

SFI Food Challenge

The SFI Food Challenge will be run within the Future Innovator Prize Programme 2020. This document provides only information on the thematic area of this challenge call. It must be used in conjunction with the SFI Future Innovator Prize Application Handbook 2020 available on the SFI Food Challenge website, which provides important information for applicants such as programme structure and objectives, eligibility criteria, application procedure and evaluation criteria.

Challenge Theme

It is estimated that approximately one-third of all food produced globally for human consumption is lost or wasted.

Food loss is the decrease in the quantity or quality of food resulting from decisions and actions by food suppliers in the supply chain, excluding retailers, food service providers and consumers. Food waste refers to the decrease in the quantity or quality of food resulting from decisions and actions by retailers, food service providers and consumers.

Food loss and waste represent massive systemic inefficiency. This inefficiency contributes to many significant national and global issues such as land degradation, declining soil fertility, unsustainable water use, overfishing, food insecurity, malnutrition, inequality and GHG emissions.

The **SFI Food Challenge** seeks applications from interdisciplinary teams proposing novel, potentially disruptive, sustainable STEM-led solutions¹ to reduce food loss and waste across the full breadth of the food supply chain from “farm to fork”.

Under this challenge, applications are sought from teams proposing to develop cutting-edge and disruptive technologies in a range of areas. Areas for consideration could include:

- Sustainable, low-waste production in marine, land and non-soil systems
- Supply chain innovations to minimise food waste
- Creation of circular bioeconomic opportunities from food waste
- Functional foods (fortified, enriched or enhanced foods) that provide health benefits beyond the provision of essential nutrients (e.g., vitamins and minerals)

¹ Only Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)-led applications are eligible to be submitted under this call, i.e., applications in which the primary innovation is in an area of STEM. While the involvement of applicants from the behavioural/social/economic sciences is encouraged, particularly in informing the adoption and impact of novel interventions, it is expected that one of the applicants leading the proposal will have a demonstrable track record in the relevant STEM area.