Application form SME Innovation Voucher 2026-2029

The subsidy encourages collaboration and partnerships between small and medium-sized agrifood enterprises (SMEs) and research or production facility providers. The aim of this scheme is to accelerate the market introduction of innovations in agri-food by accessing research or production facilities in Gelderland and Utrecht.

The subsidy provides SMEs with a unique opportunity to access the facilities they need to develop (TRL 4-6) and demonstrate (TRL 7-8) innovative products. The subsidy covers:

- max. 50% of eligible costs (see Annex 2)
- Minium subsidy amount - €10,000
- Maximum subsidy amount - €50,000
- Required co-financing from applicant
    - 50% of total eligible project costs
    - Maximum in-kind contribution of 12.5% of total eligible project costs (see Annex 2)

The voucher programme recognises that innovation and scaling often take place in phases. SMEs are allowed to split a larger innovation or scaling trajectory across multiple vouchers, with:

- a maximum of €100,000 per applicant (Max. €50,000 per voucher)
- up to four applications per SME.

Each application will be assessed individually; a previously granted voucher does not automatically guarantee approval of a subsequent application. A new application can only be done once the previous project has been fully and successfully completed.

The SME Innovation Voucher is intended to subsidy expenses related to the use of a research or production facility, including the facility's expertise, staff, and operating expenses necessary for the execution of the proposed project.

Vouchers will be granted on a first-come-first-serve basis, application will be open until June 2029 or until the subsidy's budget has been exhausted. The SME Innovation Voucher will be supplied under the use of the AGVV-art. 25 clearances or -if not eligible- under the de miminis.

Assessment of the proposal
The assessment of your proposal will take 8 weeks from date of submission. The submitted proposal is assessed by an expert pool (regional advisory body). Applicants receive the following advice:

- Positive advice
- Tentative advice, proposal must be improved resubmitted (at a maximum 2 resubmission).
- Negative advice

Applications can be subbmited by email to:
facilities@foodvalley.nl

APPLICANT:

Organisation………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Name………

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

Post code………………………………………………………………………………………………………

City……………………………………………………………………………………………………

Telephone number…………………………………………………………………………………………

Email……………………………………………………………………………………………………

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

IBAN…………………………………………… Name of account holder…………………………………

Please check what applies :

a. Has the project already started before the application is submitted?
☐ YES ☐ NO

b. The project it carried out at a research or production facility in the Provinces of Gelderland or Utrecht
☐ YES ☐ NO

c. Is your company, in accordance with annex 1, categorized as a "company in financial difficulty?"
☐ 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 (SME Self-assessment | EU Funding & Tenders Portal)
- Has fewer than 250 employees,
- At least 12 months operating history,
- Has less than €43 million annual revenue, and
- Innovative product or technology is at Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 4-8 (Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) | RVO.nl)

The project proposal

The project proposal must demonstrate the following:

- A solid business case,
- Strong market potential,
- Commercial and financial feasibility, including strong substantiation for spending the requested subsidy towards eligible costs (See Annex 2)
- Ability to generate a sustained competitive advantage for the company,
- A description of the potential 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 What we do - Foodvalley

Other Requirements:

- 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 at discretion.
- During and three years after the project's completion, Foodvalley 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.

PROJECT DETAILS:

Project title (maximum 40 characters)

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You must attach **a proposal (maximum 15 pages)** to this application, which contains the following points:

1. Description of the project and objectives including the contribution to the innovation themes of Foodvalley, and a justification for the request subsidy.
2. Impact and benefits anticipated for the applicant, the Provinces of Gelderland and Utrecht, and the broader agri-food sector.
3. Background of innovative product, service, or technology
4. Business case, strategy, and project management
5. Commercialisation plan to market
6. Project plan including timelines, rationale behind facility of choice, roles and responsibilities, and deliverables
7. Detailed budget breakdown (includes a quote from the chosen facility, the total cost of the project, the own contribution, the subsidy amount requested, and an overview of where the subsidy is spent towards)

PROJECT DURATION

The total duration:
Planned start date: …………………………………………
Anticipated completion date: ……………………………

COST
Estimated total project cost: €……………

Requested grant amount: €……………

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: 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

Annex 2: Eligible Project Costs

Eligible project costs for facility

a) Personnel costs from the facility: researchers, technicians, and other support staff as far as they are engaged in the proposed project.

b) Operating costs of equipment and materials to the extent and for as long as they are used for the proposed project,

c) additional overheads and other operational expenses incurred by the facility, including those for materials, supplies, and similar products, arising directly from the project.

Eligible in-kind contribution

a) Personnel costs from the applicant linked to the preparation and management of the proposed project

b) Input and Raw Materials directly linked to preparation of the proposed project

Budget Example:

SME voucher Budget example EUR 100,000 project						
Costs	**EUR**	**%**		**Contribution**	**EUR**	**%**
Proposal facility	87,500	87.5%		SME voucher subsidy	50,000	50%
SME eligible cost	12,500	12.5%		Own contribution	50,000	
- Personel	10,000			- In cash	37,500	37.5%
- Inputs	2,500			- In kind	12,500	12.5%
Total costs	100,000	100.0%		Total Contribution	100,000	100%

Notes:
- SME eligible costs max 12.5% of total costs
-SME voucher subsidy max 50% of total contribution