

Future Food Systems Challenge

Challenge Handbook

Future Food Systems Challenge

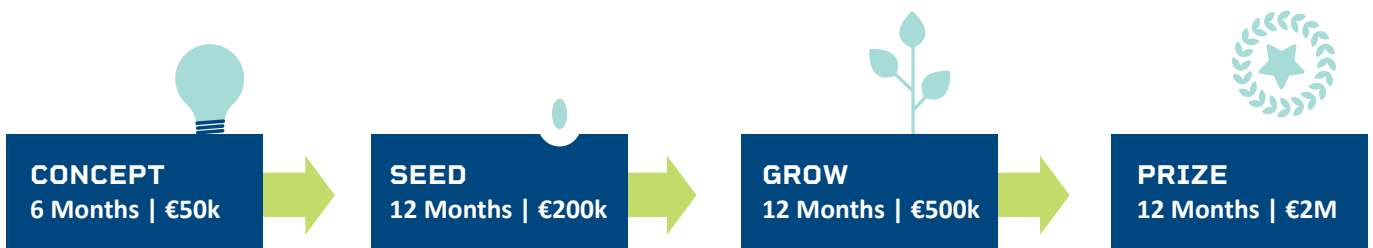
The Future Food Systems Challenge seeks solutions for sustainable, productive and resilient food systems.

Why Apply?

The Future Food Systems Challenge gives academic research teams a unique opportunity to contribute to Ireland's efforts in creating sustainable, productive and resilient food systems. Following successful review of applications, teams will receive funding of up to €250,000 and training to accelerate development of their idea. A number of teams will then be selected as finalists and receive up to €500,000 to further develop their idea before an overall winner is selected for the €2 million prize award.

Who Can Apply?

Postdoctoral, early career or established researchers may lead teams in the Future Food Systems Challenge. Teams will consist of a minimum of two academic researchers with complementary skillsets. At the application or during the first phase of the award, teams must also include a third member who will bring specific knowledge or experience of the societal challenge the team will address.



How To Apply?

Complete a short six-page form that asks you to describe your team, the specific challenge or problem you will address, the solution you propose and how it will create impact. Register and upload your application to SFI's grant management system before the deadline.

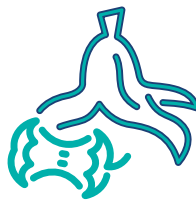
Teams should note that they will also be required to upload their CVs and other supporting documentation described in the call document.

What Are We Looking For?

Restoring and maintaining a resilient food system is a fundamental component of the Green Transition and essential for the creation of a healthy and secure future. The Future Food Systems Challenge seeks solutions for sustainable, productive and resilient food systems.

Examples of potential research areas that could deliver impactful solutions are in the areas of measuring and mitigating the environmental impact of food production, new ideas for avoiding waste from food production or waste of food products, soil management, and innovative food sources, amongst others.

Find out more about the varied and diverse teams we have funded under other challenges on the SFI website: www.sfi.ie/challenges



Key Dates



20 February 2023 –
Call opens for applications



26 May 2023
Application Deadline



1 September 2023
Award start date

More About the Future Food Systems Challenge

Greenhouse gases from the agricultural sector represent the largest contribution to Ireland's Emissions Inventory, but where there remain significant challenges in achieving reductions while maintaining productivity. There are opportunities for innovation across the food value chain, from production to consumption to ensure a sustainable food system for all.

Areas of Interest

- ▲ **Methane emissions** – solutions to measure, manage and reduce methane emissions from the agriculture sector.
- ▲ **Sustainable and regenerative agriculture** – Solutions that will enable the transformation to a low-input, low-impact agrifood sector, for example, through reduced/alternative fertiliser use, water efficiency, or fewer fossil-based or chemical inputs.
- ▲ **Alternative proteins** – Solutions to provide lower impact sources of protein across the food value chain for animals and humans
- ▲ **Food waste/loss** – Solutions to reduce food loss and waste across the full breadth of the food supply chain
- ▲ **Bioeconomy** – Solutions to transform and reuse biological resources into value-added products, such as food, feed, bio-based products as well as bioenergy
- ▲ **Soil** – Solutions to preserve and restore healthy soils as an essential component of the climate transition and a sustainable agricultural sector.



Further Information

For all information on the Future Food Systems Challenge, please visit the website: <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/Future-Food-Systems/>. Applicants are advised that they should consult the call document for all details and eligibility criteria for the call in advance of preparing an application. For any further queries, please contact the SFI Challenge Team at challenges@sfi.ie