D3.2 Open Call Guidelines

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Abstract:	The main purpose of this report is to present the Open call kit documents, necessary for the applicants to apply to the OpenAgri Open Call.

Document Revision History			
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Participant Number	Participant organisation name	Short name	Country
1.	UNIVERSITEIT MAASTRICHT	UM	Netherlands
2.	GEOPONIKO PANEPISTIMION ATHINON	AUA	Greece
3.	EIGEN VERMOGEN VAN HET INSTITUUT VOOR LANDBOUW- EN VISSERIJONDERZOEK	EV-ILVO	Belgium
4.	UDRUZENJE ZA PREDUZETNISTVO I INOVACIJE FOODSCALE HUB	FSH	Serbia
5.	RESEARCH ORGANISATION FOR THE COMMONS AND PEER TO PEER PRACTICES	P2PLAB	Greece
6.	LINUX FOUNDATION EUROPE	LF	Belgium
7.	SCIO IKE	SCIO	Greece
8.	GREEN SUPPLY CHAIN DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIREIA	GSC GR	Greece
8.1	STICHTING GREEN SUPPLY CHAIN DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB	GSC NL	Netherlands
9.	FONDACIJA VIZLORE LABS	VIZLORE	Serbia
10.	INSTYTUT CHEMII BIOORGANICZNEJ POLSKIEJ AKADEMII NAUK	PSNC	Poland
11.	SIEC BADAWCZA LUKASIEWICZ – POZNANSKI INSTYTUT TECHNOLOGICZNY	L-PIT	Poland

12.	INNOVATIESTEUNPUNT VOOR LANDBOUW ENPLATTELAND	ISP	Belgium
13.	INSTITUT DE L'ELEVAGE	IDELE	France
13.1	CENTRE D'INNOVATION ET DE RECHERCHE DE LA FERME DES BOUVIERS	CIRBEEF	France
14.	SK EMBIO DIAGNOSTICS LIMITED	EMBIO	Cyprus
15.	EDENCORE TECHNOLOGIES IKE	EDEN	Greece
16.	WIELKOPOLSKI OSRODEK DORADZTWA ROLNICZEGO W POZNANIU	WODR	Poland

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms	
EC	European Commission
OS	Open Source
ADS	Agricultural Digital Solution(s)
OC	Open Call
DoH	Declaration of Honour
FTP	Funding and Tenders portal

1. Introduction

1.1. Project Summary

The overall aim of the OpenAgri project is to democratise digital farming by enabling the development and deployment of innovative cost-effective energy-efficient OS software and open hardware-based ADSs that can operate at a high performance even in remote areas with weak connectivity. This will be achieved by a) ensuring the co-creation of ADSs by engaging farmers and farm advisors in participatory prototyping activities inspired by the makerspaces approach; and b) providing access to a number of reusable OS software services designed to support the edge and mixed computing mode, and a "sociotechnical infrastructure".

Using a multi-actor approach, OpenAgri will involve farmers, ADSs providers, farm advisors and scientists in 14 Sustainable Innovation Pilots (SIPs) in ≥10 countries across Europe, and guide them in co-creating and piloting edge, cloud and mixed-model ADSs addressing important challenges of agricultural production. 5 SIPs have been pre-selected and 9 more will be awarded through an Open Call, enabling a dynamic response to a changing policy and technology landscape. Finally, building on a thorough analysis of EU agriculture and the results from the SIPs, OpenAgri will create a Decision Support Tool that will allow Policy Makers, Farmers and Farm Advisors to select the best possible cloud, edge or mixed ADSs for any given set of conditions.

1.2. Document Scope

The main aim of the OpenAgri Open Call (OC) is to support the **co-creation and testing of new Agricultural Digital Solutions (ADSs)** across more countries, crops and framing conditions, by introducing additional open-source software and open hardware outputs that will become available to the community and boost the project's overall impact.

A major focus of OpenAgri's Open Call is to support the co-creation of mature and ready to use ADSs that will be based on OS software and open hardware components, with the main focus on improving the sustainability performance of current agricultural practices, increase farmers trust in the use of digital solutions and to avoid vendor lock-in through interoperable-by-design mechanisms. These solutions should be mature cloud solutions that could be adapted to edge or mixed and they should operate in remote areas with limited connectivity. **The goal of this Open Call is to deploy high value and impactful pilots, employing OpenAgri's methodologies and technologies.** OpenAgri is providing a set of generic OS software services that will act as reusable building blocks in support of AgriTech providers for developing more complete ADSs.

The main purpose of the deliverable D3.2 Open Call Guidelines is to provide an overview of the Open Call, the necessary documents developed for successfully managing each process and the planned actions.

1.3. Document Structure

This document is comprised of the following chapters:

Chapter 1 presents an introduction to the project and the document.

Chapter 2 presents the Open Call Kit and the documents comprising it.

2. Open Call Kit

OpenAgri Open Call Kit contains the following set of documents:

1. Open Call text,
2. Applicants' guide,
3. Proposal template,
4. Declaration of Honour (DoH),
5. Declaration of conducting business,
6. Consortium Declaration
7. Bank account information,
8. Model sub-grant agreement.

These documents will be available for download on the OpenAgri Open Call page on the OpenAgri website: https://horizon-openagri.eu/open-call/. In addition, the information on the OpenAgri Open Call will be publised on the Funding and Tenders portal (FTP).

Please note that the actual publishing date of the Open Call may differ. OpenAgri is respecting the importance of following the European Commission's process for advertising the Open Call on the Funding and Tenders portal. Therefore, we are currently awaiting the review and validation of the Open Call kit before proceeding with the publishing process.

For the actual starting date, please refer to the Open Call Kit that will be published on the OpenAgri webpage, in compliance with the requests from the European Commission.

2.1. Open Call text

This document summarizes the basic information of the OpenAgri Open Call and provides necessary information for applying in the framework of the OpenAgri project. This document contains information such as:

- Short description of the OpenAgri project,
- General Information about the Open Call,
- Timeline and important dates,
- Topics,
- Eligibility criteria,
- Submission procedure,
- Origin of the funds,
- Points of contact.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 1 of this deliverable.

2.2. Applicant's guide

This document is essential administrative support to the applicants during the process of application. It introduced the Open Calls, explaining in detail all the points of the application. This document contains:

- Introduction (background information about OpenAgri project, its approach, and Open Call funding mechanism),

- Overview of the Open Call (general information and timeline for the Open Call, topics, submission procedure, language, documentation format and origin of the funds),
- Information about proposal submission and selection (specific information regarding the publication of the Open Call, eligibility criteria, application and evaluation process),
- Information about for the implementation of selected applications (timeline, activities, deliverables and funding),
- Responsibilities of selected applicants (confidentiality, promotion of visibility and EU funding and data protection, etc.),
- Checklist of necessary application steps,
- Points of contact.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 2 of this deliverable.

2.3. Proposal template

This document is a comprehensive application form that applicants need to fill in and submit in a pdf format. As part of the template, applicants will describe their idea in detail including information about its technical aspects, business model and potential, sustainability, geographical impact and budget needed.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 3 of this deliverable.

2.4. Declaration of Honour

This document presents a form where applicants must declare on exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest. Additionally, applicants by signing declare that they enter the application process respecting the given guidelines.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 4 of this deliverable.

2.5. Declaration of conducting business

This document is a form that follows guidelines set by the European Commission which evaluates the status of the entity applying for the Open Call. By submitting this document applicants declare they fulfil the eligibility criteria of being officially registered in business registry and having the status of “legal entity”.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 5.

2.6. Consortium declaration

This document presents a form where the applying consortia must declare their composition providing information such as the name, address, type and expertise of the partners.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 6 of this deliverable.

2.7. Bank account information

This document follows the guidelines set by the European Commission for acquiring bank account information that will be used to release payments to selected applicants and based on the payment scheme.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 7.

2.8. Model Sub-grant agreement

This document presents the model of the sub-grant agreement that is planned to be used during the contracting phase with the winners of the Open Call. It is important to note that this document is for informative purposes only, subject to possible changes suggested by EC or the legal team of FSH, thus cannot be treated as legally binding.

The full document is enclosed as Annex 8.

Annexes

(1) Open Call text

(2) Applicant's guide

(3) Proposal template

(4) Declaration of Honour

(5) Declaration of conducting business

(6) Consortium Declaration

(7) Bank account information

(8) Model Sub-grant agreement

Annex 1. Open Call text

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101134083

1. Introduction

This document provides guidance information regarding the OpenAgri Open Call, including the eligibility and evaluation criteria. The document in its entirety and all associated Annexes must be read carefully for the submission of an application.

1.1. Background information

The last decade has seen an explosion of interest and investment in the use of Agricultural Digital Technologies (ADSs). The use of ADSs is seen by many as an opportunity to increase the economic and environmental performance of the agricultural sector. Despite great efforts and resources spent, uptake of ADSs by EU farmers has been limited for reasons like a) the frequently excessive cost of ADSs, b) the low trust that farmers have in ADSs and data sharing and c) the weak network connectivity problems experienced by farms in remote areas, which affect the performance of the ADS.

The overall objective of the OpenAgri project is to **democratise digital farming by enabling the development and deployment of innovative cost-effective energy-efficient OS software and open hardware-based ADSs that can operate at a high performance even in remote areas with weak connectivity**. This will be achieved by a) ensuring the co-creation of OS and open hardware ADSs by engaging farmers and farm advisors in participatory prototyping activities inspired by the makerspaces approach to ensure they will solve real problems; and b) **providing access to a number of existing and new reusable OS software services** designed to support the edge and mixed computing mode, and a "sociotechnical infrastructure".

Using a **multi-actor approach**, OpenAgri will involve farmers, ADSs providers, farm advisors, scientists and other AKIS actors initially in **5 core Sustainable Innovation Pilots (SIPs)** defined in the proposal, followed by 9 other SIPs emerging from an Open Call which will address new emerging technologies, and additional crops/livestock and countries (with special focus on countries not already present in the consortium). The project will thus cover ≥10 countries across Europe, and the SIPs will be guided in **co-creating and piloting edge, cloud and mixed ADSs** addressing important challenges of crop production and livestock management.

OpenAgri will follow a **systematic comparative approach** to pilot and compare the performance of edge, cloud and mixed ADSs along several socio-economic and environmental parameters. Finally, taking advantage of a comprehensive analysis of the European agriculture sector and the results from the SIPs, OpenAgri will create a **Decision Support Tool** that will allow Policy Makers, Public Authorities, Farmers and Farm Advisors to select the best possible cloud, edge or mixed ADSs for any given set of conditions.

Through a careful selection process, a set of 5 SIPs has been defined, including a variety of solutions, sectors, countries and underlying conditions: a) Agri-food sectors, b) Countries; c) Real-life needs; and d) Technologies.

OpenAgri initial Sustainable Innovation Pilots (SIPs)	
SIP 1	**a)** **Sector**: Vineyard/Viticulture; **b)** **Country involved**: Greece; **c)** **Challenge:** managing the **logistics** of the winery for properly allocating the labour and farming equipment; optimising the **supply chain** for inventory management and planning the season's finances; **early pest detection** aiming to identify and address these threats at the earliest stages to prevent widespread infestation in the vineyard; utilisation of **variable spraying technology**, which enables the application of varying rates of substances across different areas of a field, customised to their unique needs **d)** **Digital technologies**: A portable, low-power device that was developed from Eden Library

	named “Viewer” which uses high-resolution colour imaging sensors, a GPU-accelerated computer and an RTK-ready GPS. This system is equipped with two sets of high-resolution RGB colour cameras for each canopy side and five high-power LEDs for night-time operation. For this SIP, the device's functionalities will be evaluated and utilized for **pest detection**, **canopy density profiling**—which provides essential information for variable rate spraying and it is sprayer agnostic—and **yield estimation**, predicting the wineries' total production based on the vineyard's phenological phase.
SIP 2	**a) Sector**: Livestock/Beef production; **b) Country involved**: France; **c) Challenge**: Farmers make daily visits to the various grazing areas, owever, but sometimes pastures are far away from the farm. Having **remote information** on the presence and normal behaviour of animals is a real service for the farmer. Without taking the place of on-site visits by the farmer, regular remote information would enable the farmer to either postpone the grazing round slightly to concentrate on other tasks, or to intervene more rapidly in the event of an alert of abnormal/unexpected behaviour, a possible sign of a change in health status. **d) Digital technologies**: An **animal monitoring solution** based on UHF RFID. The principle for remote monitoring of animals in extensive grazing areas will be based on **monitoring drinking behaviour**, or more precisely regular attendance at the watering trough area. Tracking the animal's location will be done using a low-cost technology, UHF electronic identification (UHF RFID). In fact, UHF RFID is based on the use of **passive ear tags** with no embedded energy.
SIP 3	**a) Sector**: Arable/Potatoes; **b) Country involved**: Belgium; **c) Challenge**: Farmers in Flanders face significant challenges due to the **Colorado Potato Beetle (Leptinotarsa decemlineata)**, since this voracious pest can rapidly infest potato crops, causing substantial damage if left unchecked. Its resilience to many conventional pesticides adds complexity to control efforts, often necessitating repeated applications or the use of alternative, sometimes less effective, treatments. Furthermore, the presence of this pest can limit market access for affected crops due to quality concerns. **d) Digital technologies:** A **UAV equipped system** with an RGB camera will scan fields to pinpoint areas affected by the beetle. Advanced AI algorithms process the collected data to precisely delineate **prescription maps** for targeted intervention. These maps are integrated by weather data and crop growth stage information to guide strategic response actions, such as Variable Rate Application (VRA) spraying. The outcomes generated by this ADS not only facilitate **efficient pest detection and management** but also enable farmers to qualify for CAP eco-schemes subsidies by providing essential monitoring, verification, and reporting capabilities.
SIP 4	**a) Sector**: sugar beet and potatoes; **b) Country involved:** Poland; **c) Challenge**: To **reduce water use** on (first) high-production farms, where water use per hectare of crops is highest, using smart irrigation controllers. The challenge particularly applies to arable and vegetable production, since the water needs of plants must be met at several key moments in the growth of the plant, so as not to restrict the development of the root system, during the period of highest weight growth, to preserve the health of the plant during the period of disease development and before harvest (quality preservation). In addition, there is a lack of widely available easy-to-implement systems for controlling the amount of crop watering. **d) Digital technologies:** It provides an easily accessible and universal **smart irrigation controller**, connected to irrigation valves, capable also of integrating with soil moisture sensors and FMISs/agroERP systems. It enables automated irrigation of the fields, allowing for the optimisation of the doses using data on the evapotranspiration, rainfall, water needs of plants, temperature effects and soil type, which will be obtained both from connected soil moisture sensors and from external datasets: weather stations, soil maps, weather forecasts and satellite data. Edge-based ADS consists of open-source embedded system based on Linux, LoRaWAN mesh for wireless communication, Geospastial data tagging with GNSS modules, Inductive class of sensors with digital data output, while the cloud-based ADS comprises Message broker for edge communication

	based on MQTT – RabbitMQ, Timeseries DB – InfluxDB, Central event streaming- Apache Kafka, Architecture supported with Java Spring.
SIP 5	**a) Sector**: Arable/Cross-Sector/Tomatoes, Cucumber, Lettuce; **b) Country involved**: Cyprus; **c) Challenge**: In Cyprus and many other countries in the region, due to cost limitations and/or lack of digital skills, **organic compost production** takes place in open space using piles (no composting bins used) and is mainly manual. This includes both the **monitoring** of the compost conditions, which is limited to manual daily checks of the pile's temperature, but also the decision making and management process, including compost irrigation and stirring activities. **Estimation of Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium (NPK)** content needs to be realised in various phases of the composting process and certain actions are necessary (e.g. provide additional material, calibrate conditions) to achieve a standardised NPK content. For organic compost to be effectively used as fertiliser, it is essential to have a standardised NPK content per quantity (e.g. kg). **d) Digital technologies**: A combination of low-cost, deploy-and-forget, LoRaWAN IoT sensors and actuators will be utilised to enable the parallel **monitoring of conditions** (Temperature, Moisture, pH) and **control** (automated irrigation) of multiple compost piles in remote areas. Compost pile's conditions monitoring will be combined with an easy-to-use portable BioElectric-chemical analysis sensor (BELD by Embio) capable of estimating NPK content of compost samples on-site and in near-real-time. The **portable** BELD NPK estimator is a handheld multichannel potentiometer with high accuracy A/D converters that measure electric signals (measured in Volts) from various bio recognition elements recorded as a time-series.

Table 1: Short description of the internal SIPs

1.2. Requirements

The main aim of the OpenAgri Open Call (OC) is to support the **co-creation and testing of new Agricultural Digital Solutions (ADSs)** across more countries, crops and framing conditions, by introducing additional open-source software and open hardware outputs that will become available to the community and boost the project's overall impact.

A full list of **technical requirements** for newly proposed ADSs can be found in 2.2.1 Technical requirements of the OpenAgri's Applicants' guide.

A major focus of OpenAgri's Open Call is to support the co-creation of mature and ready to use ADSs that will be based on OS software and open hardware components, with the main focus on improving the sustainability performance of current agricultural practices, increase farmers trust in the use of digital solutions and to avoid vendor lock-in through interoperable-by-design mechanisms. These solutions should be mature cloud solutions that could be adapted to edge or mixed and they should operate in remote areas with limited connectivity. **The goal of this Open Call is to deploy high value and impactful pilots, employing OpenAgri's methodologies and technologies.** OpenAgri is providing a set of generic OS software services that will act as reusable building blocks in support of AgriTech providers for developing more complete ADSs.

2. OpenAgri Open Call

2.1. General information

The Open Call (OC) will select **9 new SIPs** of the same design as the 5 core SIPs. The OC will focus on countries, crops, overall conditions, production processes and/or technologies not already covered by project SIPs, and which are expecting to benefit from the most recent developments and innovations in the area. Applicants

must be **small consortia of two entities and should be formed by an ADSs provider and an organisation representing farmers (or other end-users)**. Their goal is to collaborate and co-create new OS ADSs **building on existing mature cloud solutions, adapting them to edge or mixed model** and piloting them to compare the results and see if the performance of the new solution is appropriate. This approach in the OC setup will allow us to conduct a real comparison between cloud and edge solutions.

The new SIPs will benefit from incorporating the OpenAgri reusable OS Services in their results, saving valuable time and effort. The OC process will introduce additional OS software and open hardware outputs that will become available to the community. The innovations developed within the SIPs from the OC will be supported by cross-cutting WPs dedicated to policy, business support, management and communication and dissemination. In order to maximise the transferability, upscaling, and impact of OpenAgri's SIPs solutions and lay the foundation for a demand-driven economy in agriculture, the project is being directed by industry-facing, not-for-profit organisations with broad outreach capacities inside Europe and beyond.

OpenAgri Open Call will be published on September 2nd 2024 and it will remain open until December 2nd, 2024. It is planned to finance 9 winning consortia. The total sum dedicated for this Open Call is equal to 900,000 EUR, where each of the winning consortia may ask for up to 100,000 EUR. No single third party in the consortia can ask for more than 60,000 EUR.

Proposals with the highest scores will be selected for funding. If more than one proposal shares the same score and is listed at the last place planned for funding, scores received for the criteria of i) excellence and ii) impact will be compared. If the scores are identical, scores received for iii) implementation and iv) replicability of the solution will be compared. If a tie persists, an interview will be conducted with the applicants in question, with the participation of evaluators and the OpenAgri Open Call Advisory board.

	Activity	Date
Application and selection	Launch of the Open Call	September 2nd, 2024
	Deadline for submitting the proposals	December 2nd, 2024
	Eligibility check	December 2024
	Evaluation and selection	January-February 2025
	Evaluation results and contracting	March-April 2025

Table 2 Application and selection timeline

	Activity	Date
Implementation	Phase 1: Develop	May - November 2025
	Phase 2: Deploy	December 2025 – June 2026
	Phase 3: Scale	July – October 2026

Table 3 Implementation timeline

2.2. Targeted topics

Within OpenAgri Open Call, the following types of applications/solutions (but not limited to) are expected to be funded, while more details can be found in the OpenAgri Open Call Applicants' Guide:

- **Crop Pest and/ or Disease Detection**: ADSs with innovative, cost-effective, and energy-efficient open-source software and/or hardware solutions for accurately detecting pests and diseases in crops, using AI-based analytics, ML models and sensor technologies.
- **Animal Behaviour Monitoring**: ADSs to monitor and identify behavioral patterns of animals in different environments (e.g. open areas or stables), addressing challenges in both ruminant and non-ruminant livestock management.

- **Animal Health Monitoring**: ADSs to monitor the health of animals in various environments using real-time data, AI, and ML models to detect signs of illness and ensure timely interventions.
- **Animal Disease Detection**: Implementing ADSs for the early detection of diseases in both ruminant and non-ruminant livestock, utilizing AI and ML models to analyze data and image patterns for accurate diagnosis.
- **Animal Welfare Monitoring:** ADSs to enhance animal welfare by using image data and or other data types, AI, and ML models to monitor and assess the well-being of livestock, ensuring humane and optimal living conditions.
- **Smart Irrigation Management**: ADSs to optimize irrigation and water consumption, using real-time soil moisture and/ or weather data, AI-based analytics, ML models to improve water use efficiency and support sustainable farming practices.
- **Smart Fertilization Management**: ADSs to optimize fertilization practices, using soil nutrient data and/ or Image data which through AI-based analytics and ML models enhance nutrient use efficiency and support sustainable farming practices
- **Crop Growth and Health Monitoring**: Developing sensor-data-driven ADSs for real-time monitoring of crop growth and health, soil quality, and weather patterns, contributing to better crop production management.
- **Soil Health, Soil Quality and Weather Analysis**: ADSs to analyze soil health, soil quality and weather patterns, using real-time data, AI, and ML models to process and interpret data from soil maps, insolation, crop types, growth conditions, precipitation accumulation, and weather forecasts, enhancing decision-making in crop production.
- **Farm Management and Decision Support**: ADSs that integrate real-time data across farming operations, using AI and ML models to enhance decision-making, improve operational efficiency, and boost overall farm productivity.
- **Farm automations and robotics:** Open-source cloud/edge based ADSs performing automated weeding, harvesting, pruning, or spraying.
- **Biodiversity monitoring**: Solutions capable of automated identification of species (birds, insects, mammals, etc.), counting of number, and categorisation (e.g. beneficial and non-beneficial insects), considering agriculture and biodiversity aspects.
- **Agroecology, agroforestry, organic and regenerative agriculture**: Solutions capable of enhancing the management of complex agronomic practices, such as multicropping, agroforestry, regenerative land management or similar where data-driven solutions enable scalability or semi-automation.
- **Supply chain management**: First mile traceability and automation, e.g. open source and cloud edge computing (including hardware) for monitoring the process from harvesting to packaging/processing operations in support of agri-food traceability.

2.3. Eligibility criteria

OpenAgri Open Call is aimed at small consortia of one ADS provider and one end user. Detailed eligibility criteria are described in this section. Overall eligibility criteria for the OpenAgri Open Call are:

- Applicants need to be a **small consortium** comprised of an ADS provider (SME, university, research institute, non-profit organization, etc.) and end-user (consisting of a farm, farm structure, farm cooperative or other agrifood production organisation or company); see 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 of the OpenAgri Applicants' guide for more details.

- The applicants must be **legally established at the time of the application**. Having a valid VAT number is mandatory, however, in case having VAT number is not mandatory according to the national legislation of the applicant's country, a registration number from the respective national authority (National business registry, Commercial court or similar) must be provided.
- **Existing consortium members** of OpenAgri project and their affiliated entities are **not eligible** for the OpenAgri Open Call.
- The proposal is **delivered before the defined deadline**, applying the requested submission procedure.
- Proposals shall **only ask for funding for that part of the work that is not yet accomplished** and will be carried out after having been selected for funding. Of course, this does not exclude the usage of e.g., results, IP, infrastructures or approaches already held by the applicants.
- Each applicant may submit **only one proposal to the OpenAgri Open Call**. In case an applying consortium submits more than one application in the Open Call, only the last one received (timestamp of the system) will be considered, and the remaining applications will automatically be excluded from the evaluation process. In case an applicant wants to re-submit the application, they need to create a new account to do so, keeping in mind that each account has to have a unique email address, therefore another email address must be used to resubmit the application. If the last submitted application is declared as non-eligible or below the evaluation threshold upon evaluation, the other submitted applications will not be taken into consideration.
- The applicants must **demonstrate that there is no risk of double funding**. The fundamental principle underpinning the rules for public expenditure in the EU states that no costs for the same activity can be funded twice from the EU budget, as defined in the Article 111 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation. In the case of applications submitted by linked SMEs, all must clearly state the differences between them, including but not limited to, technical aspects, market strategy and team composition, so that no doubt remains that there is no risk of double funding. In order to properly assess these concerns OpenAgri may assign all applications to the same set of evaluators and, should any doubt remain, exclude all applications. In case of applying consortia, appearance of an entity in multiple applying consortia will also be treated as a risk of double funding and consequently, all applications from consortia where this entity is present will automatically be discarded as ineligible.
- The **maximum amount** of funding that a SIP can receive via the OpenAgri Open Call is 100,000€ and no member of the consortium can receive more than 60,000€.

2.4. Submission procedure

The entry point for submitting all proposals for OpenAgri Open Call is the OpenAgri website, https://horizon-openagri.eu/open-call/ where the direct link to the Open Call Hub Platform/OpenAgri tab can be found.

Submissions received through any other channel will be automatically discarded.

Documents required in subsequent phases will be submitted via dedicated channels, which will be indicated by the OpenAgri consortium in the contracting phase.

2.5. Origin of funds

All sub-grantees will sign a dedicated Sub-grant Agreement with the Foodscale Hub as a Treasurer, on behalf of OpenAgri consortium. The funds provided to the Sub-grant Agreement come directly from the funds of

the European Project OpenAgri funded itself by the European Commission under Grant Agreement Number 101134083, and remain therefore, property of the EU until the balance is paid, whose management rights have been transferred to the project partners in OpenAgri. This relation between the sub-grantees and the European Commission through the OpenAgri project carries a set of obligations to the sub-grantees with the European Commission. It is the responsibility of the sub-grantees to fulfill these, and of the OpenAgri consortium partners to inform them on these.

More details on obligations of sub-grantees can be found in Chapter 5 of OpenAgri's Open Call Applicants' guide.

3. Additional information

3.1. Open Call Kit

1. **Open Call text**, this document.
2. **Applicants' Guide**, that set out the guidelines for participation in the OpenAgri Open Call for respective applicants. It also includes the eligibility and evaluation criteria.
3. **Proposal template**, word document to be submitted as a PDF in the application phase.
4. **Declaration of Honour (DoH)**, which declares that all conditions of the Open Call are accepted by an ADS provider/farmer legal representative. This document has to be submitted for both partners.
5. **Declaration of conducting business**, which declares that the applicant is an SME according to EC standards. This document has to be submitted for both partners.
6. **Consortium declaration**, document mandatory for applying consortia.
7. **Bank account information**, which collects information on the applicant's bank account where the OpenAgri payments will be transferred to (only for winners of the Open Call).
8. **Indicative Model sub-grant agreement***, for information purposes only.
9. **OpenAgri Open Source components**,** on the following link on the OpenAgri website: https://horizon-openagri.eu/os-solutions/
10. Frequently asked questions & answers published at the community feed of the specially dedicated channel for OpenAgri Project and Open Call on the Open Call Hub Platform/OpenAgri OC tab, link: https://opencallhub.eu/

*This document serves as a reference. The Subgrantee Agreement that will be given to the winning applicants will be finalized during the contracting phase.

** Please note that the OpenAgri consortium reserves the right to regularly update the descriptions of the OpenAgri Open Source solutions/components during the period of Open Call.

3.2. Contacts

The OpenAgri consortium will provide information to the applicants only via the Open Call Hub (OCH) platform, so that the information (question and answer) will be visible to all participants.

More info at: https://horizon-openagri.eu
Apply via: (https://opencallhub.eu/open-call/openagri).
FSH support team: openagri@opencallhub.eu
Online Q&A: (https://opencallhub.eu/openagri/Faq).

Annex 2. Applicants' Guide

Funded by
the European Union

horizon-openagri.eu

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1. Introduction

This document provides guidance information regarding the OpenAgri Open Call, including the eligibility and evaluation criteria. The document in its entirety and all associated Annexes must be read carefully for the submission of an application.

1.1. About OpenAgri project

The last decade has seen an explosion of interest and investment in the use of Agricultural Digital Technologies (ADSs). The use of ADSs is seen by many as an opportunity to increase the economic and environmental performance of the agricultural sector. Despite great efforts and resources spent, uptake of ADSs by EU farmers has been limited for reasons like a) the frequently excessive cost of ADSs, b) the low trust that farmers have in ADSs and data sharing, for a variety reasons, and c) the weak network connectivity problems experienced by farms in remote areas, which affect the performance of the ADS.

The overall aim of the OpenAgri project is to **democratise digital farming by enabling the development and deployment of innovative cost-effective energy-efficient OS software and open hardware-based ADSs that can operate at a high performance even in remote areas with weak connectivity**. This will be achieved by a) ensuring the co-creation of ADSs by engaging farmers and farm advisors in participatory prototyping activities inspired by the makerspaces approach; and b) **providing access to a number of reusable OS software services** designed to support the edge and mixed computing mode, and a "sociotechnical infrastructure".

Using a multi-actor approach, OpenAgri will involve farmers, ADSs providers, farm advisors and scientists in 14 Sustainable Innovation Pilots (SIPs) in ≥10 countries across Europe, and guide them in **co-creating and piloting edge, cloud and mixed-model ADSs** addressing important challenges of agricultural production. 5 SIPs have been pre-selected and 9 more will be awarded through an Open Call, enabling a dynamic response to a changing policy and technology landscape. Finally, building on a thorough analysis of EU agriculture and the results from the SIPs, OpenAgri will create a Decision Support Tool that will allow Policy Makers, Farmers and Farm Advisors to select the best possible cloud, edge or mixed ADSs for any given set

OpenAgri will follow a **systematic comparative approach** to pilot and compare the performance of edge, cloud and mixed ADSs along several socio-economic and environmental parameters. Finally, taking advantage of a comprehensive analysis of the European agriculture sector and the results from the SIPs, OpenAgri will create a **Decision Support Tool** that will allow Policy Makers, Public Authorities, Farmers and Farm Advisors to select the best possible cloud, edge or mixed ADSs for any given set of conditions.

1.1.1. OpenAgri's 5 internal SIPs

Through a careful selection process, a set of 5 SIPs has been defined, including a variety of solutions, sectors, countries and underlying conditions: a) Agri-food sectors, b) Countries; c) Real-life needs; and d) Technologies.

OpenAgri initial Sustainable Innovation Pilots (SIPs)	
SIP 1	**a)** **Sector**: Vineyard/Viticulture; **b)** **Country involved**: Greece; **c)** **Challenge:** managing the **logistics** of the winery for properly allocating the labour and farming equipment; optimising the **supply chain** for inventory management and planning the season's finances; **early pest detection** aiming to identify and address these threats at

OpenAgri initial Sustainable Innovation Pilots (SIPs)	
	the earliest stages to prevent widespread infestation in the vineyard; utilisation of **variable spraying technology**, which enables the application of varying rates of substances across different areas of a field, customised to their unique needs **d) Digital technologies**: A portable, low-power device that was developed from Eden Library named "Viewer" which uses high-resolution colour imaging sensors, a GPU-accelerated computer and an RTK-ready GPS. This system is equipped with two sets of high-resolution RGB colour cameras for each canopy side and five high-power LEDs for night-time operation. For this SIP, the device's functionalities will be evaluated and utilized for **pest detection**, **canopy density profiling**—which provides essential information for variable rate spraying and it is sprayer agnostic—and **yield estimation**, predicting the wineries' total production based on the vineyard's phenological phase.
SIP 2	**a) Sector**: Livestock/Beef production; **b) Country involved**: France; **c) Challenge**: Farmers make daily visits to the various grazing areas, owever, but sometimes pastures are far away from the farm. Having **remote information** on the presence and normal behaviour of animals is a real service for the farmer. Without taking the place of on-site visits by the farmer, regular remote information would enable the farmer to either postpone the grazing round slightly to concentrate on other tasks, or to intervene more rapidly in the event of an alert of abnormal/unexpected behaviour, a possible sign of a change in health status. **d) Digital technologies**: An **animal monitoring solution** based on UHF RFID. The principle for remote monitoring of animals in extensive grazing areas will be based on **monitoring drinking behaviour**, or more precisely regular attendance at the watering trough area. Tracking the animal's location will be done using a low-cost technology, UHF electronic identification (UHF RFID). In fact, UHF RFID is based on the use of **passive ear tags** with no embedded energy.
SIP 3	**a) Sector**: Arable/Potatoes; **b) Country involved**: Belgium; **c) Challenge**: Farmers in Flanders face significant challenges due to the **Colorado Potato Beetle (Leptinotarsa decemlineata)**, since this voracious pest can rapidly infest potato crops, causing substantial damage if left unchecked. Its resilience to many conventional pesticides adds complexity to control efforts, often necessitating repeated applications or the use of alternative, sometimes less effective, treatments. Furthermore, the presence of this pest can limit market access for affected crops due to quality concerns. **d) Digital technologies:** A **UAV equipped system** with an RGB camera will scan fields to pinpoint areas affected by the beetle. Advanced AI algorithms process the collected data to precisely delineate **prescription maps** for targeted intervention. These maps are integrated by weather data and crop growth stage information to guide strategic response actions, such as Variable Rate Application (VRA) spraying. The outcomes generated by this ADS not only facilitate **efficient pest detection and management** but also enable farmers to qualify for CAP eco-schemes subsidies by providing essential monitoring, verification, and reporting capabilities.
SIP 4	**a) Sector**: sugar beet and potatoes; **b) Country involved:** Poland; **c) Challenge**: To **reduce water use** on (first) high-production farms, where water use per hectare of crops is highest, using smart irrigation controllers. The challenge particularly applies to arable and vegetable production, since the water needs of plants must be met at several key moments in the growth of the plant, so as not to restrict the development of the root system, during the period of highest weight growth, to preserve the health of the plant during the period of disease development and before harvest (quality preservation). In addition, there is a lack of widely available easy-to-implement systems for controlling the amount of crop watering. **d) Digital technologies:** It provides an easily accessible and universal **smart irrigation controller**, connected to irrigation valves, capable also of integrating with soil moisture

OpenAgri initial Sustainable Innovation Pilots (SIPs)	
	sensors and FMISs/agroERP systems. It enables automated irrigation of the fields, allowing for the optimisation of the doses using data on the evapotranspiration, rainfall, water needs of plants, temperature effects and soil type, which will be obtained both from connected soil moisture sensors and from external datasets: weather stations, soil maps, weather forecasts and satellite data. Edge-based ADS consists of open-source embedded system based on Linux, LoRaWAN mesh for wireless communication, Geospastial data tagging with GNSS modules, Inductive class of sensors with digital data output, while the cloud-based ADS comprises Message broker for edge communication based on MQTT – RabbitMQ, Timeseries DB – InfluxDB, Central event streaming- Apache Kafka, Architecture supported with Java Spring.
SIP 5	**a) Sector**: Arable/Cross-Sector/Tomatoes, Cucumber, Lettuce; **b) Country involved**: Cyprus; **c) Challenge**: In Cyprus and many other countries in the region, due to cost limitations and/or lack of digital skills, **organic compost production** takes place in open space using piles (no composting bins used) and is mainly manual. This includes both the **monitoring** of the compost conditions, which is limited to manual daily checks of the pile's temperature, but also the decision making and management process, including compost irrigation and stirring activities. **Estimation of Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium (NPK)** content needs to be realised in various phases of the composting process and certain actions are necessary (e.g. provide additional material, calibrate conditions) to achieve a standardised NPK content. For organic compost to be effectively used as fertiliser, it is essential to have a standardised NPK content per quantity (e.g. kg). **d) Digital technologies**: A combination of low-cost, deploy-and-forget, LoRaWAN IoT sensors and actuators will be utilised to enable the parallel **monitoring of conditions** (Temperature, Moisture, pH) and **control** (automated irrigation) of multiple compost piles in remote areas. Compost pile's conditions monitoring will be combined with an easy-to-use portable BioElectric-chemical analysis sensor (BELD by Embio) capable of estimating NPK content of compost samples on-site and in near-real-time. The **portable** BELD NPK estimator is a handheld multichannel potentiometer with high accuracy A/D converters that measure electric signals (measured in Volts) from various bio recognition elements recorded as a time-series.

Table 1 Short description of the Initial Sustainable Innovation Pilots (SIPs)

1.2. Timeline of the Open Call

OpenAgri open call will be published on the **OpenAgri website**, https://horizon-openagri.eu/open-call/, and **Funding & Tenders Portal** on **September 2nd, 2024, and it will remain open until December 02nd, 2024, 17.00 CET.**

The figure below presents the indicative timeline during which each phase of the OpenAgri Open Call for will take place. The dates may change due to unforeseen events and situations. Therefore, these are an indication of what is initially expected; the dates are to be confirmed by the OpenAgri team along the process and are not restrictive.

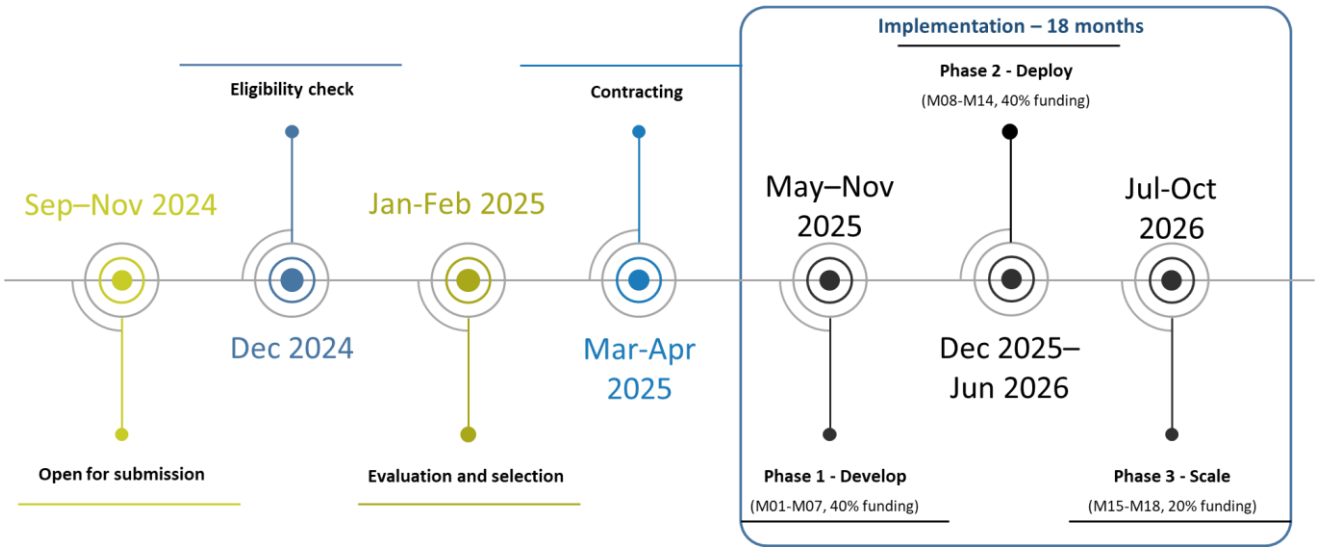

Figure 1 OpenAgri Open Call timeline

The OpenAgri consortium reserves the right to cancel the Open Call at any point due to any unforeseen circumstances. The OpenAgri consortium also reserves the right to extend the call and/or launch an additional call, in case not enough applications of sufficient quality have been received via the Open Call.

2. OpenAgri Open Call

2.1. General information

The main aim of the OpenAgri Open Call (OC) is to support the **co-creation and testing of new Agricultural Digital Solutions (ADSs)** across more countries, crops and farming conditions, by introducing additional open-source software and open hardware outputs that will become available to the community and boost the project's overall impact.

A major focus of OpenAgri's Open Call is to support the co-creation of mature and ready to use ADSs that will be based on OS software and open hardware components, with the main focus on improving the sustainability performance of current agricultural practices, increase farmers trust in the use of digital solutions and to avoid vendor lock-in through interoperable-by-design mechanisms. These solutions should be mature cloud solutions that could be adapted to edge or mixed and they should operate in remote areas with limited connectivity. **The goal of this Open Call is to deploy high value and impactful pilots, employing OpenAgri's methodologies and technologies.** OpenAgri is providing a set of generic OS software services that will act as reusable building blocks in support of AgriTech providers for developing more complete ADSs.

The Open Call (OC) will select 9 new SIPs of the same structure as the 5 core SIPs. **The OC will focus on countries, crops, overall conditions, production processes and/or technologies not already covered by project SIPs,** with the expectation that they will benefit from the most recent developments and innovations in the area. Applicants must be **small consortia of two entities and should be formed by an ADSs provider (SME, university, research institute, non-profit organization) and an end-user (consisting of a farm, farm structure, farm cooperative or other agrifood production organisation or company representing farms)**. Their goal is to collaborate and co-create new OS ADSs building on existing mature cloud solutions, demonstrating both Edge and Cloud/mixed versions of the ADSs, and piloting them in areas with low connectivity to compare the results and see if the performance of the new solution is adequate.

This approach in the OC setup will allow us to conduct a genuine comparisons between cloud and edge solutions.

The **new SIPs will benefit from incorporating the OpenAgri reusable OS Services in their results, saving valuable time and effort**. The OC process will introduce additional OS software and open hardware outputs that will become available to the community. The innovations developed within the SIPs from the OC will be supported by cross-cutting WPs dedicated to policy, business support, management and communication and dissemination. In order to maximise the transferability, upscaling, and impact of OpenAgri's SIPs solutions and lay the foundation for a demand-driven economy in agriculture, the project is being directed by industry-facing, not-for-profit organisations with broad outreach capacities inside Europe and beyond.

2.2. Requirements for OpenAgri Open Call

2.2.1. Technical requirements

The OpenAgri project through the Open Call process aims to support the development, improvement and utilisation in operational environments of new Agricultural Digital Solutions (ADS) that will satisfy the following requirements:

- The ADSs will be **innovative, cost-effective, energy-efficient,** and address important challenges of crop production and livestock management (see section 2.2.2 for more details on the respective challenges).
- The ADSs will be **based on emerging technologies** and use open-source software and/or open hardware principles. The ADSs themselves do not in the final analysis need to be Open-Source.
- The functionalities offered by the ADSs will be **identified through a co-creation process** involving both the technology provider and end-users.
- **Two versions of the ADSs are expected to be delivered and evaluated**, one version that operates in a cloud computing environment and one that operates in a mixed cloud/edge or fully edge computing environment.
- The ADSs need to have a **high starting TRL (TRL>5)**.
- All new SIPs are expected **to integrate at least one of the OpenAgri reusable OS Services** in their solutions, thereby saving valuable time and effort in the process.
- All new ADSs are expected follow **interoperability standards**, adopt the OpenAgri Common Semantic Model for data exchange with the provided OS services.
- All new SIPs will **deliver some openly available outputs** thereby contributing to **Open-Source Software and/or Open Hardware**. Relevant outputs can include contributions to software, trained AI/ML algorithms with their training datasets, or open hardware.

2.2.2. Targeted topics

Within OpenAgri Open Call, the following types of crop production and livestock management applications/solutions (but not limited to) are expected to be funded:

- **Crop Pest and/or Disease Detection**: ADSs with innovative, cost-effective, and energy-efficient open-source software and/or hardware solutions for accurately detecting pests and diseases in crops, utilizing AI-based analytics, ML models and sensor technologies.
- **Animal Behaviour Monitoring**: ADSs to monitor and identify behavioral patterns of animals in different environments (e.g. open areas or stables), addressing challenges in both ruminant and non-ruminant livestock management.

- **Animal Health Monitoring**: ADSs to monitor the health of animals in various environments using real-time data, AI, and ML models to detect signs of illness and ensure timely interventions.
- **Animal Disease Detection**: Implementing ADSs for the early detection of diseases in both ruminant and non-ruminant livestock, utilizing AI and ML models to analyze data and image patterns for accurate diagnosis.
- **Animal Welfare Monitoring**: ADSs to enhance animal welfare by using image data and or other data types, AI, and ML models to monitor and assess the well-being of livestock, ensuring humane and optimal living conditions.
- **Smart Irrigation Management**: ADS to optimize irrigation and water consumption, using real-time soil moisture and/ or weather data, AI-based analytics, ML models to improve water use efficiency and support sustainable farming practices.
- **Smart Fertilization Management**: ADS to optimize fertilization practices, using soil nutrient data and/ or Image data which through AI-based analytics and ML models enhance nutrient use efficiency and support sustainable farming practices
- **Crop Growth and Health Monitoring**: Developing sensor-data-driven ADSs for real-time monitoring of crop growth and health, soil quality, and weather patterns, contributing to better crop production management.
- **Soil Health, Soil Quality and Weather Analysis**: ADSs to analyse soil health, soil quality and weather patterns, using real-time data, AI, and ML models to process and interpret data from soil maps, insolation, crop types, growth conditions, precipitation accumulation, and weather forecasts, enhancing decision-making in crop production.
- **Farm Management and Decision Support**: ADSs that integrate real-time data across farming operations, using AI and ML models to enhance decision-making, improve operational efficiency, and boost overall farm productivity.
- **Farm automations and robotics**: Open source cloud/edge based ADSs performing automated weeding, harvesting, pruning, or spraying.
- **Biodiversity monitoring:** Solutions capable of automated identification of *species* (birds, insects, mammals, etc), counting of number, and categorisation (e.g. beneficial and non-beneficial insects), considering agriculture and biodiversity aspects.
- **Agroecology, agroforestry, organic and regenerative agriculture**: Solutions capable of enhancing the management of complex agronomic practices, such as multicropping, agroforestry, regenerative land management or similar where data-driven solutions enable scalability or semi-automation.
- **Supply chain management:** First mile traceability and automation, e.g. open source and cloud edge computing (including hardware) for monitoring the process from harvesting to packaging/processing operations in support of agri-food traceability.

It is important to note that the list above is only indicative and that the applicants are encouraged to submit proposals based on their own ideas related to the topic of OpenAgri Open Call.

2.2.3. OpenAgri Reusable OS Services

A major focus of OpenAgri's Open Call is to support the co-creation of mature and ready to use ADSs that will be based on OS software and open hardware components, with the main focus on improving the sustainability performance of current agricultural practices, increase farmers trust on the use of digital solutions and prevent vendor lock-in through interoperable-by-design principles. **The goal of this Open Call is to deploy high value and impactful pilots, employing OpenAgri's methodologies and technologies.** OpenAgri provides a set of generic OS software services that will act as reusable building blocks in support of AgriTech providers for developing more complete ADSs. In this section, the OpenAgri technological ecosystem, available for the implementation of the new pilots, is briefly presented.

OpenAgri provides a suite of OS, reusable and standards-compliant software services that are central to the digitization of agricultural practices for all farms. The OpenAgri OS Services are offered as ready to integrate software libraries (EUPL license). These core services aim to enable the bootstrapping of new ADSs by the AgTech providers of the OpenAgri SIPs and the wider community across Europe, lowering the development cost and ensuring the use of good practices (e.g. data interoperability, data sharing, resources optimisation). This will support ADSs developers to achieve greater functionality or to automate processes without writing code from scratch and support additional technology providers to enter the AgriTech business. The OpenAgri's OS Services follow the **microservices software architecture** where each service is self-contained implementing a single business capability providing well-defined, standards-based, APIs that allow's their complementary use adn integration.

OpenAgri's OS Services are under continuous improvement through thematic-specific and loosely coupled OS software projects created and managed by consortium partners but also engaging actors from the wider software development community. The OpenAgri's OS Services are hosted in a public code repository following Open Source development principles under the guidance and support of AgStack of the Linux Foundation: https://github.com/openagri-eu/

OpenAgri's OS Services have been specified and implemented following a set of core design principles aiming to address the technical requirements imposed by the needs of the agricultural sector. Among these are that all OS Services will be designed to offer a level of functionality in remote areas with weak or even no connectivity and to exploit edge computing techniques. Moreover, compliance with EU standards and policy obligations are considered. A full description of the OpenAgri OS Services is available at the OpenAgri website: https://horizon-openagri.eu/os-solutions/. Please note that the OpenAgri consortium reserves the right to regularly update the descriptions of the OpenAgri Open Source components during the period of Open Call. A short description of OpenAgri's OS components follows.

"OpenAgri Digital Farm Calendar service": addresses the data capture needs of farms including the manual recording of farmers' activities, farmers' observations, parcel properties and recording of a farm's assets. The Digital Farm Calendar will follow a mixed model (edge-cloud) approach and will offer reduced functionality even offline.
"OpenAgri Weather Data service": is based on the fusion of existing open or low-cost weather monitoring and forecast services e.g., OpenWeather, ECMWF, and also by connecting to local weather stations. Agricultural weather data services will be provided e.g. accumulation of precipitation, dormant season's accumulation of chilling hours, calculators of Growing Degree Days, forecasts and weather conditions in relation with optimum conditions per farming activity and crop type.
"OpenAgri Pest & Disease Management service": offers a modular pest infestation probabilistic decision support system. It will receive as input a number of relevant variables such as weather conditions, crop type, growth stage, calculated Growing Degree Days, observations from scouting (results of image analytics) in order to provide an estimated pest & disease infestation risk index. A first set of algorithms tailored to the pests & diseases of the OpenAgri SIPs have been already implemented and act as examples for guiding the development of prediction systems for additional plant pests and diseases.
"OpenAgri Irrigation service": supports farmers and advisors in optimising their irrigation strategy through the provision of data-driven recommendations that are derived based on a number of parameters and data (e.g. crop type, growth stage, soil moisture, accumulated precipitation, calculated reference evapotranspiration (ET_o), Satellite data (NDWI) combined when available with images from UAVs.
"Interoperable data exchange and Access Control Service/OpenAgri Gatekeeper": acts as a data translator capable of being customised and connected with the API of an underlying information system and enables controlled and secure data exchange compliant with (de facto) standardised data models/ontologies and APIs. Model data mapping and templates will be provided for use in all ADSs.

Interoperable data exchange will take into account processing and bandwidth restrictions by adopting lightweight OS protocols. This service acts as a hub for discovering and using OpenAgri's OS Services. Furthermore, the service handles all access control need, with a suitably designed user interface, ensuring access to data is easily controlled by farmers.
"Reporting service": enables (semi)automated report generation in order to significantly reduce reporting burdens towards a variety of stakeholders. Its starting point is the following indicative domains: a) generating farm level aggregates addressing policy needs (e.g. new CAP indicators, SAIO pesticide reporting), b) providing reports on damage caused by weather events or other insurance claims, c) supporting certification (GlobalGAP, organic, etc.), d) other data and reporting required by contractual relations or track and trace legal obligations (e.g. Protected Designation of Origin-PDO). A standard set of reports will be developed with both human and machine-readable outputs.

As shown in Figure below, OpenAgri OS Services are intended to be used as functional components of the ADSs that are currently evaluated in OpenAgri's SIPs. ADSs are not solely based on the reuse of OS Services but at least one OpenAgri OS Service must be integrated in each ADS.

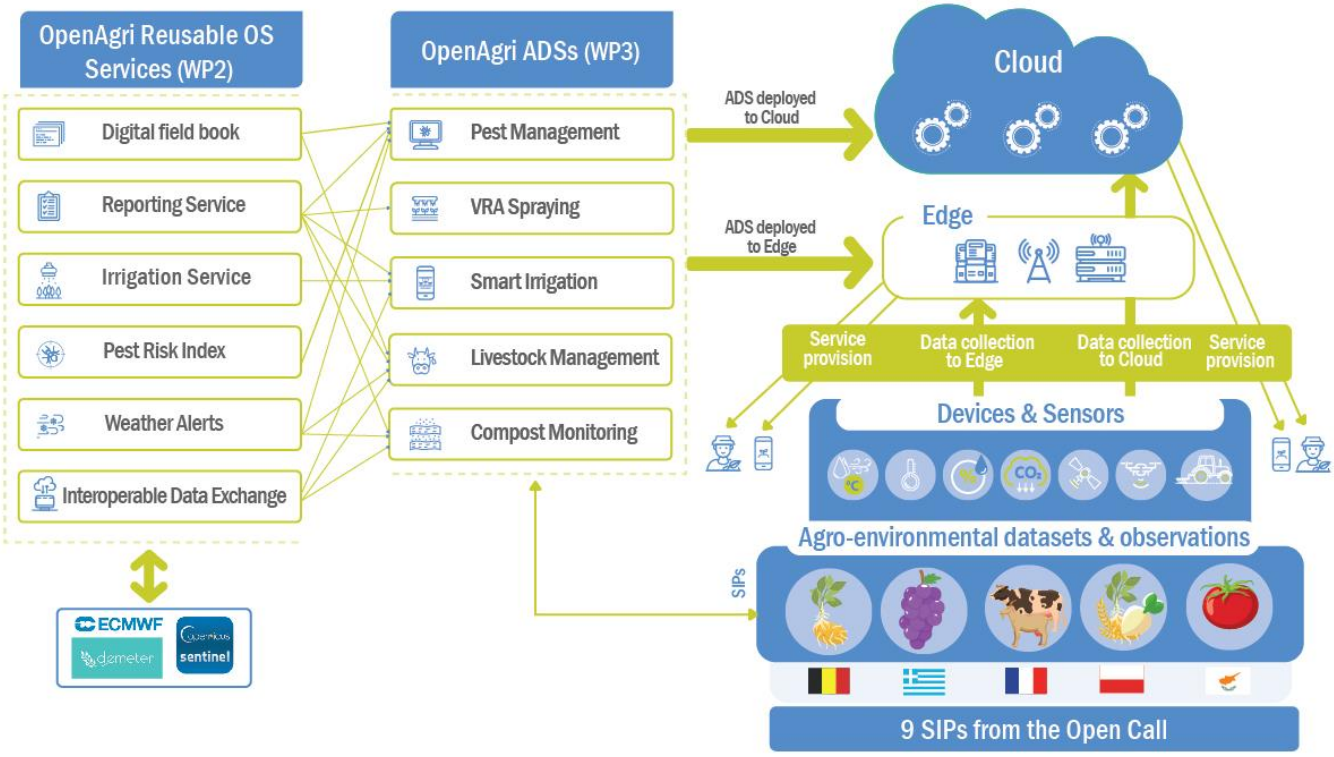

Figure 2 OpenAgri OS Services

2.3. Submission procedure

The entry point for submitting all proposals for OpenAgri Open Call is the OpenAgri website, https://horizon-openagri.eu/open-call/ where the direct link to the Open Call Hub Platform/OpenAgri tab can be found.

Submissions received through any other channel will be automatically discarded.

Documents required in subsequent phases will be submitted via dedicated channels, which will be indicated by the OpenAgri consortium in the contracting phase.

2.4. Language

English is the official language for OpenAgri Open Call. Applications submitted in any other language will not be evaluated. English is also the only official language throughout the whole execution of the OpenAgri project. This means all requested contributions must be submitted in English to be eligible.

2.5. Document format

Any document requested in any of the phases must be submitted electronically in PDF format without restrictions for printing. When filling in the proposal template, make sure to keep provided set formatting of the document, including margins, font size and do not exceed the defined page limit, as given in the proposal template. Cover page, table of content and administrative information are excluded in the maximum of 10 pages, however, budget tables and visual schema of the solutions are included; 10 page count starts from Section 3. Proposal Description.

2.6. Data protection

In order to process and evaluate applications, OpenAgri consortium will need to collect Personal and Industrial Data. FSH, as the Open Call Manager of the project, will act as Data Controller for data submitted through the OCH platform for these purposes. The OCH platform's system design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with The General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Each applicant will accept the OCH terms to ensure compliance. Please note that OpenAgri consortium requests the minimum information needed to deliver the evaluation procedures or the support programme. Annexes 7: Bank Account Information and 8 Model Subgrantee Agreement, are provided for reference and will only be requested if the applicant is accepted in the OpenAgri support programme. Please refer to https://opencallhub.eu/Home/Privacy for more information on OCH platform data privacy policy and security.

2.7. Origin of the funds

All sub-grantees will sign a dedicated Sub-grant Agreement with the OpenAgri consortium. The funds provided to the Sub-grant Agreement come directly from the funds of the European Project OpenAgri funded itself by the European Commission under Grant Agreement Number 101134083, and remain therefore, property of the EU until the balance is paid, whose management rights have been transferred to the project partners in OpenAgri. This relation between the sub-grantees and the European Commission through the OpenAgri project carries a set of obligations to the sub-grantees with the European Commission. It is the responsibility of the sub-grantees to fulfil these, and of the OpenAgri consortium partners to inform them of these.

More details on obligations of sub-grantees can be found in Chapter 5.

3. Proposal Submission and Selection

3.1. Open Call publication

OpenAgri open call will be published on the OpenAgri website, https://horizon-openagri.eu/open-call/, and Funding & Tenders Portal on **September 2nd, 2024**, and it will remain open until **December 2nd, 2024, 17.00 CET**. The publication will be supported by the Open Call Kit, which includes the following documents:

1. **Open Call text**, which provides the scope and objectives of the open call.
2. **Applicants' Guide**, this document.
3. **Proposal template**, word document to be submitted as a PDF in the application phase.
4. **Declaration of Honour (DoH)**, which declares that all conditions of the Open Call are accepted by an ADS provider's and end-user's legal representative. This document has to be submitted for both partners.
5. **Declaration of conducting business**, which shows the business activities of the applicants; also, in case of SME, it shows that the applicant is an SME according to EC standards. This document has to be submitted for both partners.
6. **Consortium declaration**, document mandatory for applying consortia.
7. **Bank account information**, which collects information on the applicant's bank account where the OpenAgri payments will be transferred to (only for winners of the Open Call).
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9. **OpenAgri Open Source components*,** on the following link on the OpenAgri website: https://horizon-openagri.eu/os-solutions/
10. Frequently asked questions & answers published at the community feed of the specially dedicated channel for OpenAgri Project and Open Call on the Open Call Hub Platform/OpenAgri OC tab, link: https://opencallhub.eu/

* Please note that the OpenAgri consortium reserves the right to regularly update the descriptions of the OpenAgri Open Source components during the period of Open Call.

Note: OpenAgri consortium reserves the right to ask for additional explanations from the applicants during the eligibility check.

3.2. Eligibility criteria

OpenAgri Open Call is aimed at small consortia of one ADS provider and one end user. Detailed eligibility criteria are described in this section. Overall eligibility criteria for the OpenAgri Open Call are:

- Applicants need to be a **small consortium** comprised of an ADS provider (SME, university, research institute, non-profit organization) and an end-user (consisting of a farm, farm structure, farm cooperative or other agrifood production organisation or company representing farms); see 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 for more details.
- The applicants must be **legally established at the time of the application**. Having a valid VAT number is mandatory, however, in case having VAT number is not mandatory according to the national legislation of the applicant's country, a registration number from the respective national authority (National business registry, Commercial court or similar) must be provided.
- **Existing consortium members** of OpenAgri project and their affiliated entities are **not eligible** for the OpenAgri Open Call.
- The proposal is **delivered before the defined deadline**, applying the requested submission procedure.

- Proposals shall **only ask for funding for that part of the work that is not yet accomplished** and will be carried out after having been selected for funding. Of course, this does not exclude the usage of e.g., results, IP, infrastructures or approaches already held by the applicants.
- Each applicant may submit **only one proposal to the OpenAgri Open Call**. In case an applying consortium submits more than one application in the Open Call, only the last one received (timestamp of the system) will be considered, and the remaining applications will automatically be excluded from the evaluation process. In case an applicant wants to re-submit the application, they need to create a new account to do so, keeping in mind that each account has to have a unique email address, therefore another email address must be used to resubmit the application. If the last submitted application is declared as non-eligible or below the evaluation threshold upon evaluation, the other submitted applications will not be taken into consideration.
- The applicants must **demonstrate that there is no risk of double funding**. The fundamental principle underpinning the rules for public expenditure in the EU states that no costs for the same activity can be funded twice from the EU budget, as defined in the Article 111 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation. In the case of applications submitted by linked SMEs, all must clearly state the differences between them, including but not limited to, technical aspects, market strategy and team composition, so that no doubt remains that there is no risk of double funding. In order to properly assess these concerns OpenAgri may assign all applications to the same set of evaluators and, should any doubt remain, exclude all applications. In case of applying consortia, appearance of an entity in multiple applying consortia will also be treated as a risk of double funding and consequently, all applications from consortia where this entity is present will automatically be discarded as ineligible.
- The **maximum amount** of funding that a SIP can receive via the OpenAgri Open Call is 100,000€ and no member of the consortium can receive more than 60,000€.

3.2.1. Definition of ADS provider

- ***SME (Small or medium sized enterprise)***

An SME is considered as such if it complies with the European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC[1], and the SME user guide[2]. As a summary, the criteria which define an SME are the following:

- Independent, partner or linked enterprises, with financial and staff figures calculated in accordance with instructions given by Recommendation 2003/361/EC[3].
- It is a legal entity established and based in one of the EU Member States or an HE Associated country as defined in HE rules for participation[4] (see section 3.2.3).
- Headcount in Annual Work Unit (AWU) less than 250.
- Annual turnover less or equal to €50 million OR annual balance sheet total less or equal to €43 million.

If applicants are not sure whether they comply with the SME criteria, an online SME self-assessment questionnaire is provided by the EC, for these purposes, on this link: SME self-assessment questionnaire.

[1] European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC.
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:124:0036:0041:en:PDF
[2] SME definition: https://op.europa.eu/s/ouL1
[3] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:124:0036:0041:en:PDF
[4] Eligible countries: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

- ***Research institute***

Research Institute (organization) - a legal entity that is established as a non-profit organisation and whose main objective is carrying out research or technological development. Research Institutes/organizations must provide confirmation of registration from a respective business registry such as the Commercial Court in order to participate in the OpenAgri Open Call.

- ***University***

A university - an institution of higher (or tertiary) education and research which awards academic degrees in several academic disciplines. Universities typically offer both undergraduate and postgraduate programs. Universities must provide confirmation of registration from a respective business registry such as the Commercial Court in order to participate in the OpenAgri Open Call.

- ***Non-profit organization***

Non-profit organization - an organization, typically dedicated to pursuing mission-oriented goals through the collective actions of citizens, that is not formed and organized so as to generate a profit. Non-profit organizations must provide confirmation of registration from a respective business registry such as the Commercial Court in order to participate in the OpenAgri Open Call.

3.2.2. Definition of end-user

OpenAgri project focuses on end users consisting of a **farm, farm structure, farm cooperative or other agrifood production organisation or company representing farms. Of particular interest are small and medium-sized farms (SMFs)**, classified as generally family-run businesses. Eurostat does not provide a specific categorization based on farm size due to varying contextual factors like country, sector, and product. Instead, farms are categorized based on economic size: small farms have a Standard Output (SO) between €2,000 and €25,000 and are typically less than 5 hectares, while medium farms have an SO between €25,000 and €250,000 and range from 5 to 49 hectares. Cooperatives representing or consisting of such farms, and small scale agrifood production SMEs representing farms are also eligible for participation as end users.

3.3. Definition of eligible countries

Association with Horizon Europe is governed by the Horizon Europe Regulation 2021/6951. Legal entities from associated countries can participate under the same conditions as legal entities from the EU Member States, unless specific restrictions or conditions are set in the work programme and/or call/topic text. Such measures could include the limitation of participation in certain actions to legal entities established only in the EU, or in the EU and specified non-EU countries, in order to safeguard the EU's strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security.

Important notice:

The Open Call adheres to the Council Implementing Decision 2022/2506 that stipulates that legal commitments must not be entered into with any public interest trusts established on the basis of the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity maintained by such a public interest trust, concerning inter alia financial support to third parties. Consequently, the concerned Hungarian entities are excluded from receiving FSTP (financial support to third parties) from this Open Call. For further information please follow

this link. It is important to mention that entities established in Hungary that are not affected with this decision are fully eligible to apply.

According to the *EU Grants: List of participating countries (HE): V3.1 – 11.07.2024*[4], besides the **EU Member States** (including their outermost regions, as well **as Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT)** linked to EU Member), the following **Horizon Europe associated countries** are eligible to receive funding through OpenAgri Open Call (listed in alphabetical order): Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada (applicable to Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness', including for the institutionalized European partnerships, and for award procedures implementing Union budget for the year 2024 and onwards), Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo[5], Moldova, Montenegro, New Zealand (associated to Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' as from the Work Programmes 2023 onwards, including for the institutionalized European partnerships), North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, and United Kingdom (associated to the entire Programme, with the only exception of the EIC fund, for award procedures implementing Union budget for the year 2024 and onwards).

Additional countries that are eligible for funding are:

1. Morocco (applicable for the entire Programme),
2. Switzerland (applicable to calls under the ERC Work Programme 2024 with opening date after 18 March 2024; legal entities established in Switzerland are currently not covered by the transitional arrangement with regard to other parts of Horizon Europe).

Participants (other third countries) from the following low- to middle-income countries are automatically eligible for funding, as of July 11th 2024:

- Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi
- Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic), Congo (Republic), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba
- Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic
- Ecuador, Egypt (Arab Republic), El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana
- Haiti, Honduras
- Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic), Iraq
- Jamaica, Jordan
- Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea (Democratic People's Republic), Kyrgyz Republic
- Lao (People's Democratic Republic), Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya
- Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar
- Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria
- Pakistan, Palestine[6], Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines
- Rwanda
- Samoa, São Tomé and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic
- Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu
- Uganda, Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic), Vietnam

[5] This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

[6] This designation is not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue

- Yemen Republic
- Zambia, Zimbabwe.

4. Application process

Interested applicants should register at the OpenAgri Open Call page on the Open Call Hub. This will be the central interface for managing the proposal applications for the remainder of the Open Call.

The OpenAgri Open Call kit will also be available at the specially dedicated page of the OpenAgri website, https://horizon-openagri.eu/open-call/, as well as the Funding & Tenders Portal.

It is important to note that only individuals registered on the Open Call Hub platform will be in position to apply for the OpenAgri Open Call, but also to submit questions on the dedicated FAQ section on the Open Call Hub platform.

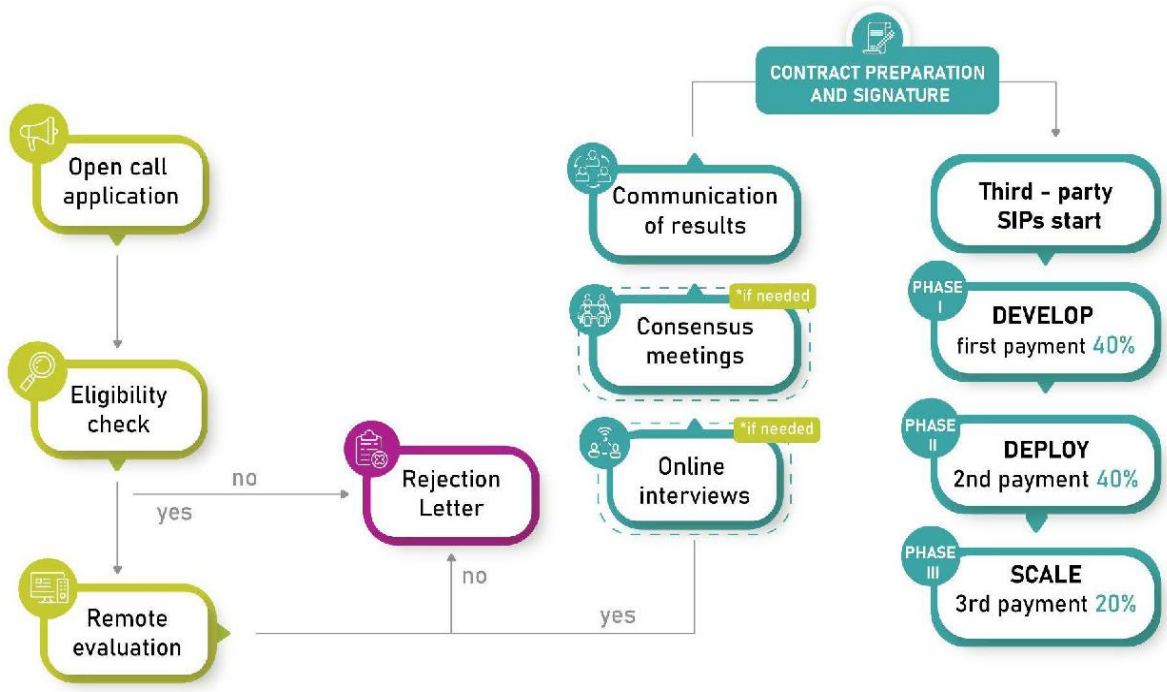

Figure 3 Application process of the OpenAgri Open Call

4.1. Application preparation

Please follow the steps:

- Please register on the platform prior to the submission of your proposal.
- The applicants are requested to apply online and provide all necessary information. Applicants must submit all requested documents on this application platform.
- Applicants that do not accept the terms and conditions and do not sign and upload to the platform the completed Declaration of Honour (for both partners), Consortium Declaration and the Declaration of Conducting Business (for both partners), all in PDF format, will not be able to submit the application. Later submissions of these documents will not be accepted.
- In case applicants have any technical difficulties, they should contact the FSH support team at openagri@opencallhub.eu until November 30th, 2024 at 17:00 CET (48 hours prior to the deadline).

It is strongly recommended not to wait until the last minute to submit the application. Failure of the application to arrive in time for any reason, including network communications delays or working from multiple browsers or multiple browser windows, is not acceptable as an extenuating circumstance. The time of receipt of the application as recorded by the submission system will be definitive. Applicants are advised to carefully consider the eligibility of all members of the consortium.

Technical issues may occur with large documents in different formats. The OpenAgri project does not bear responsibility for technical problems at any stage. Make sure to check and test upload on time. If technical issues do arise, applicants may contact OpenAgri team for support, via email: **openagri@opencallhub.eu**, until November 30th, 2024 at 17:00 CET (48 hours prior to the deadline).

4.2. The reception of applications

Submissions will ONLY be done via the OCH platform on https://opencallhub.eu/. A full list of applicants will be drafted containing their basic information for statistical purposes and clarity (which will be also shared with the EC for transparency). **The platform will close for applications at 17:00 CET (Brussels time) on December 2nd, 2024.**

5. Evaluation process

The OpenAgri consortium is committed to ensuring a competitive, fair, and transparent Open Call process. An internal Advisory Board for the OCs will be formed, consisting of an agri-food domain expert, an open-source expert, a scientific/AgriTech expert, and an Open Call expert. The Advisory Board's role is to confirm the list of external experts who will remotely evaluate the proposals based on predefined criteria (two evaluators per proposal), approve the results of the eligibility check of the submitted proposals and intervene when consensus is not reached after the remote evaluation and consensus meeting.

5.1. Eligibility check

Once the Open Call has been closed (December 2nd, 2024), an eligibility check process will be carried out in order to discard non-eligible applications. The eligibility check will be carried out by OpenAgri partner managing the Open Call, Foodscale Hub, during December 2024. OpenAgri partners will only forward the eligible applications to the evaluators. Please note that only complete applications will be considered, those with missing information or missing answers will be discarded.

This procedural part of the evaluation will verify:

i) alignment with the Open Call's objectives,
ii) eligible legal entities from eligible HE country/countries,
iii) the applicant consortium consists of a registered ADS provider (SME, university, reserach institute, non-profit organization) and an end user (as defined above),
iv) The SIP demonstrates a European dimension ("through cross border experimentation or expanding the impact of local SIPs to European scale").
v) Is the application written in English language,
vi) proposal has not been pre-submitted in other open calls,
vii) proposed work to be carried out after the selection process,
viii) all required documents are correctly submitted,
ix) the submission has been made in a timely manner and in accordance with the rules.

During the eligibility check the applicants might be requested to provide additional explanations if their application raises questions such as, but not limited to, ambiguity of the information, inconsistencies which are obvious errors. In that case, applicants may be given 3 working days from the day of notification to correct or provide additional documents to complete their initial application. If the requested corrections are not provided in the time specified, their application will be discarded as ineligible and will not continue to be evaluated.

5.2. Remote evaluation

Remotely each application will be evaluated by at least two field experts in relevant domains (one business expert and one technical expert) external to the OpenAgri Consortium. These external evaluators will be selected by the Open Call Manager (FSH) after a Call for Expression of Interest for External Evaluators has been concluded, which will run in parallel with the OpenAgri Open Call.

In case potential evaluators are already registered on the Open Call Hub platform, they will not need to apply again, and will be taken into consideration for selection as a OpenAgri evaluator, providing their expertise profile fits the OpenAgri Open Call needs.

All eligible proposals will be assessed by two expert evaluators against the following **award criteria:**

Criteria	Weight	Description
Excellence	30%	Design, novelty, and reliability of the solution; potential for wide range of application; value proposition of the proposal; current TRL of the solution and pathways to achieving a higher TRL. utilization of a digital technology not already present in the OpenAgri consortium, or combination of different technologies with the ones present in OpenAgri will be considered an advantage.
Impact	30%	Economic viability of the solution; sustainability strategy (including financial projections) and its potential scalability to other countries/regions, especially those with a major potential impact on increasing food security and resilience across Europe; economic, environmental and societal impact of the proposed solution. Deployment of the pilot in a sector (i.e. crops/livestock) not already covered by OpenAgri SIPs will be considered as an advantage.
Implementation	20%	Team capability and their key expertise; technical resource plan; the plan to use the OpenAgri Reusable OS Services; the overall delivery plan; allocation of resources and timeline
Replicability	20%	The OS components to be offered to the public after the end of the project; the ability of developed ADSs to be reused by other farmers in other conditions and/or for other crops

Table 1 Award criteria

Each criterion can be scored from mark 1 to 5. Half point scores are not given. For each criterion under examination, score values will indicate the following assessments:

Score	Rationale
1 – Fail	The proposal fails to address the issue under examination or provides insufficient information.
2 – Poor	The issue is addressed in an unsatisfactory manner.
3 – Average	The proposal addresses the issue, but there are significant weaknesses.
4 – Good	The proposal addresses the issue well, but there is clear room for improvement.

5 – Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the issue in question and if there are any shortcomings, they are minor.

Table 2 Rationale on the score values

More specifically, a score of:

- 1 corresponds to 0.2 times the maximum points for the criterion,
- 2 corresponds to 0.4 times the maximum points,
- 3 corresponds to 0.6 times the maximum points,
- 4 corresponds to 0.8 times the maximum points, and
- 5 corresponds to the maximum points allocated for the given criterion.

The final score (including for each criterion) is calculated based on the average of the scores provided by the evaluators.

There is a threshold in the score for each evaluation criterion. Proposals need to have a score of at least 3 in each and every criterion, for them to be considered for funding. If even a single criterion is given the average mark below the selection threshold, the proposal will not be selected.

Each evaluator will record their individual opinion of each proposal on an Individual Evaluation Report and the partner managing the Open Call, Foodscale Hub, will inform the applicants of the outcome of their proposals, via the Evaluation Summary Report.

5.3. Consensus meetings and online interviews (conditional step)

In case the discrepancy in the marks given for a criterion (or more) by the two evaluators is at 3 or 4, a **Consensus meeting** will be organized between the two evaluators and will be moderated by the OpenAgri partner managing the Open Call (Foodscale Hub). Please note that the goal of these Consensus meetings is not necessarily to align the marks given by the two evaluators, but rather to give them the opportunity to present their findings and exchange opinions. **The Consensus meetings will not be held in case the application in question has scored below the Selection threshold on a criterion where this discrepancy is not present**, even if it is present in another criterion. The external evaluators will be in the position to change the mark they have given **only for the criterion that triggered the Consensus meeting**.

In case two or more applications have identical scores (and this affects the decision whether they will be funded or not), an **Online Interview** will take place between the applicants in question and the external evaluators, moderated by FSH as the Open Call Manager. Following the Online Interview session, the external evaluators and FSH will have a Consensus Meeting where they will decide which applicant will receive funding. The following weighted criteria are to be evaluated: a) confirmation of proposed targets/technology (40%); b) viability of the proposed business model and reliability to reach exploitation milestones (30%); c) replicability of proposed solution (30%).

At the end of the process, the final ranking list will be produced. All applicants will be informed about their scores and evaluator comments by receiving an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), and whether the proposal has been selected or rejected. The call documents will be published at least 3 months prior to the open call deadline and will include the eligibility and evaluation criteria to ensure a trustworthy process and fair competition. The external evaluators will receive the evaluation guidelines and templates and will be duly informed about the timing of the process and the need to declare conflicts of interest. Also, all evaluators will sign a declaration of impartiality and absence of conflicts of interest (for more information on Conflict of Interest, please check the following link).

Proposals with the highest scores will be selected for funding. If more than one proposal shares the same score and is listed at the last place planned for funding, scores received for the criteria of i) excellence, and Ii) impact will be compared. If the scores are identical, scores received for iii) implementation, and iv) replicability, sufficiency in the applicant's background and allocation of resources will be compared. If a tie persists, an interview will be conducted with the applicants in question, with the participation of evaluators and the OpenAgri Open Call Advisory board.

The OpenAgri consortium, with the approval of the EC, retains the discretion to select a higher or lower number of applications than initially planned.

5.4. Redress procedure

Within **three working days** of the delivery of a rejection letter determinning the application as ineligible or an Evaluation Summary Report that ranks the application below the selection threshold, the applicants may submit a request for redress to the OpenAgri Advisory Board via the following email address: openagri@opencallhub.eu. Applicants should dop this if they believe there has been a procedural shortcoming in the way their application has been evaluated or if they believe that the results of the eligibility checks are incorrect. The request for redress must be submitted in the English language.

The redress claim may address the eligibility check and/or evaluation procedure of the application. The request for redress must clearly explain the redress points and elaborate on each stated point. Request must be:

- Related to the evaluation procedure or eligibility checks, for example errors like an SME (with a registered VAT number) being discarded as ineligible by accident,
- Clearly describing the complaint,
- Received within the time limit (three working days) from the reception of a rejection letter considering the application as ineligible or an Evaluation Summary Report that ranks the application below the selection borderline,
- Sent by the ADS provider's/end-user's legal representative, or the representative of the consortia member that has submitted the application, OR the legal representative of the Consortium leader as identified in Annex 6: Consortium Declaration.

In this case, the OpenAgri Advisory Board will examine the request for redress within five working days and decide whether the application in question will be re-evaluated or the request for redress will be rejected. If there is clear evidence of a shortcoming that could affect the eventual decision to select an applicant as a winning beneficiary of the Open Call, it is possible that all or part of the application will be re-evaluated. The OpenAgri Advisory Board's role is to ensure a coherent interpretation of such requests and equal treatment of applicants.

Please note:

- This procedure is concerned only with the evaluation procedural activities and/or eligibility checking process. The OpenAgri Advisory Board will not call into question the business or technical judgment of appropriately qualified experts.
- Any redress request that calls into question the technical/business judgment of appropriately qualified experts will automatically be rejected.
- A re-evaluation will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that affects the final decision on whether to select the applicant as a winning beneficiary or not. This means, for

example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if an application has failed anyway on other criteria.

- The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. It may be lower than the original score.

Only one request for redress per application will be considered by the committee. If more requests for redress are submitted, only the first request sent will be taken into consideration. The application that is approved for re-evaluation will be re-evaluated ina a timely and prior to the contract preparation phase. In case an application under the redress procedure is re-evaluated and the new evaluation score is higher, it will be included in the final overall ranking. In case the application under the redress procedure ranks higher than the last application on the initial list set to receive funding, then the application under the redress procedure will be determined the winner.

5.5. Notification

Upon concluding all of the post-evaluation activities, the final ranking list will be created, and the Evaluation Summary Reports will be distributed to all the applicants who have applied for the OpenAgri Open Call, containing the marks and comments for each evaluation criterion and comments regarding the application as a whole.

5.6. Contracting

After all of the post-evaluation activities have been concluded and the OpenAgri Open Call winners have been selected, the OpenAgri Treasurer (Foodscale Hub) will start the contract preparation in collaboration with the winning applications' representatives. Contract preparation will undertake administrative and financial checks. A phone call or teleconference may be needed for clarification on a case-by-case basis.

The objective of the contract preparation is to fulfil the legal requirements between the OpenAgri consortium and every winner of the Open Call. The items covered will be:

- To validate the **legal status** of the applicant, the following documents will be required:
  - **Legal existence**: Company Register, Official Gazette or other official document per country showing the name of the organization, the legal address and registration number and a copy of a document proving VAT registration (in case the VAT number does not show on the registration extract or its equivalent).
  - Legal proof that the applicant's organization is not under liquidation or has filed for bankruptcy.

- **Bank Account Information:** The account where the funds will be transferred will be indicated via a form signed by the legal representative and the bank representative. The account should be a business bank account of the beneficiary. In case of applying small consortia, they will need to provide information about the Bank Account of each member of the consortium. The financial information should not be older than three months.

The Subgrantee assumes full responsibility on the bank account info they provide through Annex 7. For instance, if they provide an incorrect IBAN, and the OpenAgri team proceeds with the transfer to that account, they will assume any costs related to the transfer (expenses regarding the return of the amount

from the incorrect bank account and/or expenses with the new transfer will be deducted from their grant transfer). Ultimately, in a worst-case scenario, if the OpenAgri team does not manage to recover the amount transferred to the wrong bank account, the beneficiary who provided a an erroneous IBAN will not be able to claim that payment.

The request, by the OpenAgri consortium, for the above documentation will be done within designated deadlines. The subproject contract negotiations are intended to be carried out during March and April 2025. In case negotiations have not been concluded within the above period, the application could be rejected and with the next application in the reserve list would be invited.

5.7. Contract signature

At the end of the negotiation phase, the Subgrantee agreement will be signed between the OpenAgri consortium represented by the Treasurer (FSH) and the winning applicant.

5.8. Funding scheme

The funding from the OpenAgri Open Call is deliverable based, provided in three installments, to be distributed upon successful submission of the relevant deliverable and its positive review by the OpenAgri Consortium. As such, there will be no need for cost justifications and getting the funding will be associated with the achievement of the relevant deliverables (for more details see section 6.2 below), which means that the administration burden of the subproject implementation will be removed from the Subgrantees. HOWEVER, the Subgrantee is required to keep all documents relating to their sub-project contract for five years after the conclusion of the OpenAgri project, should the EC decide to arrange a financial audit to be carried out. For more details, see Section 7 – Financial audits and controls.

The awarded applicants will receive their funding of **100,000€, in** in three instalmetns (40%, 40% and 20%) approximately one month upon submitting each of the relevant deliverables, and upon receiving a positive assessment regarding their deliverables from the OpenAgri consortium.

6. Subproject Execution Summary

6.1. Support provided to Subgrantees

The development of the pilots and their ADSs will be supported by cross cutting WPs dedicated to transparency, policy, business support, management and communication and dissemination.

During the implementation of their subprojects, the SIPs will be required to submit three deliverables as conditions of receiving financial support from OpenAgri. The template for these deliverables will be developed by the OpenAgri partners and distributed to the awarded SIPs, at least three months prior to the deadline for their submission.

The payments of the subgrant instalments will normally be made in the month following the submission of the deliverable. In case these deliverables have not been evaluated positively, the OpenAgri consortium will ask the Subgrantees for additional clarifications. This could have an effect on the timing of payments, as the positive review of the deliverable is the condition for releasing the respective payment.

In case the Subgrantee does not comply with the requests made by the OpenAgri consortium or if the deliverables are not accepted upon receiving additional clarifications, the OpenAgri consortium reserves the right to terminate the contract automatically. In such a case, all financial transactions made by OpenAgri towards the sub-grantee (if any at a designated time) must be reimbursed within 10 work days days upon receipt of an official contract termination.

6.2. Review process

The review process will be undertaken for each phase of the implementation and will be conducted by the OpenAgri Open Call Advisory Board, chaired by OpenAgri project coordinator. Once the deliverable is received, it will be assessed by the OpenAgri Open Call Advisory Board members. A request for the deliverable's update may occur with specific requirements for what should be modified. When the deliverable is officially accepted, the Chair of the AB will inform the Treasurer and the payment will be released.

Deliverable	Due date	Description of the deliverable
D1 Develop	M07	A report that summarises the results of the activities undertaken within this phase, with specific focus on the detailed plan for the technical development of proposed ADS and its execution.
D2 Deploy	M14	A report that summarises the results of the testing and integration of the selected OS components into the ADS.
D3 Scale	M18	A report that summarises the market associated activities and perspectives of the ADS.

7. Responsibilities of the Subgrantees

The selected Subgrantees are indirectly beneficiaries of European Commission funding. As such, they are responsible for the proper use of the funding and ensure that the recipients comply with obligations under HE specific requirements as described in Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) The obligations that are applicable to the recipients include:

7.1 Conflict of interest

The Subgrantee representative must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the subproject is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests'). At the same time, applicants cannot be affiliated with OpenAgri consortium partners, nor can they be employees of the OpenAgri consortium partners. All potential conflicts of interest will be assessed carefully. Please see more info ***HERE.***

They must formally notify to the OpenAgri consortium without delay any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation. The OpenAgri consortium may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

If the Subgrantee representative breaches any of its obligations, the Subgrantee agreement may be automatically terminated. Moreover, if the Subgrantee agreement is terminated due to a breach made by the Subgrantee, the OpenAgri consortium reserves the right to claim the refunds of payments made to the Subgrantee and suspend all further payments of the subgrant.

7.2 Ethics, Data Protection & Confidentiality

During the implementation of the subproject and for five years after the end of the subproject, the parties must keep confidential any data, documents, or other material (in any form) that is identified as confidential at subcontract signing time ('confidential information').

If a Subgrantee representative requests, the Commission and the OpenAgri consortium may agree to keep such information confidential for an additional period beyond the initial five years. This will be explicitly stated in the Subgrantee Agreement. If information has been identified as confidential during the subproject execution or only orally, it will be considered confidential only if this is accepted by the OpenAgri Coordinator and confirmed in writing within 15 days of the oral disclosure. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use confidential information only to implement the Agreement.

The Subgrantee representative(s) may disclose confidential information to the OpenAgri consortium and to the selected reviewers, who will be bound by a specific Non-Disclosure Agreement.

Applicants must confirm that all proposed services, including the means of their delivery and maintenance, have been reviewed to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation on data protection, privacy, and fundamental rights.

The responsibility for meeting ethics and data protection requirements rests solely with the applicants in their applications and eventual implementation of their projects (if selected). The selected Pilots could be subject to additional ethical check-ups, performed by the OpenAgri external ethical advisor, during application, evaluation and/ or implementation stage.

7.3 Promoting the action and giving visibility to the EU funding

The Subgrantees must promote the subproject, the OpenAgri project and its results, by providing the description of their project upon request from the OpenAgri Consortium and highlight the financial support of the EC.

Unless the European Commission or the OpenAgri coordinator requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.), any publicity, including at a conference or seminar or any type of information or promotional material (brochure, leaflet, poster, presentation etc.), and any infrastructure, equipment and major results funded by the grant must:

(a) display the EU emblem;

(b) display the OpenAgri logo and

(c) include the following text:

> *For communication activities: "This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under project OpenAgri (grant agreement No. 101134083)".*

For infrastructure, equipment and major results: "This [infrastructure][equipment][insert type of result] is part of a sub-project that has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under project OpenAgri (grant agreement No. 101134083)

When displayed in association with a logo, the European emblem should be given appropriate prominence. This obligation to use the European emblem in respect of projects to which the EC contributes implies no right of exclusive use. It is subject to general third-party use restrictions which do not permit the appropriation of the emblem, or of any similar trademark or logo, whether by registration or by any other means. Under these conditions, the Subgrantee is exempted from the obligation to obtain prior permission from the EC to use the emblem. Further detailed information on the EU emblem can be found on the Europa web page.

Any publicity made by the Subgrantee regarding the project, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, must specify that it reflects only the author's views and that the EC or OpenAgri Consortium are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

The EC and the OpenAgri Consortium shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:

- the name of the Subgrantee (ADS provider and end-user);
- contact address of the Subgrantee (ADS provider and end-user);
- the general purpose of the subproject;
- the amount of the financial contribution foreseen for the subproject; after the final payment, and the amount of the financial contribution actually received;
- the geographic location of the activities carried out;
- the list of dissemination activities and/or of patent (applications) relating to foreground;
- the details/references and the abstracts of scientific publications relating to foreground and, if funded within the subproject, the published version or the final manuscript accepted for publication;
- the publishable reports submitted to OpenAgri;
- any picture or any audio-visual or web material provided to the EC and OpenAgri in the framework of the subproject.

The Subgrantee representative shall ensure that all necessary authorisations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the EC and OpenAgri does not infringe any rights of third parties.

Upon a duly substantiated request by the Subgrantee representative, the OpenAgri consortium, if such permission is provided by the EC, may agree to forego such publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the beneficiary's security, academic or commercial interests.

7.4 Financial audit and controls

The European Commission (EC) will monitor that OpenAgri beneficiaries and the Subgrantees comply with the conditions for financial support to third parties such as set out in Financial support to third parties (FSTP) Annex of the OpenAgri Grant Agreement and may take any action foreseen by the Grant Agreement in case of noncompliance vis à vis the beneficiary concerned.

The OpenAgri project will follow the lump-sum approach, where payments are released with the acceptance of deliverables, however, all Subgrantees are strongly advised to keep detailed financial records for at least 5 years after the completion of OpenAgri project, in case of audits by competent EC authorities.

Moreover, the EC may at any time during the implementation of the OpenAgri project and up to 5 (five) years after the end of the OpenAgri project, arrange for financial audits to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves including the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF). The audit procedure shall be deemed to be initiated on the date of receipt of the relevant letter sent by the EC. Such audits may cover financial, systemic and other aspects (such as accounting and management principles) relating to the proper execution of the grant agreement. They shall be carried out on a confidential basis.

The Subgrantee representative shall make available directly to the EC all detailed information and data that may be requested by the EC or any representative authorized by it, with a view to verifying that the grant agreement is properly managed and performed in accordance with its provisions and that costs have been charged in compliance with it. This information and data must be precise, complete and effective.

The Subgrantee shall keep all subproject deliverables and the originals or, in exceptional cases, duly authenticated copies – including electronic copies – of all documents relating to the subproject contract for up to five years from the end of the project. These shall be made available to the EC where requested during any audit under the grant agreement.

In order to carry out these audits, the Subgrantee representative shall ensure that the EC´s services and any external body(ies) authorized by it have on-the-spot access at all reasonable times, notably to the subproject applicant offices, to its computer data, to its accounting data and to all the information needed to carry out those audits, including information on individual salaries of persons involved in the subproject. They shall ensure that the information is readily available on the spot at the moment of the audit and, if so requested, that data be handed over in an appropriate form.

On the basis of the findings made during the financial audit, a provisional report shall be drawn up. It shall be sent by the EC or its authorized representative to the Subgrantee concerned, which may make observations thereon within one month of receiving it. The Commission may decide not to take into account observations conveyed or documents sent after that deadline. The final report shall be sent to the beneficiary concerned within two months of expiry of the aforesaid deadline.

On the basis of the conclusions of the audit, the EC shall take all appropriate measures which it considers necessary, including the issuing of recovery orders regarding all or part of the payments made by it and the application of any applicable sanction.

The European Court of Auditors shall have the same rights as the EC, notably right of access, for the purpose of checks and audits, without prejudice to its own rules.

In addition, the EC may carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities.

7.5 Subproject Communication of important changes

The Subgrantee representative should provide any notice in writing to the OpenAgri consortium about the important changes; and notify immediately any change of persons or contact details to the OpenAgri Coordinator. The address list shall be accessible to all concerned.

7.6 Originality of the sub-granted projects

It is required that applications submitted are based on original works by the applicants and that their foreseen developments are free from third party rights. OpenAgri consortium is not obliged to verify the authenticity of the ownership of the foreseen products/services. Any issues occurring from third party claims that arise as a result of the sub-granted projects are on the sole responsibility of the applicant.

7.7 IPR Ownership of the sub-granted projects

Each Subgrantee that generates results owns the attached Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) generated during the development process and will own results that are not IPRs. Each subgrantee is responsible for the management and protection of its IPRs and bears the costs associated with this.

The Subgrantees funded within the OpenAgri project will be the unique owners of the technologies created within the framework of their sub-granted projects. Parts of their works will be requested to be public for OpenAgri dissemination purposes.

Important note: While the overall ADS developed remains the property of the consortium of the pilot, as noted above in 2.2.1, a portion of the developed work will be made available to the community as Open-Source. As noted above, relevant contribution can include contributions to open-source software, trained AI/ML algorithms with their training datasets, or open hardware. This is intended to ensure the continued growth and vibrancy of the open-source solutions developed in the OpenAgri project.

7.8 Liability

OpenAgri consortium and the European Commission cannot be held liable for any acts or omissions of the applicant in relation to the selected sub-granted project implemented by the Subgrantee. The OpenAgri Consortium shall not be liable for any defaults of any products, processes or services created in the sub-granted project. Including, for instance, anomalies in the functioning or performance thereof.

In case any damage is caused to a third party by the Subgrantee, the Subgrantee will assume full responsibility for the damage caused. In no way will the OpenAgri Consortium be responsible for any damages caused by the Subgrantee.

Subgrantees shall bear sole responsibility for ensuring that their acts within the framework of their sub-granted projects do not infringe third party rights.

7.9 Do Not Significant Harm (DNSH)

Subgrantees must always respect the 'Do Not Significant Harm Principle". The Commission Communication on the European Green Deal introduced the green oath to 'do no harm'. The 'Do not Significant Harm' (DNSH) principle has been further specified in the EU Regulation on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investments (**Regulation (EU) 2019/2088)**, commonly defined as the 'EU Taxonomy Regulation'. Six environmental objectives are listed in Article 23 of the EU Taxonomy and Article 17 specifies what can constitute a 'significant harm' for these objectives. Thus, the regulation provides that no measure should lead to significant harm to any of the six environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of the Taxonomy Regulation.

Annex 3. Proposal template

Funded by
the European Union

horizon-openagri.eu

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101134083

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1. Executive Summary

Please provide a brief overview of the proposal (objectives and expected outcomes) [1500 characters max]

2. General information

This information is mandatory and will be used by the evaluation committee to assess the suitability and expertise of the applicants.

2.1. General details

Proposal title	
Proposal acronym	

2.2. Consortium description

2.2.1. ADS provider

Company/Organization name		
Country, Full address		
VAT/Registration number[1]		
Type of partner:	**SME**	☐
	Research institute	☐
	University	☐
	Non-profit organization	☐
	Other	☐
Legal representative		
Email of legal representative		
Contact phone of legal representative		
Other contact person (if different than Legal Representative and if applicable)		
Email of other contact person (if applicable)		

2.2.2. End-user

Company/Organization name		
Country, Full address		
VAT/Registration number[1]		
Type of partner:	**Small Farm**	☐
	Medium Farm	☐
	Agricultural Cooperative	☐
	Other AgriFood Organisation representing farms	☐
Legal representative		
Email of legal representative		
Contact phone of legal representative		
Other contact person (if different than Legal Representative and if applicable)		
Email of other contact person (if applicable)		

[1] In case VAT is not eligible according to the national legislation, a registration number from the respective national authority (National business registry, Commercial court or similar) must be provided.

3. Excellence

---------- 10-Page limit starts here ----------

IMPORTANT: The allowed font type is "Calibri" and the minimum font size is 11 points, the paragraph spacing 6pt and the line spacing single. The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left and right) must be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers). Proposals that do not comply with these requirements will be excluded from evaluation as non-eligible.

The total length of the entire proposal, including the tables on Costs justification and funding (paragraph 6), must not be more than 10 pages. Page count starts from Section 3. Proposal description. Removing explanatory text in the proposal template, located below the paragraph sub-titles is allowed. External evaluators are instructed to dismiss the pages after the 10th page (starting from Section 3 and) from the evaluation.

3.1. General description

Describe the background of your application (the challenge to solve), design, novelty, reliability of the Agricultural Digital Solution (ADS) and how the proposed solution addresses the topics of the OpenAgri Open Call.

3.2. Objectives

Write the key objectives of the proposed Agricultural Digital Solution (ADS).

3.3. Description of applied technology

Please describe the technology you will be using in your ADS. What are the benefits compared to other solutions curently present on the market? Please keep in mind that use of a digital technology not already exploited by in the OpenAgri consortium, or combination of different technologies with the ones present in OpenAgri will be considered an advantage.

3.4. Graphical overview

Please provide visual presentation of your solution.

3.5. Technology Readiness Level

Please describe the starting Technology Readiness Level of the proposed solution in accordance with the EU TRL scale and the target Technology Readiness Level. Please have in mind that ADS should have high starting TRL (>5).

3.6. OpenAgri Open Source (OS) services

*Please provide an explanation **which** OS service(s) provided by the OpenAgri you plan to utilize and the reason behind it (**why** you have selected this/these service(s)).*

4. Impact

4.1. Business impact

Describe the business challenge and business potential. Demonstrate how the proposed ADS will reach the end-users and state the estimated number of end-users in (remote) rural areas.
Special attention should be paid to the following elements:

- *Business model: describe what business model(s) is proposed and what are the financial projections for the next 3 years;*
- *Describe how the project will develop the value proposition and KPIs. A first glance of these issues should be included in the proposal.*
- *Substantiate your business model by relating it to a general business model, for example the Business Model Canvas (BMC).*
- *Scalability: describe how the proposed business case will be able to scale in other countries/regions, especially those with a major potential impact on increasing food security and resilience across Europe; formulate a few important KPIs, with which the business impact can be measured.*
- *Business innovation: clearly describe the innovative elements of the product and its business model.*

4.2. Sustainability impact

Describe the environmental, social and other sustainability impacts of your proposed ADS in the agri-food sector. Formulate a few important KPIs, with which the impact could be measured.

4.3. Financial impact

Describe any relevant implication and support from public or private entities. Explain additional financial support you received from public or private resources for the development of this solution, and your approach to further fundraising in the future.

4.4. Impact on (remote) rural areas

Describe how your solution could be used in (remote) rural areas in your region/country and beyond. How will this solution help the farmers in these remote rural areas, especially with limited connectivity.

4.5. Multi-actors' involvement

Describe to what extent the different actors of the agri-food chain/end-users are involved in the proposed ADS. Please explain if you are deploying the pilot in a sector (i.e. crops/livestock) not already covered by OpenAgri SIPs.

4.6. Additional video material (optional)

If you wish to support your application with additional video material, please provide a valid YouTube or Vimeo link, (public or unlisted) without restrictions for viewing, not longer than 5 minutes. Evaluators may choose not to take this optional video material into account during evaluation and this material will not carry additional points.

5. Implementation

5.1. Work plan and activities

Draft the workplan and key activities of the proposed solution including a clear timeline. This workplan should address 3 key phases of implementation plan – Develop, Deploy, Scale – as stated in the Applicants' Guide.

Please add a timeline or Gantt chart to illustrate the proposed work plan.

5.2. Team

Please present your team members and provide information on their education, experience, skills and track record, plus the technical capacity to develop/enhance the solution. Explain briefly the main competences and experience of each partner in the consortium and how they are relevant for the delivery of the proposed solution. Keep in mind team's respect for gender balance.

5.3. Expected results and deliverables

Describe the key expected results and deliverables that the proposal will achieve and deliver. Propose SMART indicators, where appropriate, to make the expected results measurable.

Please keep in mind that there are already 3 mandatory deliverables, namely D1 Develop (M7), D2 Deploy (M14) and D3 Scale (M18), summarizing each of the phase of the implementation and are tied with the payment. However, you can add additional deliverable in each of the implementation phase if you wish.

6. Replicability of the solution

6.1. OS components offered to the public

Please describe the results that will be offered to the public as OS software or Open Hardware (see the Applicant's guide for more details) after the end of the project, and provide a concrete roadmap on ***how*** *it will be done. The results will be part of D2 Deploy, with Public dissemination level, and will be published on a relevant OS repository (such as GitHub) as well as on the OS Catalogue of the OpenAgri website (once approved by the technical coordination team of the OpenAgri consortium).*

6.2. Replicability and reuse of the ADS

Describe how your solution could be reused/adapted by other farmers in other conditions and/or other crops. Would minor or major changes be necessary?

7. Costs justification and funding

7.1. Deliverables list

No	Deliverable name/Description	Type	Delivery date	Phase	Overall Costs (€)[2]	Note
D1	Develop	R[3]	M	Develop		Cannot exceed 40% of the budget[4]
D2	Deploy	R	M	Deploy		Cannot exceed 40% of the budget[5]
D3	Scale	R	M	Scale		Cannot exceed 20% of the budget[6]
Total Deliverables Cost						100%

7.2. Budget and cost justification

Note that all costs must be entered in EUR currency, in the full amount, e.g., 100,000.00 EUR. VAT is not eligible per Horizon Europe rules.

Budget	Applicant 1	Applicant 2
Personnel cost[7]		
Travel cost[8]		
Equipment cost[9]		
Other goods/services		
Subcontracting costs[10]		
Indirect costs[11]		
Total cost[12]		

---------- 10-Page limit stops here ----------

[2] It includes the overall costs associated with the respective deliverable (personnel, travel, equipment, other, subcontracting and indirect costs) in EUR
[3] R - Report
[4] The overall cost of Deliverable No. 1 Develop can be up to 40,000 EUR
[5] The overall cost of Deliverable No. 2 Deploy can be up to 40,000 EUR
[6] The overall cost of Deliverable No. 3 Scale can be up to 20,000 EUR
[7] Cost of the personnel realizing the work and/or preparing the reports/deliverables.
[8] Travel costs necessary for the execution of the sub-project.
[9] Only the depreciation cost of the equipment should be included.
[10] Subcontracting is allowed for up to maximum of 25% of the proposed budget and this should be clearly justified.
[11] Indirect costs (overheads) could be up to 25% of the direct cost. **Subcontracting is not included in indirect cost calculation.**
[12] Winning proposal may have a total cost less or equal to €100,000, where maximum amount per third party cannot exceed €60,000. Total cost should be equal to total deliverables cost.

8. Ethics self-assessment

Please fill out the ethics/security checklist on the following page (provide a yes/no for each item).

This section is NOT covered by the 10-page limit.

8.1. Ethics

If you have entered any ethics issues in the Ethics/Security checklist, you must:

- Submit an ethics self-assessment, which:
  - Provides a rationale for the option made.
  - Describes how the proposal meets the national legal and ethical requirements of the country or countries where the tasks raising ethical issues are to be carried out.
  - Explains in detail how you intend to address the issues in the ethical issues table, as regards:
    - Research objectives (e.g., study of vulnerable populations, dual use, etc.).
    - Research methodology (e.g., clinical trials, involvement of children and related consent procedures, protection of any data collected, etc.).
    - The potential impact of the research (e.g., dual use issues, environmental damage, stigmatisation of particular social groups, political or financial retaliation, benefit-sharing, malevolent use, etc.).
- Provide the documents that you need under national law (if you already have them), e.g.:
  - An ethics committee opinion.
  - The document notifying activities raising ethical issues or authorising such activities.

⚠ *If these documents are not in English, you must also submit an English summary of them (containing, if available, the conclusions of the committee or authority concerned).*

⚠ *If you plan to request these documents specifically for the project you are proposing, your request must contain an explicit reference to the project title.*

8.2. Security

Please indicate if your project will involve:

- Activities or results raising security issues: [YES/NO]
- 'EU-classified information' as background or results: [YES/NO]
- Any potential “dual use” of results: [YES/NO]

8.3. Ethics/Security Checklist

	YES / NO
Informed consent	
Does the proposal involve children?	
Does the proposal involve patients or persons not able to give consent?	
Does the proposal involve adult healthy volunteers?	
Does the proposal involve Human Genetic Material?	
Does the proposal involve Human biological samples?	
Does the proposal involve Human data collection?	
Research on human embryo/foetus	
Does the proposal involve Human Embryos?	
Does the proposal involve Human Foetal Tissue / Cells?	
Does the proposal involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells?	
Privacy	
Does the proposal involve processing of genetic information or personal data (e.g., health, sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, political opinion, religious or philosophical conviction)	
Does the proposal involve tracking the location or observation of people?	
Research on animals	
Does the proposal involve research on animals?	
Are those animals transgenic small laboratory animals?	
Are those animals transgenic farm animals?	
Are those animals cloned farm animals?	
Are those animals nonhuman primates?	
Research involving developing countries	
Use of local resources (genetic, animal, plant etc)	
Benefit to local community (capacity building i.e., access to healthcare, education etc)	
Dual use	
Research having direct military application	
Research having the potential for terrorist abuse	
ICT implants	
Does the proposal involve clinical trials of ICT implants?	
I CONFIRM THAT NONE OF THE ABOVE ISSUES APPLY TO MY PROPOSAL	

Annex 4. Declaration of Honour and absence of conflict of interest

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101134083

Declaration of Honour

By signing this document, I declare that

1) I have the power of legally binding the legal entity mention below, to the conditions stated in this form.
2) I and the entity that I legally represent are fully aware and duly accept all OpenAgri rules and conditions as expressed in OpenAgri Open Call documents and all Annexes and will fully respect any evaluation decision and application selection under OpenAgri Open Call.
3) All provided information in this declaration is true and legally binding.

Applying Legal Entity Legal representative Contact Information:

Title (Mr, Mrs, Dr)	
Name	
Surname	
Position in the entity	
Full Address	
Country	
Email Address	
Telephone	
Mobile	
Signature and stamp (if applicable)	

Declaration of Honour on exclusion criteria and

absence of conflict of interest

By signing this declaration of honour, I declare that all provided information below is true both for me and for the entity that I legally represent:

1. I declare that the mentioned legal entity is not in one of the following situations (for more infomration please check Financial regulation of the European Commission[1]):

a) it is bankrupt or being wound up, is having its affairs administered by the courts, has entered into an arrangement with creditors, has suspended business activities, is the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
b) it or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over it have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata;
c) it has been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the European Investment Bank and international organizations;
d) it is not in compliance with its obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed, to be proved by the deliverance of official documents issued by the local authorities, according to the local applicable rules;
e) it or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over it have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organization or any other illegal activity, where such illegal activity is detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
f) is subject to an administrative penalty for being guilty of misrepresenting the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in a grant award procedure or another procurement procedure or failing to supply this information or having been declared to be in serious breach of its obligations under contracts or grants covered by the Union's budget.

2. I declare that the natural persons with power of representation, decision-making or control over the above-mentioned legal entity are not in the situations referred to in a) to f) above;

3. I declare that:
   a) Neither myself nor any person that I know is subject to a OpenAgri Project conflict of interest[2];
   b) I have not made false declarations in supplying the information required by participation in the Open Call of OpenAgri Project or have failed to supply the information required;
   c) I am not in one of the situations of exclusion, referred to in the abovementioned points a) to f).

[1] https://commission.europa.eu/publications/eu-financial-regulation_en
[2] https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/protection-eu-budget/conflict-interest_en

d) The entity I represent is not applying for the OpenAgri Open Call as a member of more than one applying consortium. I understand that application as a member of more than one applying consortium for the OpenAgri Open Call will lead to all of the applications from consortia in question being discarded as ineligible, due to a risk of double funding.
e) I am aware and fully accept all OpenAgri conditions and rules as expressed in OpenAgri Open Call documents Annex 1, Annex 2, Annex 3, Annex 4, Annex 5, Annex 6, Annex 7 and Annex 8.

4. I certify that the entity that I represent:
   - is committed to participating in the OpenAgri Open Call subproject, should my application get selected for funding;
   - has stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain its activity throughout its participation in the OpenAgri Open Call subproject and to provide any counterpart funding necessary;
   - has or will have the necessary resources as and when needed to carry out its involvement in the OpenAgri Open Call subproject.

5. I confirm that all proposed services, including the means of their delivery and upkeep, have been reviewed to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation on data protection, privacy, and fundamental rights.

6. I declare that the solution I am presenting in my application for the OpenAgri Open Call is not being funded by any other source from the budget of the European Union and that should my application be selected for funding in this Open Call, it will not be used to apply for other EU grants.

Full name: _____ _____ On behalf of applicant: _____ _____	Signature and stamp (if applicable)
Done at (place)_____ the (day)_____(month)_____(year)	

Annex 5. Declaration of conducting business

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...ived funding from the European Union's Hori...
...search and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101134083

Glossary

SME – an entity that complies with the European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC[1]

- Headcount in Annual Work Unit (AWU) less than 250.
- Annual turnover less or equal to €50 million OR annual balance sheet total less or equal to €43 million

Research Institute (organization) - a legal entity that is established as a non-profit organisation and whose main objective is carrying out research or technological development. Research Institutes/organizations must provide confirmation of registration from a respective business registry such as the Commercial Court in order to participate in the OpenAgri Open Call.

University - an institution of higher (or tertiary) education and research which awards academic degrees in several academic disciplines. Universities typically offer both undergraduate and postgraduate programs. Universities must provide confirmation of registration from a respective business registry such as the Commercial Court in order to participate in the OpenAgri Open Call.

Non-profit organization - an entity typically dedicated to pursuing mission-oriented goals through the collective actions of citizens, that is not formed and organized so as to generate a profit; it might serve scientific, educational, health, or animal welfare purposes. Non-profit organizations must provide confirmation of registration from a respective business registry such as the Commercial Court in order to participate in the OpenAgri Open Call.

Farm (Small or medium) – Farms are categorized based on economic size: small farms have a Standard Output (SO) between €2,000 and €25,000 and are typically less than 5 hectares, while medium farms have an SO between €25,000 and €250,000 and range from 5 to 49 hectares.

Agriculture cooperative – an organization in which many small farms (with common interest) work together as a business, especially to help each other produce and sell their crops and to strengthen their market power. It could be agricultural service cooperatives (provide various services to their individually-farming members), and agricultural production cooperatives in which production resources (land, machinery) are pooled and members farm jointly.

Other AgriFood organization representing farms – such as farmers associations, associations of organic food and farming, associations of Protected designation of origin producers (PDOs), or similar.

Dominant influence – An influence that can be exercised over a company to achieve the operating and financial policies desired by the holder of the influence, notwithstanding the rights or influence of any other party. If one organization exerts such a dominant influence over a company, this company should be treated as a subsidiary of the organization and consolidated into the group accounts of the organization – in other words, it should be treated as a linked entity.

Holding – share of capital or voting rights, whichever is higher.

Partner enterprises - If holdings with other enterprises rise to at least 25% but not more than 50%, the enterprises in questions are treated as partner enterprises.

Linked enterprises – If holdings with other enterprises exceed the 50% threshold, these enterprises are considered linked enterprises.

[1] European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC.
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:124:0036:0041:en:PDF

Autonomous enterprise – If the enterprise is either completely independent or has one or more minority partnerships (each less than 25%) with other enterprises, it is considered an autonomous enterprise. These are also some cases where an enterprise is considered autonomous even if the holding thresholds of 25% and 50% are exceeded – if that percentage is held by the following categories of investors:

I. Public investment corporations, venture capital companies, individuals or group of individuals with a regular venture capital investment activity who invest equity capital in unquoted businesses ("business angels"), provided the total investment of those business angels in the same enterprise is less than 1,250,000€,
II. Universities or non-profit research centres,
III. Institutional investors, including regional development funds,
IV. Autonomous local authorities with an annual budget of less than EUR 10 million and less than 5,000 inhabitants

Consolidation – to consolidate means to combine assets, liabilities and other financial items of two or more entities into one. In the context of financial accounting, the term consolidate often refers to the consolidation of financial statements wherein all subsidiaries report under the umbrella of a parent company. In case an enterprise draws up consolidated accounts voluntarily, without being required to do so under the Seventh Directive (Council Directive 83/349/EEC), the enterprise is not necessarily linked and can be considered only a partner.

Headcount – The number of people who are employed by a company.

AWU (Annual Working Unit) - One AWU corresponds to one person who worked full-time in the enterprise in question or on its behalf during the entire reference year. The headcount is expressed in AWUs.

VAT Number – A unique number that identifies a taxable person (business) or non-taxable legal entity that is registered for VAT. Every country issues its own national VAT number.

Principal director – Chairman, CEO, Director-General or equivalent.

Declaration on information on the Legal Entity Status

Precise identification of the applicant enterprise

Business name .....
Address (of registered office) .....
Registration / VAT number .....
Names and titles of the principal director(s) .....

Type of applicant (see explanatory note)

Tick to indicate which case(s) applies to the applicant enterprise:

◯ Autonomous enterprise	In this case the data filled in the box below result from the accounts of the applicant enterprise only. Fill in the declaration only, without annex.
◯ Partner enterprise ◯ Linked enterprise	Fill in and attach the annex (and any additional sheets), then complete the declaration by copying the results of the calculations into the box below.
◯ Farm	In this case the data filled in the box below result from the accounts of the applicant farm only. Fill in the declaration only, without annex.

Data used to determine the category of enterprise

Calculated according to Article 6 of the Annex to the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC on the SME definition:

Reference period (*)		
Headcount (AWU)	Annual turnover (**)	Balance sheet total (**)
(*) All data must be relating to the last approved accounting period and calculated on an annual basis. In the case of newly established enterprises whose accounts have not yet been approved, the data to apply shall be derived from a reliable estimate made in the course of the financial year. (**) EUR 1,000.		

Important: Compared to the previous accounting period there is a change regarding the data, which could result in a change of category of the applicant enterprise (micro, small, medium-sized or big enterprise).	◯ No ◯ Yes (in this case fill in and attach a declaration regarding the previous accounting period).

Signature

Name and position of the signatory, being authorised to represent the enterprise/farm:

.....

I declare on my honour the accuracy of this declaration and of any annexes thereto.

Done at

.....

Signature

EXPLANATORY NOTE ON THE TYPES OF ENTERPRISES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR CALCULATING THE HEADCOUNT AND THE FINANCIAL AMOUNTS

I ENTERPRISES

The definition of an SME[2] distinguishes three types of enterprise, according to their relationship with other enterprises in terms of holdings of capital or voting rights or the right to exercise a dominant influence[3].

Type 1: Autonomous Enterprise

This is by far the most common type of enterprise.

It applies to all enterprises which are not one of the two other types of enterprise (partner or linked).

An applicant enterprise is autonomous if it:

- does not have a holding of 25%[4] or more in any other enterprise,
- and is not 25%[3] or more owned by any enterprise or public body or jointly by several linked enterprises or public bodies, apart from some exceptions[5] ,
- and does not draw up consolidated accounts and is not included in the accounts of an enterprise which draws up consolidated accounts and is thus not a linked enterprise[6].

Type 2: Partner Enterprise

This type represents the situation of enterprises which establish major financial partnerships with other enterprises, without the one exercising effective direct or indirect control over the other. Partners are enterprises which are not autonomous, but which are not linked to one another.

The applicant enterprise is a partner of another enterprise if:

- it has a holding or voting rights equal to or greater than 25% in the other enterprise, or the other enterprise has a holding or voting rights equal to or greater than 25% in the applicant enterprise,
- the enterprises are not linked enterprises within the meaning defined below, which means, among other things, that the voting rights of one in the other do not exceed 50%,

---

[2] Henceforth in the text, the term "Definition" refers to the Annex to Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC on the definition of SMEs.

[3] Definition, Article 3

[4] In terms of the share of the capital or voting rights, whichever is higher is applied. To this percentage should be added the holding in that same enterprise of each enterprise, which is linked to the holding company (Definition, Article 3 paragraph 2)

[5] An enterprise may continue being considered as autonomous when this 25% threshold is reached or exceeded, if that percentage is held by the following categories of investors (provided that those are not linked with the applicant enterprise):

a) public investment corporations, venture capital companies, individuals or groups of individuals with a regular venture capital investment activity who invest equity capital in unquoted businesses ("business angels"), provided the total investment of those business angels in the same enterprise is less than EUR 1 250 000,
b) universities or non-profit research centres,
c) institutional investors, including regional development funds,
d) autonomous local authorities with an annual budget of less than EUR 10 million and less than 5000 inhabitants

[6] If the registered office of the enterprise is situated in a Member State which has provided for an exception to the requirement to draw up such accounts pursuant to the Seventh Council Directive 83/349/EEC of 13 June 1983, the enterprise should nevertheless check specifically whether it does not meet one or other of the conditions laid down in Article 3 paragraph 3 of the Definition.
- There are also some very rare cases in which an enterprise may be considered linked to another enterprise through a person or a group of natural persons acting jointly (Definition, Article 3 paragraph 3).
- Conversely, there are very few cases of enterprises drawing up consolidated accounts voluntarily, without being required to do so under the Seventh Directive. In that case, the enterprise is not necessarily linked and can consider itself only a partner. To determine whether the enterprise is linked or not, in each of the three situations it should be checked whether or not the enterprise meets one or other of the conditions laid down in Article 3 paragraph 3 of the Definition, where applicable through a natural person or group of natural persons acting jointly.

- and the applicant enterprise does not draw up consolidated accounts which include the other enterprise by consolidation, and is not included by consolidation in the accounts of the other enterprise or of an enterprise linked to it[5].

Type 3: Linked Enterprise

This type corresponds to the economic situation of enterprises which form a group through the direct or indirect **control of the majority of the voting rights** (including through agreements or, in certain cases, through natural persons as shareholders), or through the ability to exercise a dominant influence on an enterprise. Such cases are thus less frequent than the two preceding types.

In order to avoid difficulties of interpretation for enterprises, the Commission has defined this type of enterprise by taking over – wherever they are suitable for the purposes of the Definition – the conditions set out in Article 1 of Council Directive 83/349/EEC on consolidated accounts[7], which has been applied for many years.

An enterprise thus generally knows immediately that it is linked, since it is already **required** under that Directive to **draw up consolidated accounts** or is included by consolidation in the accounts of an enterprise which is required to draw up such consolidated accounts.

The only two cases, which are however not very frequent, in which an enterprise can be considered linked although it is not already required to draw up consolidated accounts, are described in the first two indents of endnote 5 of this explanatory note. In those cases, the enterprise should check whether it meets one or other of the conditions set out in Article 3 paragraph 3 of the Definition.

II. THE HEADCOUNT AND THE ANNUAL WORK UNITS[8]

The headcount of an enterprise corresponds to the number of annual work units (AWU).

Who is included in the headcount?

- The employees of the applicant enterprise,
- persons working for the enterprise being subordinate to it and considered to be employees under national law,
- owner-managers,
- partners engaging in a regular activity in the enterprise and benefiting from financial advantages from the enterprise.

Apprentices or students engaged in vocational training with an apprenticeship or vocational training contract are not taken into account in the headcount.

How is the headcount calculated?

[7] Seventh Council Directive 83/349/EEC of 13 June 1983, based on Article 54(3)(g) of the Treaty and concerning consolidated accounts (OJ L 193, 18/7/1983, p. 1), as last amended by Directive 2001/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 283, 27/10/01, p. 28).

[8] Definition, Article 5.

One AWU corresponds to one person who worked full-time in the enterprise in question or on its behalf during the entire reference year. The headcount is expressed in AWUs.

The work of persons, who did not work the entire year, or who worked part-time - regardless of its duration - and seasonal work is counted as fractions of AWU.

The duration of maternity or parental leaves is not counted.

ANNEX TO THE DECLARATION CALCULATION FOR THE PARTNER OR LINKED TYPE OF ENTREPRISE

Annexes to be enclosed if necessary:

- **Annex A** if the applicant enterprise has at least one **partner** enterprise (and any additional sheets)
- **Annex B** if the applicant enterprise has at least one **linked** enterprise (and any additional sheets)

Calculation for the partner or linked type of enterprise (see explanatory note):

Reference period[9]:			
	Headcount (AWU)	**Annual turnover (*)**	**Balance sheet total (*)**
1. Data[10] of the applicant enterprise or consolidated accounts (copy data from box B (1) in annex B)			
2. Proportionally aggregated data of all partner enterprises (if any) (copy data from box A in annex A)			
3. Added up data of all linked enterprises (if any) – if not included by consolidation in line 1 (copy data from box B(2) in annex B)			
TOTAL			
(*) EUR 1,000			

The data entered in the "Total" row of the above table should be entered in the box "Data used to determine the category of enterprise" in the declaration.

[9] All data must be relating to the last approved accounting period and calculated on an annual basis. In the case of newly established enterprises whose accounts have not yet been approved, the data to apply shall be derived from a reliable estimate made in the course of the financial year.

[10] The data of the enterprise, including the headcount, are determined on the basis of the accounts and other data of the enterprise or, where they exist, the consolidated accounts of the enterprise, or the consolidated accounts in which the enterprise is included through consolidation.

ANNEX A - Partner enterprises

For each enterprise for which a 'partnership sheet' has been completed (one sheet for each partner enterprise of the applicant enterprise and for any partner enterprises of any linked enterprise, of which the data is not yet included in the consolidated accounts of that linked enterprise), the data in the 'partnership box' in question should be entered in the summary table below:

BOX A

Partner enterprise (name/identification)	**Headcount (AWU)**	**Annual turnover (*)**	**Balance sheet total (*)**
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
TOTAL			
(*) EUR 1,000			

(attach sheets or expand the present table, if necessary)

Reminder:

This data is the result of a proportional calculation done on the 'partnership sheet' for each direct or indirect partner enterprise.

The data entered in the "Total" row of the above table should be entered in line 2 (regarding partner enterprises) of the table in the Annex to the declaration.

PARTNERSHIP SHEET

1. Precise identification of the applicant enterprise

Business name .....

Address (of registered office) .....

Registration/VAT number .....

Names and titles of the principal director(s).....

2. Raw data regarding that partner enterprise

Reference period			
	Headcount (AWU)	**Annual turnover (*)**	**Balance sheet total (*)**
Raw data			
(*) EUR 1,000			

Reminder: These raw data are derived from the accounts and other data of the partner enterprise, consolidated if they exist. To them are added 100% of the data of enterprises which are linked to this partner enterprise, unless the accounts data of those linked enterprises are already included through consolidation in the accounts of the partner enterprise. If necessary, add "linkage sheets" for the enterprises which are not yet included through consolidation.

3. Proportional calculation

a) Indicate precisely the holding of the enterprise drawing up the declaration (or of the linked enterprise via which the relation to the partner enterprise is established) in the partner enterprise to which this sheet relates:

.....

Indicate also the holding of the partner enterprise to which this sheet relates in the enterprise drawing up the declaration (or in the linked enterprise):

.....

b) The higher of these two holding percentages should be applied to the raw data entered in the previous box. The results of this proportional calculation should be given in the following table:

'Partnership box'

Percentage:	**Headcount (AWU)**	**Annual turnover (*)**	**Balance sheet total (*)**
Proportional results			
(*) EUR 1,000			

These data should be entered in Box A in Annex A.

ANNEX B - Linked enterprises

DETERMINE THE CASE APPLICABLE TO THE APPLICANT ENTERPRISE:

◯ **Case 1**	The applicant enterprise draws up consolidated accounts or is included by consolidation in the consolidated accounts of another enterprise. (Box B(1))
◯ **Case 2**	The applicant enterprise or one or more of the linked enterprises do not establish consolidated accounts or are not included in the consolidated accounts. (Box B(2)).

Please note: The data of the enterprises, which are linked to the applicant enterprise, are derived from their accounts and their other data, consolidated if they exist. To them are aggregated proportionally the data of any possible partner enterprise of that linked enterprise, situated immediately upstream or downstream from it, unless it has already been included through consolidation.

CALCULATION METHODS FOR EACH CASE:

In case 1: The consolidated accounts serve as the basis for the calculation. Fill in Box B(1) below.

Box B(1)			
	Headcount (*)	**Annual turnover (**)**	**Balance sheet total (**)**
Total			
(*) Where in the consolidated accounts no headcount data appears, the calculation of it is done by adding the data from the enterprises to which the enterprise in question is linked (**) EUR 1,000			

The data entered in the "Total" row of the above table should be entered in line 1 of the table in the Annex to the declaration.

Identification of the enterprises included through consolidation			
Linked enterprise (name / identification)	**Address (of registered office)**	**Registration / VAT number (*)**	**Names and titles of the principal director(s) (**)**
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
Total			
(*) To be determined by the Member State according to its needs			

(**) Chairman (CEO), Director-General or equivalent.

Important: Partner enterprises of such a linked enterprise, which are not yet included through consolidation, are treated like direct partners of the applicant enterprise. Their data and a 'partnership sheet' should therefore be added in Annex A.

In case 2: For each linked enterprise (including links via other linked enterprises), complete a "linkage sheet" and simply add together the accounts of all the linked enterprises by filling in Box B(2) below.

Box B(2)			
Enterprise No.:	**Headcount (AWU)**	**Annual turnover (**)**	**Balance sheet total (**)**
1 (*)			
2 (*)			
3 (*)			
Total			
(*) attach one "linkage sheet" per enterprise (**) EUR 1 000.			

The data entered in the "Total" row of the above table should be entered in line 3 (regarding linked enterprises) of the table in the Annex to the declaration.

LINKAGE SHEET

(only for linked enterprises not included by consolidation in Box B)

1. Precise identification of the applicant enterprise

Name or Business name .....

Address (of registered office) .....

Registration/VAT number .....

Names and titles of the principal director(s) .....

2. Data on enterprise

Reference period			
	Headcount (AWU)	**Annual turnover (*)**	**Balance sheet total (**)**
Total			
(*) EUR 1,000			

These data should be entered in Box B(2) in Annex B.

Important: The data of the enterprises, which are linked to the applicant enterprise, are derived from their accounts and their other data, consolidated if they exist. To them are aggregated proportionally the data of any possible partner enterprise of that linked enterprise, situated immediately upstream or downstream from it, unless it has already been included through consolidation.

Such partner enterprises are treated like direct partner enterprises of the applicant enterprise. Their data and a 'partnership sheet' have therefore to be added in Annex A.

Annex 6. Consortium Declaration

Funded by
the European Union

horizon-openagri.eu

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101134083

Title of the Application: _____

On behalf of:

Partner 1 ADS provider, _____ (Legal entity name) established in _____, (Official address), VAT/Tax number (or national applicable equivalent) _____, represented for the purposes of signing and submitting the Declaration by _____ (Name of legal representative),

And

Partner 2 End user, _____ (Legal entity name) established in _____, (Official address), VAT/Tax number (or national applicable equivalent) _____, represented for the purposes of signing and submitting the Declaration by _____ (Name of legal representative),

declare that all provided information below is true and legally binding.

The Consortium partners have agreed on their roles and budget shares.

Payments will be done separately to each partner directly from the OpenAgri Open Call Manager/ Treasurer.

The OpenAgri project, including coordinator, treasurer, other partners and EC, bear no responsibility in case the Consortium leader violates the mutual agreement set between the Consortium members.

The OpenAgri project including coordinator, treasurer, other partners and EC, bear no responsibility in case of dispute among Consortium partners regarding IP rights and allocation of income generated through reward crowdfunding campaigns.

By submitting this document, Consortium partners accept all the terms and rules explained in the OpenAgri Open Call Kit.

ADS provider:

Legal entity name	
Full address	
Legal representative	
Contact person (if different than legal representative)	

Type of partner	**SME**	☐
	Research institute	☐
	University	☐
	Non-profit organization	☐
	Other	☐
Legal representative signature and stamp (if applicable)		

End-user:

Legal entity name		
Full address		
Legal representative		
Contact person (if different than legal representative)		
Type of partner	**Small farm:**	☐
	Medium Farm:	☐
	Agriculture cooperative	☐
	Other AgriFood organization representing farms	☐
Legal representative signature and stamp (if applicable)		

Annex 7. Bank Account Information

Funded by
the European Union

horizon-openagri.eu

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101134083

Bank account information form*

ACCOUNT HOLDER INFORMATION

Account Name Holder The name or title under which the account has been opened and NOT the name of the authorized agent	
Holder's Address	
Postcode	
Town/City	
Country	

Contact Person It does not need to be an authorised agent.	
Telephone	

BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Bank Name	
Branch Address	
Postcode	
Town/City	
Country	
IBAN number / Account number Format example: ES76 2077 0024 0031 0257 5766	
SWIFT code 8 to 11 characters	
BANK STAMP + SIGNATURE OF BANK REPRESENTATIVE**	DATE + SIGNATURE OF ACCOUNT HOLDER (**OBLIGATORY**)

* This form might be replaced by a regular EU Financial Identification Form (FIF), in case Subgrantee already has it.

** The bank stamp + signature of bank representative can be substituted by the attachment of a recent bank statement (less than 2 months).

Annex 8. Model
Sub-grantee Agreement
- For informative purposes only -

Important note:

This document is for informative purposes only, subject to possible changes suggested by EC or the legal team of FSH, thus cannot be treated as legally binding. The actual Subgrantee Agreement template will be provided to the winning applicants during the Contracting phase.

Funded by
the European Union

horizon-openagri.eu

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101134083

Contracting parties

UDRUZENJE ZA PREDUZETNISTVO I INOVACIJE FOODSCALE HUB (FSH), NARODNOG FRONTA 73, NOVI SAD 21000, SERBIA, VAT number: RS111318508 represented for the purpose of signing the Agreement by the CEO, Mladen Radišić, legal representative of FSH.

Hereinafter referred as the "**Treasurer"**

Of the one part,

NAME OF THE BENEFICIARY, SME/RESEARCH INSTITUTE/UNIVERSITY/NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF BENEFICIARY'S COUNTRY, ESTABLISHED IN ADDRESS, VAT NUMBER, REPRESENTED BY THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BENEFICIARY

Hereinafter referred as the "**ADS provider/Subgrantee"**

And

NAME OF THE BENEFICIARY, FARM ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF BENEFICIARY'S COUNTRY, ESTABLISHED IN ADDRESS, VAT NUMBER (OR APPLICABLE NATIONAL EQUIVALENT FOR FARMS), REPRESENTED BY THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BENEFICIARY

Hereinafter referred as the "**End-user/Subgrantee"**

Hereinafter collectively referred as the" Contracting Parties"

HAVE AGREED to the following terms and conditions including those in the OpenAgri Open Call Annexes, which form an integral part of this OpenAgri Subgrantee Agreement. (hereinafter referred as the" Contract").

General provisions

The European Commision (hereinafter referred as the" EC") and the Project Coordinator, have signed the Grant Agreement no 101134083 for the implementation of the project "Democratising digital farming through tailored open source and open hardware solutions" (Acronym: OpenAgri) within the framework of the Programme HORIZON-CL6-2023-GOVERNANCE-01-13.

The Subgrantee has received the favorable resolution by the evaluators and therefore is entitled to receive funding and support according to the terms and conditions set out under this Subgrantee Agreement and in accordance with the Annex 2: Applicants' guide. The OpenAgri partner responsible for the provision of said support in the OpenAgri project will make themselves available to the Subgrantees.

This Contract aims at defining the framework of rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties.

The funding received by the Subgrantee is the property of the EC. The Treasurer is mere holders and managers of the funds.

Article 1 – Entry into force and Termination of the contract

1.1 Entry into force

This contract shall enter into force on DD/MM/YYYY (tentative date), subject to its signature by the last Contracting Party. The Treasurer shall sign this contract, only after the following documents have been received from the Subgrantee:

- The original signed Declaration of Honour (as given in Annex 4 of this Contract),
- Declaration of Conducting Business (as given in Annex 5 of this Contract),
- Consortium Declaration (as given in Annex 6 of this Contract),
- Copy of ID-card or Passport of legal representatives of the Subgrantees,
- Copy of the original Extract of SME registration or equivalent of the Subgrantee for all consortium members,
- Proof of VAT registration or equivalent of the Subgrantee for all consortium members,
- Bank Information Form (as given in Annex 7 of this contract).

All Contracting parties must sign this document no later than DD/MM/YYYY (tentative date) in order to organize a Kickoff Meeting before the official start of Subproject implementation.

Besides the hard copies that will arrive by mail, the Treasurer will sign this Subgrantee agreement via *DocuSign or similar.*

The original documents will be sent to the Treasurer for the signature of the legal representative. The original documents will be archived at the Treasurer's office.

All documents shall be sent to the OpenAgri Consortium first via email to the following address*:* openagri@opencallhub.eu, while the Annexes 4, 5 and this Contract will also be sent as originals, via regular mail, to the following address:

Foodscale Hub
Narodnog fronta 73
21000 Novi Sad, Serbia
Attn: OpenAgri Open Call team

The Subgrantee is solely responsible for the accuracy of all data provided to the OpenAgri consortium.

1.2 Contract termination

This contract terminates in the event of unjustified withdrawal by the Subgrantees of the current fulfilment of its Contract obligations." Unjustified "withdrawal" covers any situation out of" Force Majeure" qualification which determines the absence of performance of the Subgrantee contractual obligations.

Article 2 – Obligations and Responsibilities of the Subgrantee

The obligations and responsibilities of the Subgrantees are defined in detail in the Annex 2 – Applicants' Guide.

In order to receive funding from the OpenAgri consortium, the Subgrantee that has been declared the winner of the OpenAgri Open Call must submit the relevant deliverables. Only after they have been given positive feedback regarding their deliverables from the OpenAgri consortium, shall they be entitled to the funding from the OpenAgri consortium. Upon receiving positive feedback regarding their deliverable, the Subgrantee must send the Request for Payment and a Certificate of Tax Residence to the Treasurer in order to receive the funding.

In case the deliverables have not been evaluated positively, the OpenAgri consortium will ask the Subgrantees for additional clarifications. This could affect the timing of payments, as the positive review of the deliverable is the trigger for releasing the respective payment.

In case the Subgrantee does not comply with the additional request by the OpenAgri consortium in reasonable timeframe or if the deliverables are not accepted upon receiving additional clarifications, the OpenAgri consortium reserves the right to terminate the contract automatically. In such case, all financial transactions made by OpenAgri towards the Subgranatee (if any at a designated time) must be reimbursed within 10 work days days upon receipt of an official contract termination.

Additionally, the Subgrantee shall take every necessary precaution to avoid any risk of conflict of interest relating to economic interests, political or national affinities, personal or any other interests liable to influence the impartial and objective performance of the subproject. If the Subgrantee is involved in a conflict of interest or is at risk of conflict of interest, the Subgrantee must formally notify the OpenAgri Consortium Partners without delay and immediately take all necessary steps to rectify this situation.

Article 3 – Breach of Contractual obligations

In the event of the breach of the contractual obligations by the Subgrantees, the OpenAgri consortium reserves the right to claim the Subgrantees the full refund of all payments made to the Subgrantees up to date and suspend all further payments. The OpenAgri Consortium, along with the OpenAgri Open Call Advisory Board, shall determine the breach of the contractual obligations by the Subgrantees. The provision of false or misleading declarations by the Subgrantee or any unsolved situation of conflict of interest constitutes an example of a breach of contractual obligations by the Subgrantee.

Article 4 – Financial contribution and financial provisions

4.1 Maximum financial contribution

The maximum financial contribution to be granted by the OpenAgri consortium to the Open Call Winning SIP shall not exceed the amount of 100,000€. This financial contribution will be given in three installments, upon acceptance of the appropriate deliverables. No Subgrantee may receive more than 60,000€.

4.2 Distribution financial contribution

The financial contribution to be granted to the Subgrantee shall be distributed in accordance with the provisions of the Annex 2: Applicants' Guide.

In any case, the financial grant to be paid will always be subject to:

- Reception of the relevant deliverable(s),
- A favourable resolution by the evaluators and OpenAgri partner responsible for assessing the subproject execution,
- Reception of the Request for Payment and Certificate of Tax Residence (both electronically and in hard copy),
- The Subgrantee's Bank Account (Annex 7) matches the Instructions for payment issued by the bank of the Subgrantee,
- Payments to the Subgrantee will be made by the Treasurer. In particular:
  - The Treasurer reserves the right to withhold the payments in case the Subgrantee does not fulfil its obligations and tasks as per Annex 2 – Applicants' Guide;
  - Banking and transaction costs charged by any of the banks related to the handling of any financial resources made available to the Subgrantee by the Treasurer shall be covered by the holder of the bank account which originated the cost. This means that the Treasurer bears the cost of transfers charged by their bank and the Subgrantee bears the costs of transfers charged by the bank of the Subgrantee;
- Payments will be released by the Treasurer no later than ten working days after the notification by the Project Coordinator,
- The Subgrantee is responsible for complying with any tax and legal obligations that might be attached to this financial contribution.

4.3 Payment schedule

The payment schedule is directly linked to the relevant stage of the Subgrantee's project as per Annex 2: Guidelines for Applicants.

Article 5 – Liability of the Subgrantee

Neither the Project Coordinator, the Treasurer, any partner of the OpenAgri consortium, nor the EC can be held liable for any acts or omissions of the Subgrantee in relation to this Contract. At the same time, the Subgrantee is responsible for any act or omission that causes damage to the Coordinator, the Treasurer, and/or the EC in relation to this Contract. The Subgrantee is also solely responsible for any damages that might come to third parties as a result of the Subgrantee's activities.

The Subgrantee shall bear sole responsibility for ensuring that their acts within the framework of this Contract do not infringe third parties' rights. There is no joint liability between the Contracting Parties.

Article 6 – Confidentiality

With respect to all information of whatever nature or form as is disclosed between the Contracting Parties in connection with the subproject and identified in writing as confidential, the terms of this Article shall apply.

The Contracting Parties agree that such information is communicated on a confidential basis and its disclosure may be prejudicial to the owner of information.

Article 7 – Force Majeure

"Force Majeure" shall mean, any unforeseeable exceptional situation or event beyond the Contracting Parties control, which prevents either of them from fulfilling any of their obligations under the Agreement, which was not attributed to error or negligence on their part and which proves to be inevitable in spite of exercising all due diligence.

Any default of a service, defect in equipment or material or delays in making them available, unless they stem directly from a relevant case of force majeure, as well as labour disputes, strikes or financial difficulties cannot be invoked as force majeure.

The Contracting Parties shall take the necessary measures to limit any damage due to force majeure. They shall do their best to resume the implementation of the action as soon as possible.

No contracting party shall be considered to be in breach of its obligations and tasks if Force Majeure causes such breach. A Contracting Party will notify the other Contracting Parties of any Force Majeure as soon as possible. In case the Subgrantee is not able to overcome the consequences of Force Majeure within 10 (ten) days after such notification, the OpenAgri Consortium will decide accordingly, including the termination of the Contract.

Article 8 – Information and communication

The Subgrantees must promote the subproject, the OpenAgri project and its results, by providing the description of their project upon request from the OpenAgri Consortium and highlight the financial support of the EC.

Unless the European Commission or the OpenAgri coordinator requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.), any publicity, including at a conference or seminar or any type of information or promotional material (brochure, leaflet, poster, presentation etc.), and any infrastructure, equipment and major results funded by the grant must:

(a) display the EU emblem;

(b) display the OpenAgri logo and

(c) include the following text:

> *For communication activities: "This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under project* OpenAgri *(grant agreement No 101134083)".*

For infrastructure, equipment and major results: "This [infrastructure][equipment][insert type of result] is part of a sub-project that has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under project OpenAgri *(grant agreement No 101134083)".*

When displayed in association with a logo, the European emblem should be given appropriate prominence. This obligation to use the European emblem in respect of projects to which the EC contributes implies no right of exclusive use. It is subject to general third-party use restrictions that do not permit the appropriation of the emblem, or any similar trademark or logo, whether by registration or by any other means. Under these conditions, the Subgrantee is exempted from the obligation to obtain prior permission from the EC to use the emblem. Further detailed information on the EU emblem can be found on the Europa web page.

Any publicity made by the Subgrantee in respect of the subproject, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, must specify that it reflects only the author's views and that the EC or OpenAgri project is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

The EC and the OpenAgri consortium shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:

- the official name of the Subgrantee;
- contact address of the Subgrantee;
- the general purpose of the subproject;
- the amount of the financial contribution foreseen for the subproject; after the final payment, and the amount of the financial contribution actually received;
- the geographic location of the activities carried out;
- the list of dissemination activities and/or of patent (applications) relating to foreground;
- the details/references and the abstracts of scientific publications relating to foreground and, if funded within the subproject, the published version or the final manuscript accepted for publication;
- the publishable reports submitted to OpenAgri;
- any picture or any audio-visual or web material provided to the EC and OpenAgri in the framework of the subproject.

The Subgrantee shall ensure that all necessary authorisations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the EC and OpenAgri does not infringe any rights of third parties.

Upon a duly substantiated request by the subproject representative, the OpenAgri consortium, if such permission is provided by the EC, may agree to forego such publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the Subgrantee's security, academic or commercial interests.

Any publicity made by the Subgrantee in respect of the subproject accepted by the OpenAgri consortium, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, must specify that it reflects only the author's views and that the Project Coordinator, OpenAgri consortium or EC are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

The OpenAgri consortium and EC shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium the following information:

- The legal name of the Subgrantee
- Contact address of the Subgrantee
- The general purpose of the project
- The amount of financial contribution of the EC

The Subgrantee shall ensure that all necessary authorisations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the Project Coordinator, OpenAgri consortium or EC does not infringe any rights of third parties.

Upon a duly substantiated request by the Project Coordinator on behalf of the Subgrantee, the EC may agree to forego such publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the Subgrantee's security, academic or commercial interests.

Article 9 – Data protection

9.1 Data protection obligations

The contracting parties have the obligation to abide by the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data.

The processing of personal data shall be carried out lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner, collected for specified purposes and adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which it is processed.

The Subgrantee might use and process the data only for the purposes of this Contract and during the length of the Contract. Any unauthorised use is forbidden. In any event, neither the OpenAgri Project coordinator nor the Treasurer will be held responsible for any abusive use of data incurred into by the Subgrantee.

Subgrantee shall not try to re-identify anonymised data. If re-identification occurs, the Subgrantee commits not to use such data. The Subgrantee shall delete, at the end of this Contract, the data to which the Subgrantee has been granted access during the implementation process, except where an agreement is entered into with the Data Provider.

9.2 New data produced

The Subgrantee acknowledges that they will be the" data controller" of any new dataset of personal information that the Subgrantee may produce in the course of the OpenAgri project.

Article 10 – Financial audit and controls

The EC may, at any time during the implementation of the Project and up to five years after the end of the OpenAgri project (foreseen for 31st of December 2026), arrange for financial audits to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves including in the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF), on the Subgrantee. The audit procedure shall be deemed to be initiated on the date of receipt of the relevant letter sent by the EC. Such audits may cover financial, systemic and other aspects (such as accounting and management principles) relating to the proper execution of the Grant Agreement. They shall be carried out on a confidential basis.

The Subgrantee shall make available directly to the EC all detailed information and data that may be requested by the EC or any representative authorised by it, with a view to verifying that the Grant Agreement is properly managed and performed in accordance with its provisions and that costs have been charged in compliance with it. The information and data must be precise, complete and effective.

The Subgrantee shall keep the originals or, in exceptional cases, duly authenticated copies – including electronic copies – of all documents relating to the Contract until 2031. These shall be made available to the EC where requested during any audit under the Grant Agreement.

In order to carry out these audits, the Subgrantee shall ensure that the EC's services and any external body(ies) authorised by it have on-the-spot access at all reasonable times, notably to the Subgrantee's offices, to its computer data, to its accounting data and to all the information needed to carry out those audits, including information on individual salaries of persons involved in the subproject. The Subgrantee shall ensure that the information is readily available on the spot at the moment of audit and, if so requested, the data must be handed over without delay and in an appropriate form.

On the basis of the findings made during the financial audit, a provisional report shall be drawn up. It shall be sent by the EC or its authorized representative to the Subgrantee concerned, which may make observations thereon within one month of receiving it. The EC may decide not to take into account observations conveyed or documents sent after that deadline. The final report shall be sent to the Subgrantee concerned within two months of the expiry of the aforementioned deadline.

On the basis of the conclusions of the audit, the EC shall take all appropriate measures which it considers necessary, including issuing recovery orders regarding all or part of the payments made by it and the application of any applicable sanction.

The European Court of Auditors shall have the same rights as the EC, notably right of access, for the purpose of checks and audits, without prejudice to its own rules. In addition, the EC may carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the EC in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities.

Article 11 – Amendments

Amendments or changes to this Contract shall be made in writing and signed by the duly authorized representative of the Contracting Parties. Nevertheless, in the event the EC modifies the conditions, the OpenAgri Consortium partners will amend the Contract accordingly.

Article 12 – Language

The contract is drawn up in English language, which shall govern all documents, notices, meetings and processes relative thereto.

Article 13 – Applicable law

This Contract shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of Belgium.

Article 14 – Settlement of disputes

If the Contracting Parties are unable to resolve a dispute amicably, such dispute will be finally settled under the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce by three (3) arbitrators in Brussels.

Each of the Contracting Parties to the dispute shall appoint one (1) arbitrator, and the three (3) arbitrators so appointed shall elect the presiding arbitrator. Should a Party to the dispute, which should appoint an arbitrator, fails to do so within fourteen (14) days of the delivery of the written notice, to do so from the other Party to the dispute or should the appointed arbitrators fail to reach agreement on the presiding arbitrator within fourteen (14) days after their appointment, such arbitrator shall be appointed in accordance with the Rules upon request of any of the Parties to the dispute.

The seat of arbitration shall be Brussels.

The Contracting Parties agree that the language of the arbitration, including oral hearings, written evidence and correspondence, shall be English.

A duly rendered arbitration award shall be final and binding on the Contracting Parties to the dispute. Each Contracting Parties to the arbitration conducted in accordance with this section hereof shall bear its own expenses incurred in connection with such arbitration, including fees of its legal counsels. All other costs and expenses shall be apportioned between the Contracting Parties to the arbitration in accordance with the decision of the arbitrators.

Nothing in this Contract shall limit the Contracting Parties' right to seek injunctive relief or enforce an arbitration award in any applicable competent court of law.

Article 15 – Originality of the sub-granted projects

It is required that applications submitted are based on original works by the applicants and that their foreseen developments are free from third party rights. OpenAgri consortium is not obliged to verify the authenticity of the ownership of the foreseen products/ services. Any issues delivered from third party claims that arise a result of the sub-granted projects are on the sole responsibility of the applicant.

Article 16 – IPRs

Each Subgrantee that generates results owns the attached Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) generated during the development process and will own results that are not IPRs. Each Subgrantee is responsible for the management and protection of its IPRs and bears the costs associated with this.

The Subgrantees funded within OpenAgri project will be the unique owners of the technologies created within the framework of their sub-granted projects. Parts of their works will be requested to be public for OpenAgri dissemination purposes.

Article 17 – Do Not Significant Harm

Subgrantees must always respect the 'Do Not Significant Harm Principle". The Commission Communication on the European Green Deal introduced the green oath to 'do no harm'. The 'Do not Significant Harm' (DNSH) principle has been further specified in the EU Regulation on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investments (**Regulation (EU) 2019/2088)**, commonly defined as the 'EU Taxonomy Regulation'. Six environmental objectives are listed in Article 23 of the EU Taxonomy and Article 17 specifies what can constitute a 'significant harm' for these objectives. Thus, the regulation provides that no measure should lead

to significant harm to any of the six environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of the Taxonomy Regulation.

Signatures:

For FSH (the Treasurer) Mr Mladen Radišić CEO Signature Done at Novi Sad on DD/MM/YYYY
For [ADS provider] (the Subgrantee) Mr/Ms [NAME SURNAME] [POSITION_IN_COMPANY] [COMPANY NAME IF APPLICABLE] Signature Done at _ on DD/MM/YYYY
For [End-user] (the Subgrantee) Mr/Ms [NAME SURNAME] [POSITION_IN_COMPANY] [COMPANY NAME IF APPLICABLE] Signature Done at _ on DD/MM/YYYY