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Open Call for Verification of MRV system and Methodologies in Spanish Regenerative Agriculture Landscape

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EIT FOOD

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Call Fact Sheet

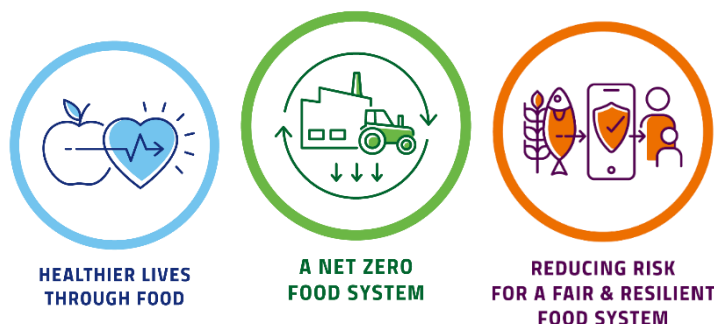
Title of Call	Verification of Methodologies and MRV for Spanish Regenerative Agriculture Landscape
Objective and Scope	The objective is to select an entity to verify and audit the methodologies and MRV system developed as part of the Spanish Regenerative Agriculture Landscape, including GHG emissions, carbon sequestration, soil health, biodiversity and farmer wellbeing co-benefits.
Call Deadline	27 November 2025 12:00 CET
Available Funding	Up to €40,000
Project Duration	2026-2027
How to apply	MyEITFood Portal
Contact Information	laura.lopezcortijo@eitfood.eu or navara360@eitfood.eu

1. Introduction

EIT Food is the world's largest food innovation community, creating connections right across the food system. Supported by the European Union (EU), we invest in projects, organisations and individuals which share our goals for a healthy and sustainable food system.

We have built a unique not-for-profit business to carry out transformative programmes in skills, education, entrepreneurship, start-up investment and communications. We deliver these programmes in partnership with our members to create a culture and build a community which sees the long-term value in the food innovation we fund.

Our Missions



EIT Food's Missions respond to major societal challenges within the food system. The alignment of our chosen challenges towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and EU policy is detailed in our main funding [strategy document](#) agreed with EIT (European Institute of Innovation & Technology). For more about our Missions-led approach please visit [our website](#).

Regenerative Agriculture Landscape

As part of **EIT Food's Regenerative Agriculture Programme in Southern Europe**, we are implementing **Navarra 360**, a pioneering regenerative agriculture landscape located in northern Spain. The project aims to support farmers in transitioning towards regenerative practices, addressing Mediterranean challenges such as soil degradation, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, and reduced profitability.

The **main objective** of Navarra 360 is to accompany and support **80 farmers** across the region in their transition to regenerative agriculture practices over a three-year period (2025–2027). The project focuses on key Mediterranean crops including **wheat, barley, oats, rapeseed and sunflower**.

Each participating farmer receives continuous support from a **dedicated team of technical advisors**, responsible for conducting field visits, collecting baseline data (including soil, biodiversity, and management indicators), and providing tailored guidance for the implementation of regenerative practices.

To measure and validate the environmental impact of these practices, EIT Food and its partners have developed a **Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV)** system. This system enables transparent assessment of soil carbon sequestration, GHG emissions, biodiversity, and other environmental indicators aligned with international standards such as:

- GHG Protocol (Land Sector and Removals Guidance – LSRG)
- Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi)
- EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)
- Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF)
- SAI Platform methodologies according to SAI Platform RTF Verification Framework Control Points and Criteria

The MRV system and methodologies must undergo **independent verification and certification** to ensure scientific rigour, transparency, and credibility for future integration into sustainability reporting and value chain decarbonisation strategies.

2. Call for Verification of MRV Methodology in Spanish Regenerative Agriculture Landscape

2.1. Description of Activities

This Call for Proposals seeks an independent third-party to audit, verify and certify the **Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV)** methodology. The objective of the validation process is to ensure **full alignment with internationally recognized standards**, including but not limited to the GHG Protocol LSRG and the Carbon Removals Certification Framework (CRCF).

Activities for the independent third-party include:

- Liaising with the methodology developer on requirements for successful audit, verification and certification.
- Reviewing the first draft of the methodology and providing Corrective Action Requests (CARs) in a validation report.
- Review and validate the technical framework for sampling, measurement and analysis.
- Auditing, verifying and certifying the final methodology developed by the MRV consortium.

- Auditing the methodology and project actions on an annual basis.
- Certify compliance with international sustainability standards.
- Conduct annual verification audits during 2025, 2026 and 2027.

2.3. Deliverables and Milestones

The relevant selected entity shall complete the following deliverables corresponding to their component of the MRV system:

- Deliverable 1: Allocated Value: €20,000 (50% of the lump sum). This includes feedback on first draft of the methodology, including Corrective Action Requests. This also includes the first annual report for audit of the methodology in 2025.
- Deliverable 2: Allocated Value: €20,000 (50% of the lump sum). This includes annual reports for audit of the methodology in 2026 and 2027.

Grant recipients have obligations on communication, dissemination and visibility rules. Please see Article 17 of the [Model Grant Agreement](#) and EIT Food's [Brand Guidelines](#).

Grant recipients must adhere to [EIT Food Intellectual Property's \(IP\) Policy](#) which complies with the IP provisions outlined in Article 16 of the Horizon Europe [Model Grant Agreement](#).

3. Description of Role & Profile

3.1 Role

The selected organisation will act as the **Verification and Certification Body** for the MRV system of the Navarra 360 Regenerative Agriculture Landscape. Its mission is to ensure methodological integrity, data reliability, and compliance with international standards, providing independent assurance of the environmental outcomes reported by EIT Food and its partners.

3.2 Profile

The selected organisation should be an entity based in Spain or another EU or Horizon Europe associated countries. They should have extensive technical knowledge and experience in auditing, validating and certifying regenerative agriculture methodologies in Europe.

Applicants must demonstrate expertise in:

- Verification and validation of **GHG accounting methodologies** and **carbon sequestration models**.
- Experience with **GHG Protocol** and **SBTi for Agriculture and Land Use**.
- Familiarity with soil sampling methodologies, biodiversity monitoring, and laboratory analysis.
- Prior involvement in MRV systems for **agricultural or land-use projects**.
- Independent auditing or certification experience under ISO or equivalent frameworks.
- Technical capacity to conduct verification audits in Spain.

4. Funding

The total EIT Food funding available for this call is between €5,000 to €40,000. Recipients will receive a subgrant to fund their cost.

The project runs from February 2026 to March 2027. The maximum funding available for that period per application is €40,000, for the initial verification of the methodology and an annual audit of 2025, 2026 and 2027.

There is a 6 million EUR limit per participants from Member States of the European Union (EU) and from [Horizon Europe Associate Countries](#) for the whole 3-year Grant Agreement. Legal entities from non- Horizon Europe Associate countries can participate in consortia but are limited to funding of 60 000 over 3 years for a Grant Agreement. This funding is implemented under GA 01101912. In those limits are included all the EIT Funding awarded to an organization across all the activities and prizes for the 3-year grant agreement.

The Subgrant is based on a lump sum of 40,000 euros and best value for money. All costs, including co-funding, need to comply with Horizon Europe regulations regarding the eligibility of expenses. Please refer to Article 6 of the [Model Grant Agreement](#) and the [Annotated Model Grant Agreement](#).

The lump sum contribution is conditional upon the delivery of the two project deliverables mentioned above in section 2.3. Deliverables and Milestones:

- Deliverable 1: Allocated Value: €20,000 (50% of the lump sum). This includes feedback on first draft of the methodology, including Corrective Action Requests. This also includes the first annual report for audit of the methodology in 2025.
- Deliverable 2: Allocated Value: €20,000 (50% of the lump sum). This includes annual reports for audit of the methodology in 2026 and 2027.

Each deliverable is associated with proportional cost allocation and deduction rate. In cases where deliverables are not completed or only partially fulfilled, a deduction will be applied up to the amount associated with the incomplete deliverable.

In addition to the guidance provided by Horizon Europe, the proposals must comply with the following maximum thresholds:

- Subcontracting is allowed to a maximum of 15% of the total grant requested.
- Participants are not permitted to give a subgrant to another third party.

4.1 Timeline

This funding opportunity follows the timeline below:

Call Open Date	27 October 2025
Call Deadline	27 November 2025 12:00 CET
Evaluation	28 November - 17 December 2025
Invitation to interviews	18 December 2025
Interviews	22 December 2025
Communication to selected participants	05 January 2026
Standstill period, Onboarding, Validation and Contracting	January 2026
Indicative start of project implementation	February 2026

The standstill period is a set time after funding selection for appeals, final administrative checks, and compliance in the award process. The project cannot start before this period. The standstill period of 30 days applies to this call.

5.2 Application Submission

Applications must be submitted via [MyEITFood Portal](#), no later than the call deadline.

6. Eligibility, Evaluation and Selection Process

6.1 Eligibility

This call is open to legal entities made up of legal entities experienced in regenerative agriculture methodology verification in Europe. Please read Annex 1, in addition to the following eligibility criteria:

Organisation Eligibility	Organisation must:
	• Be a legally incorporated entity in one of the EU or Horizon Europe eligible country listed above for a minimum of 2 years. • Provide a PIC Number: https://www.eitfood.eu/files/PIC-Guidance.pdf
Application Eligibility	Each application must:
	• Be complete, with all mandatory application documents uploaded. • Be submitted on time via myEITFood Portal. • Be fully written in English.

Equal opportunity: The call is open to all applicants, including those without an existing partnership agreement with EIT Food. All members of the KIC Partnership (as defined in the Partnership Agreement) shall have equal opportunity to participate in this funding opportunity.

6.2 Evaluation Process

All submitted applications will undergo an eligibility check and evaluation to determine their feasibility and suitability for funding.

During the eligibility check, if EIT Food identifies obvious or technical errors in a proposal, applicant will have the opportunity to correct or resubmit their proposal within three (3) calendar days following the call submission deadline. Such errors may include system malfunctions, typos, or missing supporting documents.

The correction window is intended to ensure that these issues do not unduly affect the evaluation of otherwise eligible proposals. Please note that this opportunity is strictly limited to rectifying technical errors and does not permit substantive modifications to the proposal content.

The evaluation will be conducted by a minimum of 1 external evaluator and 1 internal evaluator based on the criteria below.

6.2.1. Evaluation Criteria

The applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Criteria	Sub criteria	Score
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a. Excellence (25%)	Team expertise & track record: methodologies successfully audited, verified and certified, regenerative agriculture expertise, EU-project experience, regenerative agriculture project experience, CV depth, prior knowledge in Spanish agricultural context	1-5
b. Impact (25%)	Technical quality: soundness of methodology auditing approach, accuracy of proposal to the request, reputational quality of certification	1-5
c. Quality and efficiency of implementation (25%)	Value for money, efficient implementation	1-5
d. KIC Portfolio fit (25%)	Proposal advances on existing portfolio	1-5

Each evaluation sub-criterion will be scored from 1 to 5 using the following scoring system.

The minimum quality threshold is 3.5. The highest-scoring applications will be selected.

Score		Description
1	Poor	The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses
2	Fair	Application broadly addresses the criterion but there are significant weaknesses
3	Good	Application addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present
4	Very good	Application addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present
5	Excellent	Application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

All applicants will be alerted in writing to the outcome of their proposal.

The recipients of EIT Funding must take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in the implementation of the action and, where applicable, in line with the gender equality plan. They must aim, to the extent possible, for a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action, including at supervisory and managerial level.

6.3 Appeal on Evaluation Results

Applicants can submit an appeal within 5 days of receiving their result, if:

The evaluation of their proposal has not been carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in this document.

For more details, please refer to [EIT Food Redress guidance](#).

7. Administrative Items

7.1 Onboarding

Entities that have never been part of projects funded by the EIT Food and that do not have a PIC validated by the Research Executive Agency (REA) of the European Commission will be subject to a PIC validation process managed by the EIT Community Onboarding Service. All validated entities will proceed with the signature of legal agreements with EIT Food.

As part of the onboarding process, selected entities must:

- Sign and submit the Declaration of Size.
- Sign and submit the Financial Information Form.
- Register on EIT Food grants management platform.

Additionally, EIT Food reserves the right to request to the EIT Community Onboarding Service a Financial Assessment Capacity to check the financial capacity of any entity of a selected proposal. In such case, EIT Food may require:

- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several liability for all subgrantees or joint and several liabilities of Affiliated Entities if any
- prefinancing paid in instalments (multiple/additional prefinancing)
- (one or more) prefinancing guarantees

or

- propose no prefinancing or
- request that the entity be replaced or, if needed, might reject the entire proposal

In other words, if the assessment results are not satisfactory, the EIT Food might reject the participation of this entity and will then check whether the proposal is still eligible.

For further information on the project implementation, please read the [EIT Food Activity Implementation Guidelines for Participants](#).

7.2 EIT Food Legal Framework & Legal Documents to be signed

Selected applicants will receive a second communication with instructions regarding the completion of the following documents, as well as agreeing to EIT Food's conflict of interest policy:

To be signed between the participant and EIT Food:

1. Subgrant agreement

Any other agreements to make this grant eligible.

7.3 Payment Schedule

EIT Food will transfer funding in instalments. A proportion of the Activity budget will be prefinanced. The lump sum contribution is conditional upon the delivery of the two project deliverables mentioned above in section 2.3. Deliverables and Milestones. Each deliverable is associated with proportional

cost allocation and deduction rate. In cases where deliverables are not completed or only partially fulfilled, a deduction will be applied up to the amount associated with the incomplete deliverable.

Please note: the amount and timing of funding is dependent on the dispersal of funds to EIT Food from the EIT.

7.4 Monitoring

The project will be monitored and may be audited. All Activities selected for funding undergo continuous monitoring by EIT Food to ensure effective progress and implementation in accordance with the Project Agreement.

EIT Food may request regular reporting of actual costs incurred with the subgrant, as well as regular reporting of KPIs and deliverables, together with the supporting documentation. The monitoring process may result in an amendment to the Activity workplan and/or budget, however the Financial Return Mechanism Agreement cannot be re-negotiated following the approval of the Activity.

In the case of under-performance, significant delay of implementation, misconduct, misalignment with the project specifications in the grant management system or any other reason jeopardizing the timely implementation of the Activity identified during the monitoring process, EIT Food reserves the right to discontinue or restructure the funding of the Activity at any point during the Activity duration.

7.5 Support

If you have any questions about this call, please contact laura.lopezcortijo@eitfood.eu.

Please visit our website for any updates to this call and information about upcoming events to support your application. You will also find our list of Frequently Asked Questions.

ANNEX 1 – Eligibility

Please Note:

1. Failing any of the above call specific criteria will make your application ineligible. If an applicant is ineligible, the participant will be informed.
2. [According to EU policies and measures](#), Russian entities will not be authorised to participate in any new grant under the EU Research and Innovation programmes. This ban applies not only to their potential participation as beneficiaries, but to their potential participation in any kind of role: beneficiaries, linked third parties/affiliated entities, subcontractors, in-kind contributors, international partners/associated partners, and third parties receiving financial support. Find the full statement from the European Commission [here](#).
3. Pursuant to Article 2 (2) of the [Decision 2022/2506](#) of 15 December 2022 on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary *where the Commission implements the Union budget in direct or indirect management pursuant to of Article 62(1) points (a) and (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, no legal commitments shall be*

entered into with any public interest trust established on the basis of the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity maintained by such a public interest trust. This prohibition applies to financial support to third parties (sub-grants and prizes), hence the proposal of any entity or group of entities where a Participant is included in the list of public interest trusts shall be considered as not eligible.

4. Applicants will be deemed ineligible if:

- a. bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding-up procedures, where its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, where it is in an arrangement with creditors, where its business Activities are suspended, or where it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under national laws or regulations;
- b. it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the organisation is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the applicable law;
- c. it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the organisation is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the organisation belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which has an impact on its professional credibility where such conduct denotes a wrongful intent or gross negligence;
- d. is found to be attempting to influence the decision-making process of the call during the process;
- e. attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon its undue advantages in the call process;
- f. it has been established by a final judgment that the organisation is guilty of fraud, corruption or money laundering.