

Seedbed TeamUp 2026: Terms and Conditions

EIT FOOD

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1. General information about the programme

[Seedbed TeamUp](#) is a programme offered by EIT Food. TeamUp matches leading technologists with entrepreneurial business professionals and supports them on their journey to co-create truly impactful agrifood ventures. This 6-month programme provides important tools and support to build your startup including expert guidance, world-class training, mentorship, networking and funding. TeamUp programme is part of Seedbed, the set of activities that EIT Food delivers to create better opportunities for early-stage entrepreneurs in European Food & Agriculture.

TeamUp is open for the following two groups of applicants:

- Technologists with a solution/technology that can transform the food system;
- Business professionals with skills and experience to build a successful agrifood startup.

2. Programme stages and commitment

The Seedbed TeamUp programme consists of the following stages: **Application, Matchmaking, Exploration and Graduation.**

Stage 1: Application

Application – Interested individuals are invited to complete an Expression of Interest using the registration platform available on [TeamUp](#) programme webpage.

The selection panel evaluates applications using the information contained in the Expression of Interest. Evaluations are made according to the selection criteria ([see 5.1. Online application selection criteria](#)).

EIT Food informs all applicants about the selection results and invites successful applicants for the Matchmaking stage.

Stage 2: Matchmaking

The applicants invited for the Matchmaking stage are taken through the following steps:

- A variety of matchmaking exercises and scenario challenges with business or tech co-founder applicants
- Skills and experience pitching and compatibility analysis
- Purpose and values assessment and co-founder alignment
- One-on-one interview with TeamUp team and agrifood experts
- Individuals profile evaluation using a psychometric test for self-reflection and sharing
- Peer review feedback
- Ongoing networking
- Access to matchmaking platform

The aim of this stage is for the applicants to find a match and team up with a tech or business co-founder (each newly created team will consist of one tech founder and one or more business professionals).

At the end of the Matchmaking stage, the participant submits a proposal that must include the co-founders they would like to be matched with. EIT Food evaluates the proposals ([see 5.2. Exploration stage selection criteria](#)) and creates the final list of teams.

EIT Food informs all applicants about the results of the Matchmaking stage. The applicants, who fail to find a successful match during the Matchmaking stage are not accepted to continue on the TeamUp programme and will exit at this point. Applicants who successfully form a team during the Matchmaking stage and are selected by EIT Food, sign a subgranting agreement with EIT Food and are accepted as participants of the next stage of the Seedbed TeamUp programme.

Stage 3: Exploration

At this stage, the commitment of the participants should become similar to that of a reasonably demanding part-time job for approximately 12 weeks. The chosen teams are taken through three months of training and coaching to nurture and create strong co-founder relationships with aligned purpose and values on solid business foundations. The participants receive a labelled training consisting of team building activities, leadership and business skills training sessions. They will be required to refine their proposal, including conducting a minimum number of interviews with potential customers to validate their ideas.

The aim of this stage is for the teams to work on creation and validation of a value proposition and business model of their agrifood solution. Another important goal is for the co-founders to explore how they work together, align their vision and approach to work.

During this 3-month stage, each team gets a 6,000 EUR gross stipend per team to be distributed as follows:

- 3,000 EUR gross to one Tech co-founder
- 3,000 EUR gross to one Business co-founder

EIT Food only pays stipends for one Tech co-founder and one Business co-founder per Team even if the Team is composed of more than one Business or Tech co-founder.

The stipend will be paid to the Teams based on their active participation in the programme and upon completion of certain monthly assignments requested by EIT Food. The detailed information and requirements for funding during this stage will be described in the subgranting agreement participants will sign before the Exploration stage.

The aim of the subgrant is to make it financially viable for Participants to dedicate sufficient time and effort to the work required in the Exploration phase. Participants who fail to show active participation in the programme and/or do not submit all requested assignments are asked to leave the programme and funding will stop. EIT Food has the ultimate power to decide who remains in the programme and benefits from funding and the decision of the Seedbed TeamUp Programme Director is final.

Stage 4: Graduation

In the final stage of the programme, the teams go through an evaluation process, where the most successful teams are given the opportunity to win prizes.

The teams compete for prizes with pitches during Pitching Days in November-December 2026. Each team presents a 5-minute pitch and answers questions from the jury panel. The jury evaluates each pitch according to the evaluation criteria ([see 5.3. Pitching Days evaluation criteria](#)).

The four teams that receive the highest scores from the jury panel are awarded prizes in accordance with their ranked scores. The maximum prize is €40,000 and the remaining prizes are €25,000, €15,000 and €10,000. There are no other prizes for the remaining participating

teams but they are invited to remain connected to EIT Food's network and continue to form part of the ecosystem and alumni network.

In order to be eligible to receive one of the prizes, the startup must be registered as a limited company before January 8th 2027. The winning teams are also granted extra coaching hours.

3. Important dates

In 2026, TeamUp programme will run fully online. Any changes will be communicated by EIT Food on the [programme website](#) as well as in the Terms and Conditions document.

Stage	Date
Submission of online applications - Tech and Business applicants	8 th May – 1 st June (13:00 CEST) 2026
Evaluation of applications	Until 8 th June 2026
Successful Tech and Business applicants invited for matchmaking	From 8 th June, 2026
Onboarding for Tech and Business applicants	Until 12 th June 2026
Matchmaking	June – July, 2026
Successful applicants invited to participate in TeamUp	Until 3 rd August 2026
Exploration	August - October, 2026
Evaluation and Graduation	November 2026

Some dates may change, the organizers will endeavour to inform accordingly on the project website: <https://www.eitfood.eu/projects/teamup> and/or by emailing programme participants directly. The exact dates of Matchmaking and Exploration phases would be defined in Participant Consent Form and Subgranting Agreement.

4. Eligibility criteria for applicants

TeamUp is open for the applicants who meet the following eligibility criteria:

For Tech co-founder applicants:

- They are citizens of, or permanent residents in, one of the EU member states and/or Horizon Europe countries;
- They have received less than 60,000 EUR in funding from EIT Food in 2026;
- They have an innovative agrifood technology/solution that has a potential in contribution to one or more EIT Food's Missions goals (EIT Food's Missions) and/or could provide deep tech solution in field of agrifood tech;

- They have submitted a complete application in English and have a proficient level of English to participate in the Seedbed TeamUp programme fully (approximately C1 level)
- They are not currently participating in EIT Food EWA, EIT Food Seedbed Venture Catalyst, EIT Food FAN (Food Accelerator Network) or EIT Food RisingFoodStars programme. In case they are selected in one of the above programmes during their participation in Seedbed TeamUp, they will be asked to choose a preferred programme to continue.

For Business co-founders applicants:

- They are citizens of, or permanent residents in, one of the EU member states and/or Horizon Europe countries;
- They have received less than 60,000 EUR in funding from EIT Food in 2026;
- They have experience in business development and/or entrepreneurship;
- They have submitted a complete application in English and have a proficient level of English to participate in the Seedbed TeamUp programme fully (approximately C1 level)
- They are not currently participating in EIT Food EWA, EIT Food Seedbed Venture Catalyst, EIT Food FAN (Food Accelerator Network) or EIT Food RisingFoodStars programme. In case they are selected in one of the above programmes during their participation in Seedbed TeamUp, they will be asked to choose a preferred programme to continue.

5. Selection criteria

5.1. Online application selection criteria

Online application. Interested candidates must submit their tech or business Expressions of Interest before 1st June (13:00 CEST), 2026. The applications are evaluated according to the selection criteria (see below). The applicants who do not meet all eligibility criteria ([see 4. Eligibility criteria](#)) will be automatically rejected. The application process will be completed via myeitfood.eu website. Links are available on Seedbed TeamUp programme webpage and in other promotional materials.

Only applicants who meet all eligibility criteria (see [4. Eligibility criteria](#)) will have their applications evaluated.

The applicants with the highest total scores will be invited to the Matchmaking stage.

The final number of applicants invited to the Matchmaking stage will be determined by EIT Food in consultation with the panel of evaluators. The decision of the Programme Director is final.

The answers provided in the Expression of Interest form submitted by the applicants will be evaluated according to the following selection criteria.

Selection criteria for individuals applying as a Tech Founder

The following criteria and weighting will be used in the assessment to choose the individuals invited to join Seedbed TeamUp as a Technical Co-founder:

- your passion and motivation to lead an impactful agrifood startup
- your scientific or engineering experience and expertise
- your relevant agrifood experience and expertise
- your ability to collaborate to build a startup with a co-founder
- whether your proposed solution addresses a relevant problem in one of EIT Food Missions or Themes
- whether your proposed solution has the potential to scale and transform Europe's food system and deliver social, environmental and economic impact
- whether your proposed solution has the potential to deliver financial return if scaled successfully

Selection criteria for individuals applying as a Business Professional

The following criteria and weighting will be used in the assessment to choose the individuals invited to join Seedbed TeamUp as a Business & Commercial Co-founder:

- your passion and motivation to lead an impactful agrifood startup
- your business and commercial experience and expertise
- your relevant agrifood experience and expertise
- your ability to collaborate to build a startup with a co-founder
- your knowledge and understanding of how startups can contribute to EIT Food Missions or Themes

Every criterion will be scored on a 1-5 scale, where 1 represents “not meeting the criterion” and 5 – “meeting all relevant aspects of the criterion”.

5.2. Evaluation Criteria – Exploration Phase

The following criteria and weighting will be used in the assessment to choose the project teams that will receive the stipend subgrant. Each criterion will be scored on a 0-5 scale where 0 represents “not meeting the criterion” and 5 – “meeting all relevant aspects of the criterion”.

Criteria	Sub criteria	Score
Excellence (25%)	The co-founders have complementary skills and experience and have the potential to form a strong team.	1-5
Impact (40%)	The product/solution the team presents is innovative, scalable and has the potential to transform Europe’s food system and deliver social, environmental and economic impact.	1-5
Quality and efficiency of the implementation (25%)	The team has a clear, feasible and ambitious plan for the Exploration stage.	1-5
KIC portfolio strategic fit and compliance with the financial sustainability principles(10%)	The proposed solution has the potential to deliver financial return if scaled successfully.	1-5

5.3. Evaluation Criteria – Phase 3 (Graduation & SAFE Prize Award)

Each pitch will be evaluated according to the criteria presented below. Each criterion must be scored from 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest score and 5 – the highest).

Criteria	Sub criteria	Score
Excellence (25%)	The proposed solution is distinctive, innovative and can effectively tackle a well-defined/identified problem. The business model articulates a clear route to market, is scalable and realistic.	1-5
Impact (45%)	The innovation has big potential to improve Europe’s food system and deliver social, environmental and economic impact. The prize will be catalytic for development of the idea and successful exploitation of the market opportunity.	1-5
Quality and efficiency of the implementation (20%)	The team has the necessary skills, expertise and experiences to exploit the identified market opportunity. The team developed successfully during the programme. They are fully aware of their strengths, weaknesses and roles.	1-5
KIC portfolio strategic fit and compliance with the financial sustainability principles(10%)	The proposed solution has the potential to deliver financial return if scaled successfully.	1-5

The project team with the highest score will be awarded the First Prize, the second-highest will be awarded Second Prize, the third-highest will be awarded the Third Prize and the fourth-highest will be awarded the Fourth Prize.

Please note that if there is a tie for any prize, the winners will be selected based on the combined score received for the second and third category in the table above. (ie Impact and Quality)

In case a prize winner has not submitted all required documents within the deadline, the next eligible team in the ranking who took part in Seedbed TeamUp Pitching Days, shall receive the notice regarding this and is entitled to receive the prize.

Startups winning and accepting to receive EIT Food TeamUp prizes from EIT Food will be requested to sign a Simple Agreement Future Equity (SAFE) in addition to the prize agreement. Templates for the prize agreement and the SAFE are provided by EIT Food; Startups will be required to form a limited company or equivalent entity in order to receive the prize payment.

6. IP rights and confidentiality

The applications submitted to EIT Food for TeamUp programme are handled confidentially. Everybody that reads the applications during the review process is bound by confidentiality agreements.

Applicants retain full and exclusive ownership of their intellectual property rights. The organizers and their authorized representatives in the programme undertake to ensure the confidentiality of the ideas and projects presented and developed throughout the competition.

7. Personal data processing

EIT Food will process the data collected for the purposes of this competition. Please see our [Privacy Policy](#)

8. Contact details

In case of any questions or inquiries, please contact Seedbed TeamUp Programme Director:

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