

Call for Funding Proposals: Cutting-edge research and innovation with high potentials for a sustainable agri-food system

Theme: *AgriFoodTure recognizes the need for cutting-edge research and innovation, signifying a paradigm shift towards groundbreaking transformations in the agri-food system. This call is for funding proposals with a profound and potentially high impact, and where project partnerships challenge existing norms through introducing novel technologies, processes, or business models.*

The AgriFoodTure partnership announces a call for proposals under the theme "Cutting-edge research and innovation with high potential for a sustainable agri-food system". AgriFoodTure invites ambitious research and innovation projects that align with the mission and roadmap.

Projects must have a renewed and strong focus on accelerating research and innovation and implementing solutions and products to achieve the ambitious mission goals regarding climate, environment, and biodiversity, while also securing the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of the agricultural and food sector.

Key Information

- Application Deadline: October 8, 2024, at 12 noon CEST
- Project duration: 1-2 years
- Total budget for this call: Minimum 15 MDKK
- Investment per project: 2-3 MDKK
- TRL: 1-9
- Investment cannot be granted to fund or part-fund PhD students.

1. About the AgriFoodTure Partnership

The vision of the AgriFoodTure partnership is to position Denmark as the leading country in the innovative and disruptive green transition of agriculture and food production. AgriFoodTure aims to empower a new generation of green solutions and export opportunities accommodating climate, environment, and biodiversity, while safeguarding both food production and employment.

The ambition of AgriFoodTure is to initiate projects and attract funding for a green transition of the Danish agri-food system over the coming years. In April 2022, Innovation Fund Denmark granted DKK 201 million to the AgriFoodTure partnership. The first DKK 126 million has already been invested in 18 approved projects. The AgriFoodTure partnership and Innovation Fund Denmark are now launching a call for investment of the third pool of projects.

Background

The goal of the Danish agriculture and food sector is to become climate neutral in 2050. Today, 35% of Denmark's total greenhouse gas emissions comes from this sector. The green transition of

the agricultural sector and associated food production value chains will be a large and complex task, which can only be solved in partnerships and with broad societal support.

The ambition of the AgriFoodTure partnership is to be the platform for initiating new projects and private public collaborations with actors from the entire value chain to flourish and accelerate the green transition.

The AgriFoodTure partnership consists of close to 70 partners across national and international universities, knowledge institutions, companies, and civil society with green ambitions for transforming the agriculture sector and food production in Denmark. A broad partnership with interdisciplinary collaboration is AgriFoodTure's DNA and the cornerstone in driving the green transition. The foundation and driving force behind the AgriFoodTure partnership is a [roadmap](#) with contributions from almost 300 researchers from all Danish universities, knowledge institutions, and industries.

The partnership goals are to secure impact by creating the potential for the sector to deliver on the overall mission goals:

- **Contribute to achieve the target of 70% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Denmark by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050.**
- **Protect the environment.**
- **Support nature and biodiversity.**
- **Contribute to increased competitiveness of Danish business and industry.**

2. What is Called For

The AgriFoodTure partnership seeks ambitious, research and innovation projects within all topics and areas described in the [AgriFoodTure roadmap](#).

To reach the ambitious mission goals and solve complex challenges, there is a need for cutting-edge research and innovation projects, and disruptive technologies and business models. New approaches, structures, and norms are needed to maximize benefits and mitigate risks. On the funding side, an accommodating structure for this type of research and innovation is a so called 'sandbox' call for funding.

The 'sandbox' approach embraces a high-risk, high-gain strategy for funding. This is particularly suitable for fostering research and innovation, especially when academia or industry may be uncertain about the outcomes or the technologies they want to leverage, lack clarity of their needs, or are unsure of the value of a solution or implementation, making it difficult to formulate a realistic business case.

Key Focus Areas

Projects can be within all research and innovation topics in the AgriFoodTure roadmap, and they may address all relevant impact categories, i.e., climate, environment, and biodiversity.

Project applications must have a thorough description of the likely impact on any of the partnership and roadmap goals. Projects can be either research based, innovation or of practical character. The focus is on “new ideas” and “good ideas”.

3. Who Can Apply

Companies, research institutions, public institutions, and civil society organizations in or outside Denmark and directly involved in the project activities are eligible to apply, participate and receive funding. The lead applicant must hold a Danish CVR number.

To be considered, a project should consist of partners that are active participants in both the design of the project, the realization of the project and the active implementation of the results from the project. Relevant collaborations across companies, research institutions, public institutions, and civil society organizations must also be striven for.

Please note, there is parallel to this call, also a call for *Social Solutions for Sustainable Agri-Food Systems* with a focus on social sciences and humanities (SSH) as a cross-cutting issue for accelerating implementation of climate solutions and transition to sustainable agri-food systems towards 2030 and 2050.

4. What Can Be Applied For

The funding rules follows the Innovation Fund Denmark rules for investment in Grand Solutions¹ ([Guidelines for Grand Solutions Innomission Partnerships](#) and [General Terms and Conditions for Grand Solutions](#)). Examples include co-financing of salaries and other expenses directly linked to project implementation.

5. What Are the Criteria

Projects must be related to the [AgriFoodTure roadmap](#) and provide details on their link to the roadmap in the application.

Projects should exhibit significant potential to create impact, whether in the short or long term, aligned with the mission.

As a mission-driven partnership, AgriFoodTure emphasizes the importance of not only achieving project goals but also effectively communicating the outcomes and the overarching mission. Therefore, all projects are asked to include in their budget a modest allocation for the dissemination of results and the promotion of the mission throughout the project period. This should include the creation and dissemination of communication materials such as videos, podcasts, social media posts, or similar efforts. The budget item should not be substantial but

¹ General Terms and Conditions – consist of the AgriFoodTure investment agreement, the AgriFoodTure partner agreement and an adaptation of Innovation Fund Denmark’s guidelines “Guidelines for Grand Solutions and Innomission Partnerships”, published August 20th 2021.

should be sufficient to ensure that the project's achievements and the mission's narrative are effectively communicated to relevant stakeholders.

The AgriFoodTure partnership does not accept applications where a successful outcome is dependent on receiving additional funding for further research and development from AgriFoodTure (e.g., projects that involve financing in multiple phases to create results).

6. Important Dates

- Call opens: July 4, 2024
- Call opens in Filkassen: July 4, 2024
- Deadline for application: October 8, 2024, at 12 noon CEST
- Expected response date: January 2025
- Expected earliest launch date: April 2025

7. Evaluation Criteria

First and foremost, the project applied for must fit within the [AgriFoodTure roadmap](#) and with one or more of the tracks. Applicants are asked to indicate which track the project mainly regards. The evaluation criteria are described in detail in the "Assessment Criteria - Cutting-edge research and innovation with high potentials for a sustainable agri-food system". Criteria in brief:

- 1) Quality of the idea
- 2) Impact
- 3) Quality of execution
- 4) Strategic fit to the AgriFoodTure roadmap and mission

8. Evaluation Process

AgriFoodTure is using the Filkassen-system, managed by Innovation Fund Denmark for the purpose of this call. Applications must be submitted via [Filkassen](#). The call and Filkassen opens on July 4, 2024. Please note that applicants will receive a receipt for submitting the application.

The evaluation process is described in detail in the [Innovation Fund Denmark Grand Solutions Guidelines](#) and "Process for Investment_Cutting-edge research and innovation with high potentials for a sustainable agri-food system" and briefly outlined below.

A scientific/technical assessment will be carried out on each application by an international panel from the EUREKA expert database. Applicants will receive the EUREKA evaluation via the Filkassen submission system and be invited to submit their response via Filkassen. Projects will be evaluated by the AgriFoodTure Board of Directors, Advisory Panel and Mission Director.

When making the final decision on which projects will receive funding, the Board of Directors will consider the alignment of the project's objectives with the AgriFoodTure mission, its contribution to

roadmap impact and strategic priorities, and its fit within the overall portfolio of projects and initiatives.

After evaluation, applicants are notified of the decision via e-mail from the AgriFoodTure secretariat. Complaints regarding the submission or evaluation process must be addressed to Innovation Fund Denmark. After an application has been approved the application will enter into investment negotiations.

It is expected that the project applications will receive either invitation for investment negotiations or rejection of application in January 2025, after which the investment negotiations can be initiated with an expected project start in April 2025.

9. Guidance and Inspiration

Applicants must refer to various documents, including:

- Process for Investment_Cutting-edge research and innovation with high potentials for a sustainable agri-food system
- Calltext_AgriFoodTure Cutting-edge research and innovation with high potentials for a sustainable agri-food system
- Assessment Criteria_Cutting-edge research and innovation with high potentials for a sustainable agri-food system
- Innovation Fund Denmark's [Guidelines for Grand Solutions and Innomission partnerships](#)
- A Q&A session will be held on:
 - July 9, 2024 at 8:00-09:00 am CEST. Sign up here: [Q&A Session Webinar July](#)
 - August 16, 2024 at 8:00-09:00 am CEST. Sign up here: [Q&A Session Webinar August](#)

10. Contact Info

For questions, please contact:

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