

## Application form subsidy Innovation for SME's 2023-2026

The subsidy encourages collaboration and partnerships between small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and facility providers in the agri-food system to accelerate the market introduction of innovations in agriculture, food, and health by accessing talent, capacity, and facilities. The subsidy provides SMEs with a unique opportunity to access the scientific talent and facilities they need to develop (TRL 4-6) and demonstrate (TRL 7-8) innovative products. The subsidy will contribute max. 50% co-financing, with funding from a €10,000 - €50,000 towards an eligible project. The total budget for the subsidy is €950,000. Application opens till June 2026.

### Submit form (by mail) to:

ATTN: SUBSIDY INNOVATION FOR SME'S  
Bronland 10F  
6708 WH, Wageningen,  
The Netherlands

### OR Submit application by email to:

facilities@foodvalley.nl

### APPLICANT:

Organization.....

Name.....

P.O. Box / Address .....

Post code.....

City.....

Telephone number.....

Email.....

Registration number Chamber of Commerce (KvK) *if applicable*.....

IBAN..... Name of account.....

Are you applying for the subsidy also on behalf of others?  YES  NO

If YES, attach participant statement (Annex 1)

**Delegate (if applicable)**

Name.....

P.O. Box / Address .....

Post code.....

City.....

Telephone number.....

Email.....

Registration number Chamber of Commerce (KvK) *if applicable*.....

If an authorized representative submits the application, a legally valid authorization must be attached (Annex 2)

**Please check what applies :**

- a. Has the project already started before the application is submitted?  
 YES  NO
  
- b. Does the project bear a major resemblance to a project for which a subsidy has already been granted this scheme?  
 YES  NO
  
- c. As a subsidy applicant, are you a \*company in difficulty within the meaning of Article 2(14) of the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation?  
 YES  NO
  
- d. Are you, as a subsidy applicant, subject to a recovery order under Article 1(5)(a) of the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation?  
 YES  NO

## Eligibility Requirements:

### The applicant

The applicant must meet each of the following criteria to be eligible for funding:

- Be incorporated and registered to execute business in the Netherlands and or EU.
- Qualify as an SME ([LINK assessment](#))
- Has fewer than 250 employees,
- At least 12 months operating history,
- Has less than €43 million annual revenue, and
- Be at Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 4-8 <https://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/trl>

### The project proposal

The project proposal must demonstrate the following:

- A solid business case,
- Strong market potential,
- Commercial and financial feasibility,
- Ability to generate a sustained competitive advantage for the company,
- The potential for economic impact in the regions Gelderland and Utrecht
- Alignment with at least one of the following innovation themes (i) Circular Agrifood, (ii) Food & Health, and (iii) Protein Transition. For more information see <https://foodvalley.nl/en/what-we-do/>
- Alignment with at least one of the themes in the Region Deal Foodvalley, see <https://www.regiofoodvalley.nl/programma/regio-deal/>

Do you meet the subsidy requirements in this subsidy scheme and is the project based on a project plan that at least includes how these requirements are met and does it include a balanced and realistic budget?  YES  NO

### Other Requirements:

- Submissions may be in English.
- The subsidy cannot be transferred or assigned to any other business, entity or individual.
- The subsidy may only be used to cover eligible expenses (See Annex 3) as further described in the guidelines unless otherwise approved in writing by Foodvalley NL at discretion.
- During the three years after the project's completion, Foodvalley NL may collect information on impacts and outcomes resulting from the funding awarded.
- Projects must commence as soon as possible, but no later than six (6) months from the award date. The company and the collaborating stakeholders will then have up to twelve (12) months to complete the project, unless otherwise pre-approved by Foodvalley NL
- The implementation of the subsidy must utilize facilities in the Region Gelderland and or Utrecht

### Application deadline

Foodvalley NL accepts continuous intake of applications. Application approvals take 6-8 weeks from date of submission.

### Assessment of the proposal

The submitted proposal is assessed by an expert pool (regional advisory body). Applicants receive the following advice:

- Positive advice
- Positive advice, with recommendations for improvement
- Negative advice, but proposal may be resubmitted (after major modifications) at a maximum 2x submission.
- Negative advice

### PROJECT DETAILS:

Project title (maximum 40 characters)

.....

You must attach a **proposal (maximum 20 pages)** to this application, which contains the following points:

1. Description of the project and objectives (which also includes the contribution to the themes in the Region Deal Foodvalley and Foodvalley NL)
2. Impact and benefits anticipated for the applicant and the Provinces of Gelderland and Utrecht
3. Background of innovative product, service, or technology
4. Business case, strategy, and project management
5. Commercialization plan to market.
6. Project plan including timelines, and deliverables.
7. Budget (includes a quote from the innovation facility, the total cost of the project, the own contribution and the subsidy requested).

### PROJECT DURATION

The total duration:

Planned start date: .....

Anticipated completion date: .....

### COST

Estimated total project cost: €.....  
(incl. non-deductible/compensable VAT)

Requested grant amount: €.....  
(incl. non-deductible/compensable VAT)

### Statement

I, the undersigned, declare:

- to have completed all the information contained in the application form and the annexes in full and to have attached all the mandatory annexes.
- be authorized to submit the grant application.
- to be aware that all submitted data are public, unless an exceptional case as referred to in the Freedom of Information Act applies.
- to be aware that when assessing the grant application, an investigation under the Public Administration Probity Screening Act (Bibob) may be possible.

- be aware that in the event of misuse or improper use of a grant, the applicant will be entered in the register of irregularities.
- agree that the personal data you provide in this application will be recorded and processed by us for the purposes of the grant process because of your application. \*

\* For information regarding the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), please refer to <https://www.government.nl/privacy>

**Signature**

Thus, truthfully completed and signed:

Place .....

Date .....

Name: .....

Function: .....

Signature: .....

**Annex 1: Participant statement**

On behalf of the participants below,

Name: .....

Address: .....

Residence: .....

Subsidy requested from the Region Deal Foodvalley for the project:

.....

Name	Address	Signature
1) .....	.....	.....
2) .....	.....	.....
3) .....	.....	.....
4) .....	.....	.....
5) .....	.....	.....

**Annex 2: Authorization**

If you wish to authorize another organization or person, you must fill in the authorization below. This should be done by both parties.

Proxy (grant applicant)

Name of organization: .....

Initials and surname contact person: .....

Function contact person: .....

Hereby authorizes:

Name of organization: .....

Initials and surname contact person: .....

Function contact person: .....

On behalf of the grant applicant (tick as applicable):

- submit the grant application.
- to submit the grant application and to carry out (legal) acts in link with the grant application up to and including the grant.
- submitting the grant application and carrying out all (legal) acts during the entire duration of the project up to and including the determination of the grant.
- different, namely .....

Is the authorized representative also authorized to handle the financial settlement via his own account to be settled? \* (tick as appropriate)

- yes
- no

If you have ticked yes, please fill in the details below.

Account number IBAN number: .....

Signing proxy Signing agent

Name: .....

Place: .....

Signature: .....

\*Financial settlement concerns a factual transaction that comes and remains entirely at the expense and risk of the grant applicant.

### **Annex 3: Definitions and Explanations**

*\* Company in difficulty*

an undertaking in respect of which at least one of the following circumstances occurs:  
in the case of a limited liability company (other than an SME in existence for less than three years or, where eligibility for risk-financing support is at stake, an SME within seven years of its first commercial sale eligible for risk-financing investment following an accounting review by the selected financial intermediary): when more than half of its issued share capital has disappeared due to accumulated losses. This is the case when deducting the accrued losses from reserves (and all other items that are usually considered part of the company's equity), results in a negative outcome that exceeds half of the issued share capital. For the purposes of this provision, "limited liability company" refers in particular to the legal forms of companies referred to in Annex I to Directive 2013/34/EU (1) and "share capital" includes any share premium;

- a) in the case of an undertaking in which at least some of the members are liable for the debts of the undertaking without restriction (other than an SME in existence for less than three years or, where it concerns the eligibility for risk finance aid, an SME within seven years of its first commercial sale eligible for risk finance investments following a due diligence by the selected financial intermediary): where more than half of the company's capital as shown in the company's books has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses. For the purposes of this provision, 'an undertaking in which at least some of the members are liable indefinitely for the debts of the undertaking' means, in particular, the legal forms of undertakings referred to in Annex II to Directive 2013/34/EU.
- b) in the case of an enterprise in which at least some of the partners have unlimited liability for the debts of the enterprise (other than an SME that has been in existence for less than three years or, where eligibility for risk-financing support is at stake, an SME within seven years of its first commercial sale eligible for risk-financing investment following an audit by the selected financial intermediary): where more than half of the enterprise's capital as shown in the enterprise's books has disappeared through accumulated losses. For the purposes of this provision, "a company in which at least some of the partners have unlimited liability for the company's debts" shall refer in particular to the legal forms of companies referred to in Annex II to Directive 2013/34/EU.
- c) where the company is subject to collective insolvency proceedings, or the company fulfils the criteria under national law for being subject to collective insolvency proceedings at the request of its creditors.

(d) where the firm has received rescue aid and has not yet repaid the loan or terminated the guarantee, or has received restructuring aid and is still in a restructuring plan.

(e) in the case of a firm that is not an SME: where, over the past two years:

1. the company's debt-to-equity ratio, according to the company's accounts, exceeded 7.5; and
2. the company's interest coverage ratio determined on the basis of EBITDA was below 1.0.

**\*\* Experimental development:**

The acquisition, combination, shaping and use of existing scientific, technological, business, and other relevant knowledge and skills aimed at developing new or improved products,

processes, or services. This may also include activities aimed at conceptual formulation, planning and documentation of alternative products, processes, or services.

Experimental development may include prototyping, demonstrations, pilot development, testing and validation of new or improved products, processes, or services in environments representative of functioning under real conditions, with the main aim of making further technical improvements to products, processes or services that are not largely established. This may include the development of a commercially usable prototype or pilot that is necessarily the commercial end product and that is too expensive to produce solely for use for demonstration and validation purposes.

Experimental development does not include routine or periodic modification of existing products, production lines, manufacturing processes, services, and other current activities, even if such modifications may represent improvements.

Experimental development includes the following TRL levels:

*Level 4: Implementation and test prototype*

You will test the proof-of-concept of your innovation on a lab scale. A prototype that you develop in this phase costs relatively little money and time to develop and is therefore still a long way from a definitive product, process, or service.

*Level 5: Validation prototype*

You investigate the operation of the technological concept in a relevant environment. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> step in the demonstration of the technology. A prototype that you develop in this phase costs a relatively large amount of time and money and is not far removed from the final product or system.

*Level 6: Demonstration prototype in test environment*

You will extensively test and demonstrate the concept in a relevant test environment. Testing takes place after technical validation in a relevant (pilot) environment, such as an experimental garden. The concept provides insight into the operation of all components together.

*Level 7: Demonstration prototype in operational environment*

You will test and demonstrate the concept in a user environment to prove functionality in an operational environment. The demonstration of the concept in a practical environment provides new insights for the final market application of your innovation.

*Level 8: Product/service is complete and operational.*

In this phase your innovation takes its final form. You have tested the technological operation and it has been proven that it meets the stated expectations, qualifications, and standards (certification). In addition, you determine the financial frameworks for (mass) production and launch and you are ready for the next step.

*\*\*\* Eligible costs:*

(a) personnel costs: researchers, technicians, and other support staff as far as they are engaged in the research project.

(b) costs of equipment and materials to the extent and for as long as they are used for the project. Where such equipment and apparatus are not used for their full life for the project,

only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the project, calculated according to generally recognized accounting principles, shall be considered as eligible costs.

(c) costs of buildings and land to the extent and as long as they are used for the project. As regards buildings, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the duration of the project, calculated



according to generally recognized accounting principles, shall be considered as eligible costs. As regards land, the costs of commercial transfer or the capital costs actually incurred are eligible.

(d) costs of contract research, know-how and patents purchased from or licensed from external sources on arm's length terms, as well as costs for consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project

(e) additional overheads and other operational expenses, including those for materials, supplies, and similar products, arising directly from the project.

*\*\*\*\* Medium-sized enterprise*

SME employs more than 50 people and less than 250 people and whose annual turnover or annual balance sheet total exceeds EUR 10 million and is no more than 43 million.

*\*\*\*\*\* Small enterprise*

Within the SME category, a "small enterprise" is an enterprise employing fewer than 50 people and whose annual turnover or annual balance sheet total does not exceed EUR 10 million.

*\*\*\*\*\* Effective cooperation or disclosure*

(i) the project involves effective cooperation

- between undertakings of which at least one is an SME, or is carried out in at least two Member States or in a Member State and in a contracting party to the EEA Agreement, and none of the undertakings bears more than 70 % of the eligible costs, or

- between an undertaking and one or more research and knowledge dissemination organizations (see below), where those organizations bear at least 10 % of the eligible costs and have the right to publish their own research results.

(ii) the project results are widely disseminated through conferences, publications, open access repositories, or free or open-source software.

*Research and knowledge dissemination organizations*

An entity (such as universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, physical or virtual research-oriented collaboration entities), regardless of its legal form (public or private law organization) or method of funding, that is principally engaged in the independent conduct of basic research, industrial research or experimental development, or in the broad dissemination of the results of those activities through teaching, publications or knowledge transfer. Where this type of entity also carries out economic activities, separate accounts must be kept with regard to the financing, costs and income of those economic activities. Companies that can exercise decisive influence over this type of entity in their capacity as, for example, shareholders or members of the organization should not enjoy preferential access to the research capacity of this entity or to the research results obtained by it.

**State aid procurements**

"Vouchers will be supplied under the use of the AGVV-art. 25 clearances or -if not eligible- under the de miminis."