

EIT Food Accelerator Network – Themes 2026

CIRCULAR SOLUTIONS FOR FOOD SYSTEMS (Helsinki Hub):

by-product & waste stream valorisation (including nutrients recovered from wastewaters) / upcycled food & feed ingredients / upstream process & feedstock optimisation / circular & sustainable food packaging

BIOTECH INGREDIENTS, PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES (Paris Hub):

cell cultivation, precision/biomass/gas fermentation, molecular farming / unsustainable crop replacers (e.g. cocoa, palm, coffee, sugar, etc.) / enablers (bioreactors, AI, omics, etc.) / clean label solutions / targeted nutrition (e.g. GLP-1, longevity, children, sports, etc.)

FUTURE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE (Warsaw Hub):

soil health and regenerative systems / climate-resilient crops and genetic innovations / natural crop protection / bioinputs / carbon, nitrogen and nutrient-efficient farming / monitoring biodiversity (all topics include AI / digital / smart tools)

SMART AND LOW-CARBON SUPPLY CHAINS (Munich Hub):

optimising crop processing and storage / advanced tracking, tracing and predictive models / reducing food loss across the supply chain / precision measurement, reporting and verification / resilient & decentralized food networks

DIGITAL AND AUTONOMOUS FARMING SOLUTIONS (Wageningen Hub):

AI-driven farm management and decision intelligence / autonomous machinery, robotics and drones (non-water) / farm data infrastructure, IoT and interoperability / digital twins, virtual farms and simulation tools / automation for controlled environments and livestock / cybersecurity for farm systems

WATER-SMART AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS (Catania Hub):

precision irrigation and real-time water management / soil-water retention and drought-resilient water management / circular water use and on-farm recycling / water governance, modelling and risk decision support / water governance, modelling and risk decision support / water-efficient food processing / wastewater valorisation for food-grade applications

1. Paris Hub — New Ingredients & Bioprocessing

Core focus

Creation of *new* ingredients through advanced biological and bioprocessing technologies.

In scope

Next-generation ingredient production

- cell cultivation
- precision/biomass/gas fermentation
- molecular farming

Sustainable replacements for unsustainable or at-risk crops

- Unsustainable crop replacers (e.g. cocoa, palm, coffee, sugar, etc.)

Bioprocessing enablers

- Bioreactors, downstream processing
- AI, data & omics for process optimisation

Additive replacement & functional reformulation

- Bio-based alternatives to synthetic additives
- Clean label solutions

Nutrition-driven ingredients

- Targeted nutrition (e.g. GLP-1, longevity, children, sports, etc.)

2. Helsinki Hub — Circular Solutions for Food Systems

Core focus

Turning side streams and waste into high-value food, feed, and packaging inputs.

In scope

By-product & waste stream valorisation

- Nutrient recovery
- Extraction of high-value compounds

Upcycled food & feed ingredients

- Ingredients derived directly from side streams

Upstream process & feedstock optimisation

- Low-energy extraction
- Yield-maximising pre-processing
- Circular process design

Circular & Sustainable food packaging

- Biobased & compostable materials
- Reusable/refill systems

3. Wageningen Hub — Digital & Autonomous Farming Solutions

Core focus

Digital, autonomous, and AI-driven systems for farm operations (excluding soil biology and water).

In scope

AI-driven precision farming & decision intelligence

- Yield, pest, phenology, risk forecasting
- Farm management systems & decision support

Autonomous machinery, robotics & drones

- Planting, weeding, spraying, harvesting
- Livestock automation

Farm data infrastructure

IoT, edge computing
Interoperability & APIs

Digital twins & virtual farms

Operational planning & scenario modelling

Automation for greenhouses & livestock

Climate control (non-irrigation)
Welfare & behaviour analytics
Cybersecurity for farm systems

4. Warsaw Hub — Future-Resilient Agriculture

Core focus:

On-farm biological, ecological, and genetic resilience before the supply chain.

In scope

Soil health & regenerative systems

Soil microbiome analytics
Carbon restoration
Regen tools (incl. AI/digital when soil-centric)

Climate-resilient crops & genetic innovations

Heat/salt tolerant varieties
Stress-resilient breeding tools
Climate-adaptive cropping systems (non-irrigation)

Bio-inputs & natural crop protection

Biostimulants, biofertilisers
Biological pest & disease control

Carbon, Nitrogen and Nutrient-efficient farming

Nitrogen & nutrient-use efficiency
Low-input fertilisation systems

Monitoring Biodiversity

Decision-Support & Predictive Models

Precision Habitat & Crop System Design
Biodiversity Metrics, Valuation & Credits
Integrated Biodiversity Data Infrastructure

5. Munich Hub — Smart and Low-Carbon Supply Chains

Core focus

Post-farm, pre-consumer systems that cut Scope 3 emissions and food loss.

In scope

Predictive & Data-Driven Supply Chains

- Predictive models for spoilage, quality degradation, and shelf-life during transport and storage
- AI-based demand forecasting and inventory optimisation
- Digital twins of logistics networks, storage facilities, and distribution systems
- Route planning and transport optimisation using climate and weather risk data
- Real-time supply-chain visibility and deviation alerts (e.g. cold-chain failures)

Food Safety, Quality & Loss Reduction

- Spoilage reduction tools (temperature, humidity, atmosphere management)
- Real-time quality monitoring in logistics and storage
- Intelligent cold-chain monitoring and spoilage prediction
- Smart inventory management to avoid expiration-driven waste
- B2B surplus redistribution and recovery platforms
- Shelf-life extension through process and handling innovations (not packaging)

Resilient & Distributed Supply-Chain Networks

- Climate- and geopolitics-informed risk modelling for logistics and distribution
- Supply disruption analytics and early-warning systems
- Resilience analytics for storage, transport, and distribution infrastructure
- Distributed and flexible logistics and storage strategies (not production)

Sustainable, Low-Carbon & Resource-Efficient Logistics

- Energy-efficient processing (cleaning, drying, grading)
- Optimised post-harvest storage (silos, warehouses, cold storage)
- Low-emission logistics and routing optimisation
- GHG emissions accounting for transport, storage, and processing

Carbon footprint measurement, reduction, and verification tools
Environmental performance dashboards for logistics and processing operators

Compliance, Transparency & ESG Alignment across Supply Chains

Ingredient and batch traceability (interoperable data systems, blockchain where relevant)

Automated sustainability and ESG reporting for supply-chain actors

Verification of carbon footprints for logistics, storage, and processing

Compliance automation for EU food, sustainability, and traceability regulations

Resilient & Decentralized Food Networks

Building shorter, diversified supply chains (decentralized supply chains)

Food Sovereignty & Security Innovations

Risk analyses for climate extremes and geopolitical events (risk modelling & monitoring)

6. Catania Hub — Water-Smart Agrifood Systems

Core focus

Water efficiency and governance across farms and food processing.

In scope

Precision irrigation & real-time water management

Soil-Water Retention & Drought-Resilient Water Management

Hydrogels, mulches, non-genetic tools

Circular water use & on-farm recycling

Runoff capture

Greenhouse recycling

Farm wastewater reuse

Water Governance, Modelling & Risk Decision Support

Water budgeting

Allocation & compliance tools

Water-efficient food processing

Washing, cooling, blanching optimisation
Closed-loop systems

Wastewater valorisation for food grade applications

Nutrient & compound recovery from processing water