

CALL

ROUND 20

26

# PLANT2FOOD GUIDELINES FOR FUNDING FUNDING CALL 2026



SUPPORTED BY THE NOVO NORDISK FOUNDATION

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These guidelines describe the process for the 2026 call round in Plant2Food.

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# THE PLANT2FOOD PLATFORM

Plant2Food is a 6-year (2026-2031) funding and research programme. It offers a collaboration platform for researchers and companies who want to collaborate in precompetitive research projects to solve some of the complex problems of developing tasty, nutritious, and sustainable plant-based foods.

**Plant2Food will accelerate the transition to more sustainable, plant-based foods, which are healthy for both the planet and its population, by building a leading hub for plant-based foods research and innovation.**

The Novo Nordisk Foundation (NNF) has awarded Plant2Food up to 150 M DKK to further facilitate co-creation of novel research projects and provide funding for the academic component of joint initiatives between academia and industry partners from the AgriFood Sector.

Plant2Food is an Open Innovation in Science platform focusing on open research collaboration. This means that the universities and companies joining the platform agree to publish all results from the open research projects as soon as possible and waive any claim to intellectual property rights.

The ongoing sharing of results and knowledge will enable researchers and companies to accelerate in-novation/development activities and the transition towards a more plant-based diet. As no one can patent the foreground knowledge and open results from the projects, anyone is free to further develop the results and potentially use them for downstream innovation.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding these Guidelines, the matchmaking, ideation or application process, you are always welcome to contact the Plant2Food secretariat:

✉ Plant2Food@au.dk

Plant2Food Ny  
Munkegade 116  
8000 Aarhus C  
Denmark

Guidelines 2026  
Plant2Food is sponsored by the Novo Nordisk Foundation

# THE 2026 CALL ROUND

## A 3-STEP APPLICATION PROCESS

The 2026 call round consists of three steps.

1. Post (or join) a project idea, challenge, or resource on WorldLabs
2. Submit an Abstract
3. Submit a full-length application (by invitation only)

## 3 GRANT TYPES

You can apply for three different grant types. Each has its own criteria for max. budget, length, and project participants.

## AVAILABLE FUNDING

A min. of 34 M DKK is available for funding in the 2026 call round.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

Main applicant must be in a time-unlimited contract from one of the four partner universities; Aarhus University, University of Copenhagen, Technical University of Denmark or Wageningen University & Research. Project teams must consist of both academic and industrial representatives.

## PRIORITISED CROPS

In this call round, special priority is given to the crops; fava beans, rapeseed and potatoes.

## NECESSARY TEMPLATES

All necessary templates are available for download from the Plant2Food [webpage](#) and [WorldLabs](#).

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2026 CALL ROUND

**10 APR**

13:00-14:00 - Online  
Information meeting

**28 MAY**

15:00-17:00 - Online  
Workshop

**17 AUG**

12:00 (Noon)  
Full-length application

**23 APR**

9:00-11:00 - Online  
Post an idea-workshop

**5 JUN**

Contact Business  
Developer

**2 OCT** DEADLINE  
(By invitation only)

12:00 (Noon)  
Full-length application

**30 APR** DEADLINE

12:00 (Noon)  
Post project idea on WorldLabs

**19 JUN** DEADLINE

12:00 (Noon)  
Abstract application

**ULT. DEC.**

Decision letters to applicants

# SCIENTIFIC SCOPE

Plant2Food facilitates and supports precompetitive and interdisciplinary research projects that are inspired by industry needs, challenges, and ideas.

The aim is to build a collaborative ecosystem of academic, knowledge-, research-, and technology organizations as well as industry stakeholders that can co-create projects within plant and food sciences.

Together, the stakeholders will develop shared research projects and a public knowledge base that will lead to an increased consumption of tasty, nutritious, and sustainable plant-based foods.

## THE MAIN RESEARCH AREAS WITHIN THE PLANT2FOOD SCOPE:

### PLANT RAW MATERIAL

Project proposals in this domain must target the needs of later stages in the value chain, e.g., in relation to food quality parameters, such as nutrition, functionality, processing- and sensory qualities, and may include:

- Addressing effects of crop genotype, environment, and management interactions on food quality parameters.
- Linking specific plant genes, metabolites, and proteins to food quality parameters.
- Genetic improvement of crop traits related to food quality parameters.

### REFINERY & PROCESSING

Project proposals in this domain must deliver knowledge and technological solutions that optimize the nutritional, functional and sensory qualities of plant raw materials towards high food quality, and may include:

- New, improved or more gentle production routes for both primary and secondary processing and bioprocessing.
- Understanding and development of new technologies and methods to improve the nutritional, functional, and sensory qualities of plant raw materials for plant-based foods.
- Routes to valorise underutilised resources from primary or secondary production side streams.

### FOOD & HEALTH

Project proposals in this domain should deliver new insights that are broadly applicable, rather than focusing on improving specific products. Focus is on knowledge related to safety, toxicity, bioavailability, and shelf-life of plant-based raw material and foods, and may include:

- Improving safety and shelf-stability aspects of plant-based proteins and foods.
- Characterizing and improving bioavailability of macro- and micronutrients.
- Assessing and improving nutritional and health credentials of plant-based foods.

# SCIENTIFIC SCOPE CONTINUED

## FOCUS ON TERRESTRIAL CROPS, PRODUCTION, AND FOOD APPLICATIONS

Plant2Food focuses on plant raw material from terrestrial crops of temperate climate, e.g., cereals, grain legumes, vegetables, fruits, berries, nuts, seeds, fungi, and oil crops with priority given to fava beans, rapeseed and potatoes.

Their use may be for either direct consumption, raw materials, ingredients, foods, or drinks. Seaweed and mi-croalgae can be included as plant raw material in Plant2Food projects to a limited extent, but the main focus must always be on terrestrial crops. Plant production using e.g. controlled-environment agriculture (CEA), including vertical farming, greenhouse production, and indoor agriculture, is within scope. Results from Plant2Food projects can have many potential food applications and for example be used by food manufacturers in combination with animal sources (hybrid products), but the main purpose of such projects cannot be the design of plant-based components for hybrid products.

## PLANT2FOOD DOES NOT SUPPORT PROJECTS WITHIN

- Feed
- Livestock
- Dairy
- Insects
- Artificial meat/cell-based meat
- Precision fermentation
- Marine aquaculture

## INCLUSION OF THE ENTIRE VALUE CHAIN

While pure social science projects (e.g. consumer behavior) are not in scope, projects should strive to involve all relevant stakeholders. For larger projects in particular, social science elements can add significant value in e.g. identifying bottlenecks for market uptake of new types of foods. Where appropriate, primary producers and end-users should be involved in project execution to ensure that ultimate products and solutions will be accepted and implemented.

It is not a goal or quality in itself to involve the entire value chain. The involvement should be based on relevance to the suggested research.

## FOCUS ON INNOVATION AND CO-CREATION

Strong collaborations between industry and academia are core values at Plant2Food.

Projects should strive to emphasize how the project is a result of co-creation between researchers and company representatives - e.g. by solving a particular industry problem. Moreover, projects should emphasize how the project is innovative and can lead to short and/or long term innovation and value for not only the involved industry partner(s), but to a wider audience.

# GRANT TYPES

## GRANT TYPES

Applicants can apply for three different grant types. Please note that each grant type has its own entry (Opportunity) on WorldLabs. Please make sure that you submit your Abstract or Full-length application in the right Opportunity.

However, if the project idea, methodology and consortium develops in the time period between abstract and full-length application deadlines to such an extent that it fits better within a different Grant Type, the applicant invited to submit a full length application is free to submit the full-length application within a different Grant Type. Please consult the Plant2Food Secretariat before a potential switch.

Access the application entry (Opportunity) on WorldLabs [here](#).

# 1

Medium or larger inter-disciplinary projects addressing complex research problems – often across several links/projects, partners in the value chain.

**Team:**  
Min. 2 partner universities and 2 companies.

**Max. length:**  
5 years.

**Max. budget:**  
10 M DKK.

# 2

Short projects that set out to demonstrate e.g. feasibility, high-risk/high-gain projects.

**Team:**  
Min. 1 partner university and 1 company.

**Max. length:**  
2 years.

**Max. budget:**  
2.5 M DKK.

# 3

Top-up funding to:  
1) prolong or add a work package to already funded Plant2Food projects  
2) expand any existing Plant2Food grant with new partners, or  
3) allow non-Plant2Food research projects to add an open science extension or addition.

**Team:**  
Min. 1 partner university and 1 company.

**Max. length:**  
2 years.

**Max. budget:**  
3 M DKK.

# PRE-COMPETITIVE PROJECTS

## WHAT MAKES A PROJECT PRECOMPETITIVE?

The key to finding out whether a project is precompetitive is dialogue between the project partners. Questions to be discussed are:

- What is the nature of the problem the research project aims to solve?
- Is it closely linked to confidential stages of a company's innovation processes, or can it be addressed at a much earlier and more generic stage where other companies can be easily included – and where the output can be put to many different uses afterwards?

## EXPLORE THE CASE EXAMPLES FOR PRECOMPETITIVE CHALLENGES

Based on discussions between main applicants and university business developers, the Plant2Food business developers have prepared five case examples that highlight precompetitive aspects to be considered when defining precompetitive research ideas.

Explore the case examples [here](#).

## CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS DEVELOPER

The Plant2Food secretariat and the local business developer at the partner universities will assist potential applicants with identifying the precompetitive aspects of their ideas.

It is the responsibility of the main applicant to make sure that the proposed research and results are precom- petitive and that the output can be shared openly without violating historical IP or e.g. licenses on bits of software codes.

Before submitting the project application, the main applicant must contact the local university business developers to discuss the precompetitive nature of the project scope.

The main applicant must have initiated dialogue with their Business Developer by 5 June 2026.

## CONTACT:

**AU** AARHUS  
UNIVERSITY

Contact your dedicated  
Business Developer

Visit [Kitchen AU](#)

**DTU**  
TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF  
DENMARK

Peter Conrad Ottesen

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+31 317 480 484

# THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process consists of three steps, each with a fixed deadline and required activities and documents. Applicants are responsible for ensuring full compliance with all formal and administrative requirements at the time of submission. Applicants that do not meet these requirements may be rejected without scientific evaluation.

## 1 POST A PROJECT IDEA, CHALLENGE, OR RESOURCE ON WORLDSLABS

All abstracts must be linked to a project idea, challenge or resource posted publicly within the Marketplace of WorldLabs. You may post the idea yourself or become involved in a project posted by someone else.

**You must first join the [Plant2Food WorldLabs platform](#) and create a profile in order to access the [Marketplace](#).**

### About WorldLabs and the Plant2Food Marketplace

WorldLabs is an online community that functions as a shared, open collaboration and matchmaking platform for introducing yourself and sharing project ideas, research needs, and expertise. This enables crucial early interaction and co-creation across the Plant2Food community. The platform is an excellent place to find inspiration and/or potential partners. The WorldLabs platform allows you to create both an individual profile and specific project idea for the call in which you plan to apply.

We strongly encourage you to create a detailed individual profile before posting an idea, as this will make you more findable by others. You can browse through the members of the Plant2Food community as well as project ideas for current and past calls. When you are ready, you can post an idea, challenge or resource in Plant2Food's WorldLabs Marketplace. The post will become visible to Plant2Food's broad network of collaborators, allowing you to connect with companies and researchers who are actively looking to engage in new projects. Your team can then develop and refine the project concept before submitting an abstract.

The deadline for posting your project idea is 30 April 2026 but we strongly encourage you to post as soon as possible to best help you find the right project team. The Plant2Food Secretariat is available for guidance on developing and/or posting a project idea. We also encourage you to join the Workshop on 23 April 9:00-11:00.

# THE APPLICATION PROCESS CONTINUED

## 2 SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

The project idea will evolve as partners become involved. Once the team is set with a good idea and the right competencies, the partners must collaborate to translate the idea into a cocreated Plant2Food project where everyone plays an active role, including all applicants and industry partners.

The team's main applicant may then submit an abstract via [Plant2Food WorldLabs 'Opportunities.'](#) Additional information, templates and guidance will be provided directly within the WorldLabs application page.

**The last day to apply is 19 June 2026 at 12:00 (Noon) CET.**

The abstract requires:

- A link to the originating idea/challenge/resource posted within the Plant2Food Marketplace
- Confirmation that the project has been discussed with a business developer from the main applicant's institution.
- MAIN APPLICATION - A template is available for easy preparation in advance of online submission.
- STATEMENT OF COMPANY ENGAGEMENT - An optional template will be provided if the company wants to formally state their engagement. However, you don't need a formal, signed statement in the abstract phase. Also see the word TEMPLATE - abstract application questions, section 2 point 4 for details.

The abstract is used to assess whether a project idea and team is sufficiently strong, relevant, and aligned with Plant2Food's selection criteria (1-4) to proceed to a full-length application. Detailed project plans, budgets, and a complete and confirmed consortium are not required at abstract stage. However, clarity of the project concept, strength of the scientific rationale, and quality of the proposed collaboration will be considered in the abstract evaluation.

## 3 SUBMIT A FULL-LENGTH APPLICATION

Invited teams may submit a full-length application via WorldLabs 'Opportunities'. At the time of invitation, the Secretariat will provide a link and further details, including all templates and guides.

The full-length application:

- Builds on (and must remain clearly linked to) the abstract.
- May be submitted within a different Grant Type if the project idea, methodology, and/or consortium develops in the time period between abstract and full length application deadlines to such an extent that it fits better within a different Grant Type.
- May involve refinement of the project scope and/or team, for example as a result of new or changed partnerships, scientific input or resources.
- Must include all required documentation (and signatures when necessary) e.g. budget, gantt chart, company letter(s) of support, CVs, figures.
- Must be pseudonymised of names and pronouns, as it is subject to blinded review.

The main applicant is encouraged to consult a legal or compliance specialist at their institution to assess any regulatory, contractual, data protection, or licensing considerations that may affect the implementation of the project or the open sharing of its results. If there have been significant changes to the project's scope, activities, or expected outcomes since the abstract stage, applicants are encouraged to reassess the project's precompetitiveness and openness in dialogue with a relevant business developer.

# THE REVIEW PROCESS

## PLANT2FOOD'S REVIEW AND GOVERNING ORGANS:

### REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Review Committee (RC) consists of representatives from both academia and industry covering all three scientific scopes of Plant2Food. The RC reviews abstracts and full-length applications and makes the final nomination of projects for funding to the Plant2Food Steering Group.

### DOUBLE-BLINDED REVIEWERS

A panel of international specialists review the full-length applications. Their scores and comments form a crucial foundation for the RC's discussion and final nomination of applications.

The interplay of Plant2Food's two separate reviewing bodies – the Review Committee and the Double-blinded reviewers – will ensure a thorough and fair review process. With representatives from both academia and industry, the cross-disciplinary reviewing bodies ensure expertise from different scientific fields and industrial value chains. The agile process ensures that every proposal will be reviewed by experts regardless of which areas they span. Applicants' personal information is blinded from both reviewing bodies.

### STEERING GROUP

The Plant2Food Steering Group makes the final decision on funding.

## THE REVIEW PROCESS IN BOTH PHASES:

### ABSTRACTS

After administrative checks, abstracts are reviewed and scored individually by the RC. Based on normalized total scores from the abstract evaluation, the highest scoring applications will be invited to submit a full-length application. Selection criteria 1-4 will form the basis of this review.

The main applicant will be notified of the outcome of the abstract review via email. While it is not possible to provide detailed personal feedback, the Secretariat provides general feedback based on the average scoring. Unsuccessful applicants are welcome to further develop their ideas and apply again in future relevant Plant2Food call rounds.

### FULL-LENGTH APPLICATION

After administrative checks, each application is reviewed by The Review Committee and Double-blinded international reviewers.

The RC then meets in plenum to discuss each project, taking into account the individual evaluations and blinded reviewer input. In case of deadlock within the RC regarding an application, the blinded review(s) will be given extra weight to resolve the situation.

Following this meeting, a consultation procedure will be conducted.

Plant2Food's Steering Group has the final mandate to determine which projects to fund. In addition to the nomination from RC this decision also includes strategic and portfolio considerations.

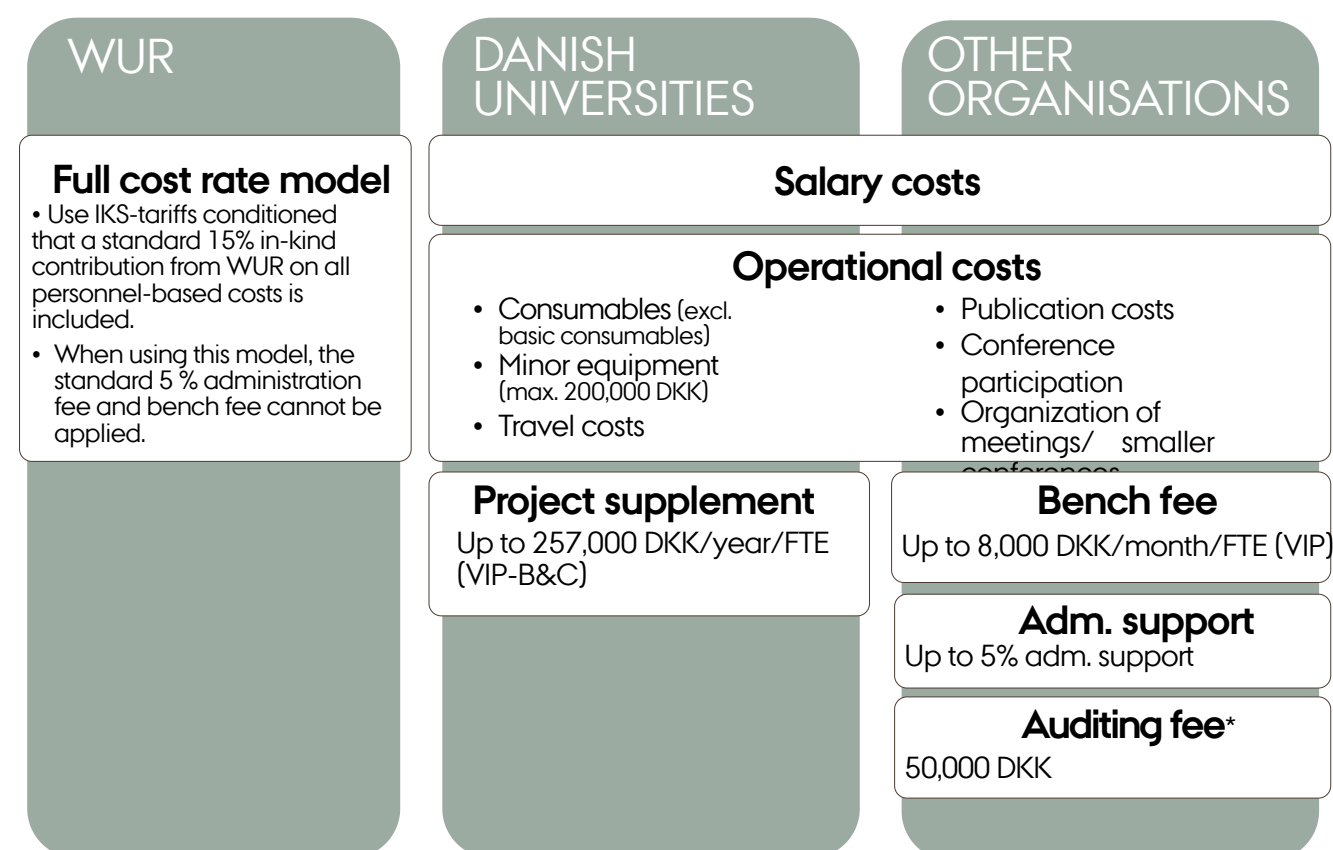
# ELIGIBLE COSTS

## IN GENERAL:

The budget must only include costs directly attributable to the project, following the NNF guidelines for eligible project costs. Applicants must aim for cost-effective study designs where the proposed budget is proportionate to the scope, activities, deliverables, and potential impact of the project. In the review process, the Plant2Food governing bodies can choose to make funding recommendations contingent on changes in the budget and study design.

All costs must be necessary for the implementation of the project and must be presented using Plant2Food's budget template.

## ELIGIBLE COSTS BASED ON ORGANISATION:



\*Only applicable for institutions not covered by Rigsrevisionen

### PLEASE NOTE

- Due to the rules and regulations of the NNF, no funding can be allocated to company partners.
- Plant2Food cannot fund salaries for employed personnel if the project is discontinued by the governing bodies due to e.g. unsatisfactory progress.

# ELIGIBLE COSTS SALARIES

## SALARIES

Direct salary costs include actual salary costs, calculated on the basis of the annual gross salary, incl. pension, insurance, and holiday pay. Compensation of costs for overtime, sick pay, leave of absence etc. may not be included in the budget. Parental leave follows the rules of the NNF.

Salary may be included in the budget for the following:

- Researchers in time-limited contracts at universities: Full salary (cost price for time spent on project).
- Main applicants in time-unlimited contracts that need to secure their own salary from external funds: Maximum two months' salary/year for project management and supervision.
- Non-profit organizations: Can apply for projects as co-applicants with a partner university and receive funding similarly to the partner universities (using cost price salaries).

## PHD STUDENTS

PhD students and their salary may be included in Plant2Food projects only in justified cases where their involvement is appropriate to the project and team. In most cases, scientific contributions are expected to be provided by postdoctoral researchers or more senior staff.

If PhD salary is requested:

- Plant2Food covers only salary costs corresponding to the actual time spent on the Plant2Food project.
- Plant2Food does not cover any other PhD programme-related costs or non-project activities, including e.g. enrolment/tuition or PhD school fees, coursework or training, teaching obligations, or time spent on general PhD programme requirements not directly attributable to the Plant2Food project.
- A signed statement must be provided by the relevant institutional authority (e.g. Head of Department or PhD School) in the full application confirming that:
  1. All non- Plant2Food PhD costs and any salary costs not attributable to the Plant2Food project are fully secured at the time of application; and
  2. The PhD will comply fully with Plant2Food's open framework; and, in the unlikely event of premature project termination by a Steering Group decision due to failure to progress the project as planned, the hosting organisation must take the full and financial responsibility to enable completion of the PhD, since any remaining Plant2Food -related PhD salary will not be covered by Plant2Food.

## Plant2Food does NOT cover:

- Salary posts that are already covered by existing base salary or any other funding.

Each applicant listed in the project budget must document the approval of the proposed budget by their Head of Department or equivalent as described in the budget template.

# ELIGIBLE COSTS BENCH FEE AND PROJECT SUPPLEMENT

## PROJECT SUPPLEMENT (Danish universities only)

The project supplement contributes to covering the indirect costs incurred by the university. This replaces overhead, administrative contributions and bench fees and covers several indirect project costs, including administrative research support, research infrastructure and basic information technology (IT) infrastructure. Applicants may apply for a project supplement of up to 257,000 DKK per FTE per year. [Read more about the agreement on project supplements \*\*here\*\*.](#)

## BENCH FEE (not applicable to Danish universities)

Bench fee can be included in the budget for support of individual researchers to cover expenses needed to conduct the proposed research. Bench fee is calculated per academic employee actively working on the project [eligible to apply for salary]. It may only be used for expenses related to the research project which cannot be included within another individual budget category. Bench fee may account for a maximum of DKK 8,000 per month per FTE.

The budget must specify the expenses covered by the bench fee, which may include:

- Common or shared laboratory expenses and consumables,
- Laboratory utilities (electricity, gas, water),
- Maintenance of essential equipment,
- Service contracts,
- Technical and IT support

## PLEASE NOTE:

Bench fee cannot cover rent, administrative support, representation, social contributions etc. A valid bench fee policy in line with the Foundation's requirements must be available at the time of application, and this official documentation from the administrating/co-applicant's institution must be provided upon request.

## AUDITING FEE (not applicable to Danish universities)

Applicants who are not subject to audit by the Danish Rigsrevision must allocate a budget for an end of project financial audit. Up to DKK 50,000 may be included for this purpose.

# APPLICATION MATERIALS

## IN GENERAL

Please familiarize yourself with the templates well ahead of the submission deadline, as the application process includes steps that require involvement from partners and/or support functions at all project partners' local organisations. It is important that you use the Plant2Food provided templates in the application process. It is clearly stated if some templates are optional to use.

## ABSTRACTS

- MAIN APPLICATION FOR SUBMISSION ON WORL DLABS** Template provided  
We recommend filling out the application in a document before filling out the application questions on WorldLabs.  
The application contain fields for documenting the originating idea/challenge/resource posted on the Marketplace and confirmation of discussion with your Business Developer.
- STATEMENT OF COMPANY ENGAGEMENT** Optional template provided

## FULL-LENGTH APPLICATION

- MAIN APPLICATION** Template provided  
We recommend filling out the application in a document before filling out the application questions on WorldLabs.
- CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)**  
From the main researchers/employees of each partner university/organization/company.  
Max. 2 pages per person. Upload as one combined PDF.
- LETTER OF SUPPORT** Optional template provided  
From each involved company confirming its involvement (and the nature thereof) in the precompetitive and open research activities in the project. Upload as PDF.
- GANTT CHART** Use template  
With work packages and activities for all participants. Upload as Excel and PDF.
- BUDGET** Use template  
Must be approved and signed by all relevant Heads of Department to ensure that the proposed individual budgets align with local budgeting rules. Upload as Excel and PDF.
- DOCUMENTATION FOR CALCULATION OF BENCH FEES** (if necessary)  
Organisations that do not have an agreement on use of Project Supplement and therefore are eligible to apply for bench fee must provide an appendix to the budget specifying the calculation of the bench fee. Upload this appendix as a PDF file.

# USE OF ABBREVIATIONS

## IN GENERAL

It is important that you do not use any personal names or pronouns in the material shared with the reviewers (Section 2)

Instead, we kindly ask that you use the abbreviations as listed below:

## PROPOSERS FROM UNIVERSITIES

Proposers must be employed at a university. Main proposer must be on time-unlimited contract from one of the four partner universities (AU, DTU, UCPH, WUR).

P1	Proposer 1	PI from partner university/Main proposer
P[X]	Proposer [X]	Subsequent proposer from a university in project management

## RESEARCHERS TO BE EMPLOYED IN THE PROJECT

Researchers must be employed at a university. They are actively involved in the project but are not the main responsible contact person at that university taking part in the project management.

R1	Researcher 1	First researcher participating in the project
R[X]	Researcher [X]	Subsequent researcher participating in the project

## NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

Includes NGOs, GTs, and other knowledge institutions.

O1	Organisation 1	First Organisation participating in the project
O1.1	Partner from Organisation 1	First partner from Organisation 1 participating in the project
O[1.X]	Partner from Organisation 1	Subsequent partner from Organisation 1 participating in the project (if relevant).
O[X]	Organisation [X]	Subsequent Organisation participating in the project
O[X.1]	Partner from Organisation [X]	Subsequent partner from Organisation [X] participating in the project

## COMPANIES

Refers to company lead participating in the project.

C1	Company 1	First company participating in the project.
C1.1	Partner from Company 1	First partner from Company 1 participating in the project
C1.[X]	Partner from Company 1	Subsequent partner from Company 1 participating in the project.
C[X]	Company [X]	Subsequent Company participating in the project
C[X.1]	Partner from Company [X]	Subsequent partner from Company [X] participating in the project

# SELECTION CRITERIA

CRITERION	WHAT WILL THE REVIEWERS FOCUS ON?
1 RELEVANCE TO THE PLANT2FOOD SCOPE	- Does the application fit the Plant2Food scope?
2 POTENTIAL FOR INNOVATION	- Does the project address an unmet need? - Does it have potential for short-term innovation? - Does it have potential for long-term innovation? - Is it likely to deliver research results supporting product development or process innovation in the industry? - Will it open new innovation opportunities for the academic partner(s)?
3 SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE	- Does the project offer novel scientific objectives and/or approaches to obtain the objective compared with state of the art? - Will it create new knowledge? - Is the choice of scientific methodology and technological solutions sound? - Does the application sufficiently explain state of the art and scientific excellence? - Does the project have a competitive edge (scientific and technical level) compared with adjacent technologies?
4 CROSS-DISCIPLINARITY	- Does the project include both academic and industrial partners? - Does the project include relevant partners across scientific disciplines and value chain links? - Does the project application reflect a high level of co-creation between the academic and industry partners?
5 BROADNESS IN VALUE CREATION	- Does the project have sufficient and active industry engagement (with intellectual, material, and/or infrastructural contributions)? - Is the project (and/or the project output) relevant to a broader range of companies than the project partner(s)? - Does the project's concept/output benefit other plant-based projects or research areas?
6 OPENNESS	- Is the project pre-competitive? - Does the project benefit from being open? - Does the project have a sound plan to openly share its output and results with the public? - Are there any factors in the project design that limits open sharing of output?
7 FEASIBILITY	- Is the project feasible within the timeframe, project plan, budget and with the proposed team?
8 BUDGET	- Is the budget cost effective? - Is the budget proportionate to project aim, activities and expected output?

1-8 - BASIS FOR FULL-LENGTH REVIEW  
ABSTRACT REVIEW

# SELECTION CRITERIA DETAILED

## 1 RELEVANCE TO THE PLANT2FOOD SCOPE:

Projects must be within the scientific scope of Plant2Food, as detailed in section 1. If the project is crop specific, observe the list of prioritised crops. If other crops are used or targeted, please explain why it is relevant to do so e.g. due to perceived future potential as a temperate crop or as research model that can be translated into the prioritized crops.

## 2 POTENTIAL FOR INNOVATION

Plant2Food projects must be real collaborations between academia and the AgriFood Sector – and they must have the potential to generate the building blocks for subsequent innovations for the industry. Applicants must clearly describe in the project application how the project (e.g. by solving a particular industry problem) can eventually lead to short and/or long term innovation and value for the involved companies (new products, services, processes etc.), the planet, and its population.

The reviewers will look for innovative and value creating aspects in both the application and in the expressions of interest from company partners. Moreover, they will look for company involvement and co-creation activities in the project as an indicator of the project's potential for innovation.

The project design must therefore reflect, that the industrial partners are actively engaged in the project – and why. Their motivation for participating their level of commitment and their potential gain will be seen as indicators for the project's innovative potential. In their Letters of Support, company partners must therefore detail their motivation for participating (the value proposition for them) and their contributions to the project. Reviewers will assess the level of industry commitment through e.g. their potential intellectual contributions, active participations in work packages, their contributions in the form of analyses on in-house equipment, and/or by lending materials/technologies to other project participants. Insofar the project can open new opportunities for spin-outs from the universities; applicants should detail this as well.

## 3 SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

The Review Committee and the specialist reviewers will assess scientific excellence based on classical indicators such as e.g. novelty and quality of approach/objectives, expected output, and competitive strength.

## 4 CROSS-DISCIPLINARITY

Plant2Food aims to create research projects that address complex problems with the best tools and competencies across disciplines and industries. A central objective for Plant2food is to increase collaboration across plant and food sciences. The reviewers will favor projects that create meaningful collaborations across disciplines and the partnering universities – unlocking new opportunities across the value chain – and projects that actively leverages industry expertise and involvement as part thereof.

# SELECTION CRITERIA DETAILED

## 5 BROADNESS IN VALUE CREATION

Although Plant2Food projects address research needs that are relevant to the individual companies involved, the projects must not limit their value creation by focusing too narrowly on one company's specific needs or on niche applications. Applications must therefore address generic challenges/research needs that are shared by several companies.

Project applications must always document a strong engagement from industry partners through Letters of Support and project designs that clearly shows their interests, involvement and contributions. Moreover, projects that can demonstrate a meaningful inclusion of e.g. consumer perspectives (for example through collaboration with social sciences and humanities researchers, canteens, chefs or retail) will often demonstrate value creation for a broader range of stakeholder types.

## 6 OPENNESS

Plant2Food projects must be "precompetitive". In open projects within other sectors, precompetitive research has often been defined by its Technological Readiness Level (TRL 1-3). Within the area of Plant2Food, however, the TRL scale is less useful as a stand-alone indicator.

As the first of its kind in AgriFood, Plant2Food will need to continuously identify the niche, where companies and universities feel comfortable doing open research and sharing their results with the public.

Generally, precompetitive research projects focus on:

- Generic problems that are relevant to many companies at the same time.
- The results of the open projects are not new products/services – but rather a generic knowledge foundation that can easily be used by companies as building blocks for downstream innovation.

Data and results can be shared with the public without compromising the companies' ability to adapt the open results for specific, commercial (and protectable) applications.

The reviewers will also assess whether the project is sufficiently open by looking at the types of scientific output the applicants plan to share, and how they plan to share it. Are there any obstacles that prevents central elements of the projects from being shared with the public? Moreover, the reviewers will look for arguments as to why the project actually benefits from an open set-up (e.g. accelerated discoveries through sharing or collective problem-solving across the value chain).

## 7 FEASIBILITY

The reviewers will assess whether or not the project is likely to succeed with the proposed aim, approach, team, budget, and timeline.

## 8 BUDGET

The reviewers will review whether or not the budget is reasonable compared to the project aim, activities, and expected output. The reviewing bodies can suggest changes in budget and project design when nominating projects for funding.

# TERMS & CONDITIONS

## RESEARCH CODE OF CONDUCT

All Projects must comply with the NNF policy for research integrity and -freedom, as well as The Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

## OPEN SHARING

All funded Plant2Food projects are obligated to share their results and data across the network as quickly as possible. They can do this through Plant2Food's website, through relevant databases, and through open publishing in preprint archives and journals - all in accordance with the practices described in the Plant2Food Framework Agreement and in the grant notification for each subproject – incl. explicitly stating support from the NNF (incl. reference of the Plant2Food grant number) in all written and oral presentations of the project. Plant2Food will provide a manual for the open sharing of project output.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REJECTIONS

The Plant2Food secretariat will review all applications and check if the applications meet the requirements in the guidelines for the specific call. During the administrative review, the secretariat will contact the project PI if clarifications are needed.

Any application that is not in accordance with the law and the administrative requirements of the Plant2Food guidelines will be rejected without peer review. Please check your application for all requirements before submitting, e.g.:

- That your project is within the framework of the chosen grant type (incl. project budget, timeframe, etc.)
- That you have all necessary signatures for required documents (e.g. on budget)

## PRIVACY POLICY

Please consult Plant2Food's Privacy Policy for more information on how the applications and your personal data are handled.

The Privacy Policy can be found on our online community, WorldLabs and Plant2Food's webpage.

## DISCLAIMER

The information provided in these guidelines is subject to change and may contain errors or omissions. The ODIN Secretariat reserves the right to modify, update, or amend these guidelines at any time without prior notice. Changes and versions will be indicated within the document.

Substantial changes made after 30 April 2026 will be communicated via WorldLabs or e-mail.

The Secretariat assumes no liability for discrepancies arising from the use of these guidelines.



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