



AGRIFOOD

4Future

Open Innovation Test Farm Program

Rules and regulations



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Abstract

This document serves as a comprehensive guide for all start-ups and companies involved in the Open Innovation Test Farm Program, outlining the rules, procedures, and organization necessary for successful execution.

The open innovation test farm program aims to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector by providing support to startups and innovators. To ensure the smooth functioning of the program and the achievement of its objectives, it is essential for all participants to adhere to the guidelines outlined herein.

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1 Overview of the program

The Erasmus + AgriFood4Future project aims to develop vocational training skills and educational programmes that meet the needs of the "agriculture of the future" by contributing to the transformation of agri-food sector towards digitalisation, decarbonization and sustainability. The open innovation test farm program brings together companies developing sustainable technologies and AF4F project partners offering real-life test platforms and knowledge exchange to assess and improve the technologies.

The Open Innovation Test Farm Program contributes to the assessment and the enhancement of digital innovations that will enable the development of efficient, precise, competitive, and environmentally respectful agriculture. New ideas and agricultural innovations are tested, developed, and shared to meet farmers' needs in the face of evolving agricultural challenges. This approach involves open exchange of knowledge, data, and ideas, thus promoting the creation and adoption of new agricultural practices while respecting intellectual property and confidentiality rules, especially regarding specific research results or developed technologies.

2 Program Structure

2.1. Identification of Test Farm Network: Tailored Approach

The program recognizes the diversity of agricultural landscapes, challenges, and opportunities in each participating country. To address specific needs, the program will be tailored to local contexts, particularly in terms of training materials, resources, and support mechanisms.

The program relies on a network of carefully selected test farms across different participating countries. These farms have been chosen considering geographic diversity, agricultural practices, and access to resources. Each participating country has at least one test farm for the program.

2.1 Application Process

A clear and compelling call for startups that outlines the program objectives, application process, and timeline will be available on the Project website. The program will be promoted through various communication channels, including social media platforms, industry networks, and strategic partnerships. Participants have to apply through the Project website.

2.2 Eligibility Criteria

This program aims to provide startups, Students and SMEs with access to test farms across Europe, allowing them to validate their concepts in real-world agricultural settings, offering them guidance, resources, and support to help them navigate the challenges of bringing their ideas to market.

For all the participants, to be considered eligible for the programme, they must:

- Have a technology, product or service that can be tested in real-world agricultural settings with a Technology Readiness Level of 4-5 at least
- Be a resident, citizen or legal entity based in a EU Member State or Associated Country;
- Submit a fully completed application in English through the online form (LINK - in construction) by the May 30th 2025 including all requested documents and information;
- Accept to collaborate with agricultural organizations and research institutions in order to test a technology, product or service;
- Accept the program rules and regulations;
- Sign a NDA (Non Disclosure Agreement) with the evaluating organization;
- None of the Exclusion Criteria must apply to the applicant;
- Only applications meeting the eligibility criteria will be evaluated by the reviewers.

Exclusion criteria

Applicants may face exclusion if they, or those receiving the benefits:

- Have undergone administrative sanctions such as exclusion or financial penalties. These are in specific situations, which may vary based on applicable laws. These situations include being bankrupt, undergoing insolvency or winding-up procedures, having affairs administered by a liquidator or the courts, entering arrangements with creditors, suspending business activities, or being subject to similar legal proceedings.
- Have been declared in breach of social security or tax obligations through a final judgment or decision. This also applies to individuals or entities found guilty of serious professional misconduct, violating laws or ethical standards, with the misconduct reflecting wrongful intent or gross negligence.

- Have been convicted of offenses like fraud, corruption, involvement in criminal organizations, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes, child labor, or human trafficking. This extends to individuals in key roles within the organization.
- Have, through a final judgment or administrative decision, been established to have created an entity in a different jurisdiction to evade fiscal, social, or other legal obligations in the jurisdiction of its registered office. This also applies if an entity has been created with such intent. Again, this includes individuals in key roles within the organization.

2.3 Selection Process

The startups interested in participating in this programme will have the opportunity to choose one of the available Test Farms. The selection of a test farm will be depending on its location and resources.

Each country establishes a selection committee composed of relevant stakeholders to review and evaluate applications from interested participants.

Based on the evaluation criteria, Program organizers select innovators that demonstrate the greatest potential for success and alignment with program objectives. Each responsible will notify selected applicants of their acceptance into the program and provide them with additional information about next steps and program requirements.

Once selected, participants will be contacted by the program organizer to finalize contractual agreements and confirm their participation in the program. Program organizers should coordinate with test farm owners or managers to schedule and organize testing activities, including logistics, resource allocation, and support services.

2.4 Program Implementation

During the test farm implementation phase, the following steps are undertaken:

2.4.1 Understanding of Tested Innovation:

Program organizers need to ensure that they have a thorough understanding of the innovation being tested, including its technical specifications, intended outcomes, and potential benefits. This understanding is crucial to specify the evaluation criteria to each innovation. The innovation owner must provide the required information to the experts in order to specify and customize the evaluation test.

Program experts can organize training sessions to familiarize participants with the test farm environment, program expectations, and relevant protocols if needed.

They can also provide ongoing guidance, mentorship, and technical assistance to help startups develop and implement their innovative solutions on the test farms. All the consortium

members can be involved to assign experienced mentors or subject matter experts to support startups throughout the testing process and address any challenges or obstacles they may encounter.

2.5 Program Evaluation

To ensure the success of the evaluation test, experts will clearly define the objectives and goals of the testing phase, including specific metrics and criteria for success. Testing activities should be aligned with program objectives and desired outcomes to ensure meaningful results and actionable insights.

They will develop a robust methodology and protocol for conducting tests, collecting data, and evaluating the performance of tested solutions. The performance of tested solutions will be monitored by the program experts throughout the testing period to assess their effectiveness, efficiency, and scalability. Program experts will collect and analyze data collected during testing activities to generate comprehensive reports on the evaluated innovations. A summary of the key findings, observations, and recommendations will be provided to inform decision-making and program improvement efforts. The owner of the innovation must agree to make the technology tested by partner experts and to provide the necessary information to the experts. Participants in this program may attend the tests if they wish.

A demo day will be organized in different testing farms to serve as a platform for participants to present their solutions, findings, and achievements to a wider audience.

3 Program Rules

3.1 Program Focus Areas

The program is open to technological solutions around the following main pillars:

Tactical management of agricultural production: Digital solutions and decision support tools based on sensors and IoT technologies aimed at helping farmers to drive decisions and make the best decisions for production at any given time.

The digitization of agricultural equipment: ICT-based and precision agriculture solutions and robotics

Strategic management of the farm: Digital solutions that help drive farmers' strategic investments for the future by optimizing the management of multi-year data, organization of work and market prices.

Data enhancement and data sharing: Solutions focused on bringing new sources of reliable and real-time data for farmers towards improvements in responsiveness and efficiency of

farmers operations, while enabling sharing of data for improvement of the whole value chain and ecosystem.

Green Transition : Sustainable agriculture, regenerative farming, and eco-friendly resource management.

Business Sustainability : Circular economy models, responsible supply chains, and low-carbon operations.

Resilience & Sustainable Food Systems : Climate-resilient crops, alternative proteins, and food waste reduction.

3.2 Intellectual Property Rights

Throughout the program, the AGRIFOOD4FUTURE consortium partners involved in this activity will collect information regarding institutions and individuals. Such information will be treated in compliance with applicable clauses of GDPR. Informed consent from participants is crucial, with transparent communication about the use of collected data and participants' rights regarding privacy and data protection.

Regarding intellectual property, clear agreements are established between stakeholders to determine the ownership and use of test results, inventions, or discoveries resulting from the program. These agreements aim to ensure intellectual property rights while fostering transparency and trust among involved parties. These agreements will be discussed during the selection process , prior to the implementation phase. The agreements can be customized according to each partner and participant. In all cases, the participant is the only owner of the solution. The program allows them only to receive valuable feedback helping them refine their offerings.

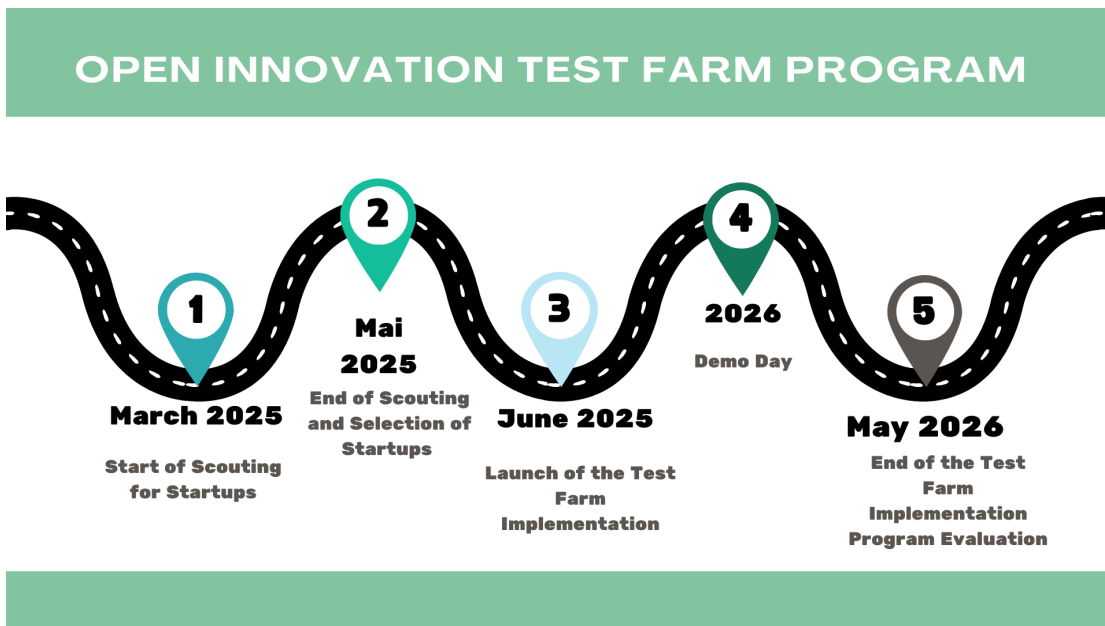
3.3 Image Permission

By agreeing with this rules and regulations document the participants hereby declare, in compliance with prevailing legislation and without prejudice to any rights of honor, privacy, and self-image, their explicit authorization for the utilization, by any means and in any available format, of photographs, videos, and all forms of imagery captured during the ERASMUS+ AGRIFOOD4FUTURE Open Innovation Test Farm Program and events. The participants grant permission for the ERASMUS+ AGRIFOOD4FUTURE consortium and any associated entities, to utilize such materials for institutional dissemination across various platforms and mediums. This includes but is not limited to photographs, illustrations, videos, animations, pamphlets, websites, social networks, advertising, and all materials produced for the purpose of information and dissemination related to the AGRIFOOD4FUTURE Open Innovation Test Farm Program. This authorization is provided free of charge or any compensation requirement. The rights outlined herein may be exercised on one or multiple occasions, anywhere, utilizing any known or future technical means, without the necessity of prior authorization or entitlement to additional compensation.

3.4 Financial Information

The program does not provide direct funding for participation. However, individual partners may, at their discretion and subject to their available budget, choose to cover certain costs associated with participation. Participants should not assume any costs will be covered and should consult with their specific partner organization regarding any potential financial support.

4 Timeline



Contacts:

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