of Poland. This initiative aims to deliver measurable reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improve soil health, enhance biodiversity, and support farmer

wellbeing. The programme will contribute significantly to the decarbonisation of the partners' value chains through the promotion of sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices.

To support these goals, EIT Food will establish a comprehensive methodology and system for measuring and reporting progress under the landscape.

Programme Objectives and Scope

As part of its broader Regenerative Innovation Portfolio, delivered in collaboration with Food Valley NL, EIT Food is developing regenerative landscapes across Europe. This Portfolio is the flagship initiative of Food Innovation Hub Europe (FIH Europe), part of the World Economic Forum's Global Food Innovation Hubs Initiative, with the mission to unlock practical, scalable models for regenerative farming that work for farmers, ecosystems, and value chains.

The Lower Silesia initiative will focus on four key areas:

1. Supporting European farmers in transitioning to regenerative agriculture
2. Measuring and tracking progress through robust data systems
3. Partnering with agri-food companies to implement sustainable practices across the value chain
4. Communicating the health and environmental benefits of regenerative agriculture to consumers

The project will span an initial four-year period (2025-28), targeting the **2026, 2027 and 2028 harvests** with potential for extension. During its first phase, it aims to engage up to 200 farmers and cover approximately 25 ha per farm, primarily focused on four key crops: **sugar beets, malting barley, wheat and oilseed rape**.

Infrastructure and Methodology

To ensure effective delivery and impact, EIT Food will invest in a strong digital and analytical MRV infrastructure, comprising:

1. A technologically advanced **data platform** with tools for quantifying emission reductions and co-benefits like soil health, biodiversity and farmer wellbeing.
2. A tier 3 **carbon model** for accurate carbon emissions and removals
3. A comprehensive **MRV methodology** to ensure quality assurance and transparency
4. Ongoing **technical support** to ensure alignment across all elements of the MRV system.

The MRV methodology underpinning the project will align with the highest international standards. It will integrate services provided by the data platform and include a detailed technical framework for employing Tier 3 carbon models to quantify soil carbon sequestration. This methodology will form the foundation for incorporating emission reductions and carbon removals into the carbon inventories of participants. It will also support compliance with leading sustainability frameworks, including:

- **GHG Protocol (GHG-P), Land Sector and Removals Guidance (LSRG)**
- **Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi)**
- **EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)**
- **Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF)**
- **SAI Platform.**

2. Adding Implementing Participants to MRV System – Polish Regenerative Agriculture Landscape (Lower Silesia)

This EIT Food Request for Implementing Participants has the objective of recruiting a consortium tasked with implementing the MRV system for the Polish Regenerative Agriculture Landscape in Lower Silesia.

2.1. Description of Activities

The purpose of this call is to recruit the infrastructure and methodological expertise necessary to quantify greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions, carbon removals and other co-benefits like soil health, biodiversity and farmer wellbeing achieved through the transition to more sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices.

We are seeking a qualified consortium to develop and deliver the four essential components required to operationalise the Polish Regenerative Agriculture Landscape. These core activities are:

1. **Farm Data Management Platform** – A robust and scalable system for collecting, storing, and managing farm-level data relevant to regenerative practices and carbon performance.
2. **Carbon and Other Co-Benefits Accounting Methodology** – A scientifically sound, transparent, and verifiable approach to calculate GHG emissions reductions and carbon sequestration associated with practice changes as well as an approach to measure other Project benefits, incl. soil health, biodiversity, and farmer wellbeing.
3. **Soil Carbon Quantification Model** – A modelling framework capable of estimating changes in soil carbon stocks across diverse agricultural landscapes under varying management regimes.
4. **Technical Support** – An organisation providing dedicated support to align the various elements of the MRV system to ensure effective delivery and coherence according to the project's needs.

1. <u>Farm Data Management Platform</u>

The selected consortium shall provide access and user space within a digital farmer data management platform dedicated to the Regenerative Agriculture Landscape in Poland. To meet the distinct needs of its end users, the platform requirements have been organised around three primary user groups:

1. Farmers and Farmer Advisors
2. Project Partners – off-takers purchasing agricultural produce
3. Project Manager – EIT Food

Platform Requirements for Farmers

The platform will support farmers and/or their advisors in entering, storing, and analysing farm data (e.g., farm inputs, yields, and farming practices). It should function as a decision-support tool for short- and long-term planning and track alignment with regenerative agriculture principles.
Minimum Requirements:

- Intuitive, user-friendly interface
- Mobile app for in-field data entry

- Interoperability with existing agri-data systems (e.g., Farm management systems, machinery logs, fertilisation plans, sensors)
- Bilingual helpdesk (Polish and English), with the potential to adapt into additional European languages.

Platform Requirements for Off-takers

Companies will use the platform to access verified data on crop carbon intensity and removals, supporting inclusion in GHG inventory reports and demonstrating impacts on soil health, biodiversity, and farm-level outcomes.

Minimum Requirements:

- Documentation of regenerative practices
- Alignment with global standards and eligibility for Scope 3 reporting
- Integration with, or the ability to connect to, GHG quantification modules such as the Cool Farm Tool or similar
- Integration with, or the ability to connect to, carbon removal quantification models such as RothC, DNDC, Armosa, Century or similar
- Interoperability or ability to align with official EU CAP subsidies documentation
- API to connect to platforms and data systems of off-takers
- Robust data security and privacy protocols
- Compatibility, or the ability to achieve compatibility, with frameworks like SBTi, CSRD

Platform Requirements for Project Manager

The platform must enable data collection, storage, and reporting on regenerative agriculture outcomes, including GHG emissions reductions and carbon sequestration, soil health, biodiversity and farmer wellbeing.

Minimum Requirements:

- Fully functional, scalable, and secure platform
- Be operational **no more than two months** after the date of contract signing
- Ability to ensure integration with relevant third-party platforms and systems (e.g., Cool Farm Tool, SAI Platform or similar)
- Ability to incorporate regional/national baseline for different crops and cropping systems
- Ability to collect and validate carbon, soil health, biodiversity and farmer wellbeing benefits
- Role-specific user interfaces
- Offer technical support and user training in both Polish and English
- Auditable and certifiable design
- Flexibility for future updates and technology integration
- Full technical documentation and rigorous system testing

The table below presents additional technical requirements the data platform should meet:

Category	Elements	Description
Field data and agronomic aspects	Field Data collection	Process of capturing and integrating field data, including mapping and geolocation and all agronomic information from farmers.

	Availability of regen ag practices	Variety of practices related to fertilization, crop protection and soil health.
	External data	Integration of external data for agricultural management, baselining, CFT and SAI platforms.
	Administrative management	Features for document management, auditing, and certifications required for operations.
	KPIS monitoring	Tools for managing outcomes Soil health, biodiversity, water management, carbon footprint and financial impacts.
Measurement, Reporting and Verification Standards	Compatibility of data with certifications	Ensuring that collected data complies with required agricultural standards and certifications.
	Reliability of indicator calculations	Robust methods for accurately calculating indicators such as carbon sequestration, soil health, etc.
	Harmony and compatibility with Off takers standards	Inclusion of methodologies with compatible standards to assess homogeneity with third parties.
Interface & Technology	User experience	Web/app data entry. User-friendly interface enabling data input and visualization of agricultural outcomes.
	Technological development	Continuous technology updating and innovative technology to enhance functionalities.
	Data security	Security protocols and data storage location to ensure confidentiality and integrity of sensitive agricultural data.
	Data access and customization	Features enabling users to easily access relevant data and customise their display settings for different user levels.

2. Carbon and Other Co-Benefits Accounting Methodology

The implementing participant shall be responsible for developing a comprehensive methodology for quantification of GHG emissions reduction and carbon removals, as well as other co-benefits like soil health, biodiversity and farmer wellbeing, integrating the infrastructure described in Activities 1 and 3 (Farm Data Management Platform and Soil Carbon Quantification Methodology). The methodology shall be subject to third-party assessment and certification. The implementing participant will be responsible until full certification of the methodology by the third-party certification body.

The methodology shall include, at a minimum, the following components:

- Project Description and Activities: A detailed overview of the project's objectives, scope, and planned interventions.
- Methodological approach for establishing the historic baseline: The baseline should incorporate data on crops and cropping systems from publicly available sources. The baseline should ideally be established at a regional level, or national level at a bare minimum. The full scope and retrospective period of the baseline will be agreed upon with EIT Food during the inception phase.
- Description of the GHG emission and carbon quantification approach: The GHG emissions estimates shall include the sources and appropriate emission factors to be used. The consultant shall describe how they will collaborate with the data platform service provided.

The approach to quantify the carbon removals shall be developed in close cooperation with the carbon model provider.

- Description of the approach for soil health, biodiversity and farmer wellbeing: the precise parameters will be fully determined later, but the implementing participant should indicate how these will be incorporated into the methodology.
- Protocol for Farmer Data Collection: This should specify the types of data to be collected and the procedures to be followed.
- Risk Assessment:
    - Potential risks of carbon leakage
    - Potential risks of non-permanence

  This should also provide a proposal for the mitigation of the identified risks.
- Monitoring Plan: This shall include at least:
    - Methods for reporting and verification of collected data
    - Procedures for quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) of farmer-supplied input data
    - A detailed description of the methods for monitoring the farming practices. The implementing participants shall consider scalability and digitisation of MRV techniques and technologies. The implementing participants shall work in close cooperation with the data platform service provider. EIT Food and the Ongoing Technical Support will facilitate communication between relevant parties.
    - Soil Sampling Protocol: This should:
        - Be fully aligned with the project's GHG quantification approach, FAO GSOC MRV Protocol requirements and, where possible, European carbon removals certification scheme.
        - Propose stratification of the project area, a quantified number of soil samples, and a scientifically sound rationale.
        - Include requirements for the laboratory analysis of the samples.
        - Include methods and technologies for monitoring farming practices and tracking data flows through project implementation.
- The methodology shall be supported by relevant Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and technical guidelines, which are to be used consistently during project implementation.

The developed methodology shall be submitted for validation by an independent third-party auditor. The objective of the validation process is to ensure full alignment with internationally recognized standards, including but not limited to the GHG Protocol LSRG and the Carbon Removals Certification Framework (CRCF).

The implementing participants will be responsible for finalising the methodology in line with the comments provided by the third party certification body. The implementing participants shall:

- Provide timely responses to all auditor inquiries and requests for clarification
- Address and resolve all findings and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) identified in the auditor's validation report
- Revise the methodology and supporting documents to incorporate any required improvements or modifications as recommended by the auditor
- Deliver the finalised methodology accepted by the auditor.

3. Soil Carbon Quantification Model

Regenerative agricultural farming practices have the potential to enhance soil health and improve the soil's capacity to sequester carbon by increasing soil organic carbon (SOC). To validate and scale these climate benefits, precise and consistent quantification of carbon removals in agricultural soils is essential. The most well-recognised international carbon standards - including the Land Sector and Removals Guidance (LGSR) from the GHG Protocol, and Verra - mandate that soil carbon quantification be based on empirical or process-based models, in accordance with Tier 3 carbon estimation methodologies. Therefore, to ensure high integrity of carbon removal units, the selected model must align to at least the following key requirements:

- Be publicly available and peer-reviewed.
- Allow reproducibility of project simulations.
- Be validated using relevant datasets and standardised procedures.
- Comply with global and European guidance on carbon accounting.
- Deliver results with clearly defined and respected levels of accuracy.

The implementing participants shall:

- Ensure the model's outputs meet the highest standards of accuracy.
- Provide a detailed report on uncertainty levels associated with the estimations.
- Demonstrate the ability to integrate the model with project datasets using protocols, APIs, and/or structured data formats (e.g. Excel templates).

To achieve this, the implementing participants is expected to, among other requirements:

- Maintain active communication throughout the project.
- Offer expert recommendations on input data quality and integration processes.
- Support the design and execution of data integration workflows.
- Advise on the appropriate presentation and interpretation of the model outcomes.

4. Ongoing Technical Support

The Implementing participants should provide proactive leadership of the overall MRV system by supporting coordination between the implementing participants of different elements of the MRV system as well as EIT Food. This includes:

- Liaising directly between implementing participants and EIT Food
- Fielding technical queries from farmer representatives, corporates and other relevant stakeholders related to the MRV system
- Working closely with farmer advisory organisation to ensure strong alignment with MRV system and overall project. This includes confirming what is required from farmers and the advisory organisation to input into platform, model etc.
- Support with preparation of data and annual reports for corporates to meet their non-financial reporting requirements
- Lead on workshop organisation:

- At least one workshop organised no later than two weeks after contract signature bringing together the Client alongside different service providers to align on project vision, priorities and technical requirements.
- An inception report should be created following this workshop to highlight revisions to original proposals and provide the workplan and methodology outline.
- Where necessary, further workshops should be organised to maintain streamlined delivery.
- No more than two weeks before expected project closure, the Technical Support should organise a workshop to present the certified methodology document and other relevant final outcomes to the consortium.

- This work is expected to take approximately 30 hours per month.

2.2. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

All **EIT Food funded** projects should achieve relevant Core Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). These KPIs are not the specific responsibility of the implementing participants; the table below indicates outcomes EIT Food will be looking to drive through this project. For the Polish Regenerative Agriculture Landscape (Lower Silesia) MRV System, the main KPIs are:

Code	KPI	KPI Definition
EITHE06	Investment attracted by KIC-supported start-ups and scale-ups	[EITHE06.1] Investment attracted by KIC supported start-ups/scale- ups: 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 KAVA support activity.

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

The relevant implementing participants shall complete the following deliverables corresponding to their component of the MRV system:

1. **Farm Data Management Platform**

1.1 Fully functional, scalable, and secure access to the platform, **within 2 months of contract signature**.

1.2 Full technical and methodological manual related to the functionalities of the platform.

1.3 Platform support available in Polish as well as English

1.4 A comprehensive technical document detailing the complete configuration and initial deployment of the platform. The report shall include:

- System architecture and infrastructure overview
- User account configuration and role management
- Data integration procedures and external system linkages
- Security protocols and access control measures
- Testing procedures and deployment validation
- Farmer Account Deployment Plan, including the registration and activation of farm user accounts in accordance with Client's implementation schedule.

1.5 Document outlining procedures for onboarding users, user support mechanisms, and recommendations for scaling and future user growth.

1.6 Yearly reports on farm data, including information on plot accounts, data imported, and exported. Yearly reports on platform performance. Reports must be easily accessible through the platform and available for download in a user-friendly format (e.g., PDF or CSV).

2. <u>Carbon and Other Co-Benefits Accounting Methodology</u>

2.1 First draft of methodology with all relevant chapters, including outline of accounting for carbon, soil health, biodiversity and farmer wellbeing co-benefits.

2.2 Baselining of regional/national data per crop/cropping system over last ten-fifteen years

2.2 Executive summary of the draft and final versions of the methodology.

2.3 Soil Sampling Protocol.

2.4 Data collection templates and the standard operating procedures for data collection and data management.

2.5 Comprehensive responses to all findings and Corrective Action Requests issued by the auditor.

2.6 Final validated version of methodology, incorporating all auditor-required improvements.

3. <u>Soil Carbon Quantification Model</u>

3.1 Model validation report: A report confirming the model is fully established and ready for deployment in the project.

3.2 Calibration and uncertainty assessment report.

3.3 Parameter list: A comprehensive list of parameters required annually from farmers, along with a list of periodically updated parameters sourced from public databases.

3.4 Preliminary forecast: estimation of the changes in the soil carbon pool over the project lifetime with a time horizon of 15 years.

3.5 Annual SOC quantification report: Annual carbon removal quantification report per defined polygons, including the corresponding uncertainty estimates.

3.6 Comparison report: annual comparison of the annual outcomes with the forecasted values developed in the first phase.

3.7 Recalculation reports.

4. **Ongoing Technical Support**
   - 4.1 Organisation of workshops
   - 4.2 Meeting minutes and relevant materials from meetings
   - 4.3 Report at the end of Technical Support contract summarising all the project's achievements and deliverables, as well as the required next steps to move forward with the MRV system. This should be submitted after the methodology gains certification.

Grant recipients must submit final deliverables at the end of the implementation period. 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 implementing participants/consortium will be responsible for providing their components of the MRV system for as long as required within the project's duration, as outlined in sections above. They should present a realistic project plan with Gantt chart, milestones, risk matrix and mitigation of those risks. Final timelines will be confirmed during the project inception phase once all parties are in place. Implementing participants are responsible for providing the functionality and interoperability necessary to meet the deliverables listed above and contribute to the project's goals. Where necessary, this may include providing training and support to farmers, corporates and project managers on the relevant MRV component.

3.2 Profile

The implementing participant should be a consortium based in Poland or another EU or Horizon Europe associated country. They should provide a complementary team with extensive technical knowledge and experience in delivering EU projects. As well as having experience working with large-scale regenerative agriculture projects in Europe, they should demonstrate the following qualifications and capabilities:

- Experience in Regenerative Agriculture and Carbon Methodologies
  - Proven track record in designing and implementing methodologies related to regenerative agriculture or decarbonizing agricultural value chains.
  - Experience in developing carbon methodologies that have been successfully certified. Methodologies that covered Poland or similar geographies would be an advantage.
- Technical Expertise in Data Systems
  - Ability to deliver access to a robust and scalable farm management data platform capable of collecting, storing, and managing farm-level data relevant to regenerative practices and carbon performance.
  - Have a presence in Poland and/or be able to provide platform support in Polish as well as English.

- Expert Team Composition
    - A strong team of experts with demonstrated experience in executing similar projects, including the development and implementation of regenerative agriculture programs and carbon tracking systems.
    - Proven track record related to sustainability reporting, scope 3 reporting and decarbonisation of food and agricultural value chains.
- Soil Sampling and Carbon Modelling
    - Demonstrated experience in designing soil sampling strategies, particularly in Poland or comparable geographies.

4. Funding

The total budget for this call is €150,000 to €550,000. Implementing participant recipients will receive a subgrant to fund their cost.

The project runs from October 2025 to March 2029. The maximum funding available for that period per application is €550,000. The payment instalment schedule and required milestones for each element of the MRV system will be finalised following implementing participant selection.

Please note: The work may be expanded to other landscapes in different countries.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 01101912. 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 thresholds:

- Subcontracting is allowed to a maximum of 15% of the total grant requested.
- Participants are not permitted to give a subgrant to another third party.

5.1 Timeline

This funding opportunity follows the timeline below:

Call Open Date	3 July 2025
Call Deadline	3 September 2025
Evaluation	4-10 September 2025
Invitation to interviews	11 September 2025
Interviews	15-18 September 2025
Communication to selected participants	19 September 2025

Standstill period, Onboarding, Validation and Contracting	8 October
Indicative start of project implementation	8 October

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 consortia made up of legal entities experienced in regenerative agriculture projects in Europe. Please read Annex 1, in addition to the following eligibility criteria:

Consortium 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 2 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 myEITFood Portal. • 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.

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.

6.2.1. Evaluation Criteria

The implementing participant for each of the four components of the MRV system will have their submission evaluated according to the following criteria and weighting. The four scores will be added together to reach a total for the overall submission:

Criteria	Sub criteria	Score
Applicant excellence (30%)	Team expertise & track record: complementarity, role delineation, balanced expertise, EU-project delivery experience, regenerative agriculture project experience, team fit to landscape priorities CV depth	0-5
Impact (30%)	Project impact: accuracy of proposal to the request, fullness of criteria met, overall expected impact, contribution to wider regenerative agriculture and replicability	0-5
Technical quality and feasibility (20%)	Technical quality: soundness of methodology, milestones, risk matrix & mitigation, model suitability, calibration plan, uncertainty estimation, scientific rigour	0-5
Price/value for money (20%)	Value for money: efficient use of funding, impact delivered versus money spent, financial sustainability of initiatives	0-5

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 3.5. 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 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.

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 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, 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. **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.

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. 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.

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.

7.5 Support

If you have any questions about this Request for Implementing Participants, please contact cameron.davies@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 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.