



PPS Call 2026 Knowledge and Innovation Agenda for Agriculture, Water and Food CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) INITIATIVES FOR DEMAND-DRIVEN RESEARCH TO START IN 2027.

Thematic focus:	Agriculture, Food, Nature
Available public budget for 2027:	€10 million
Consultation meetings:	28 May 2026
Submission of full PPP proposals:	no later than September 1st 2026
Feedback to applicants:	from 1 November 1st 2026
Submission:	https://kia-landbouwwatervoedsel.nl
Information:	info@landbouwwatervoedsel.nl

Content

1. The Knowledge and Innovation Agenda for Agriculture, Water and Food
2. Call for PPP proposals
3. General frameworks and budget
4. Funding of PPP projects
5. Procedure

Appendix 1 Criteria for evaluating PPP proposals

Appendix 2 Financing options

Appendix 3 Preparation of budget, rates, co-financing requirements

Appendix 4 Priorities for the KIA-LWV 2026 PPP call

Other documents (see the [KIA website](#))

- PPP proposal template (NL and EN)
- PPP proposal budget template (NL and EN)
- Consultation round registration form (NL and EN)
- Frequently Asked Questions

This document concerns a translation; in case of unintentional discrepancy, the Dutch version is leading.

1. The Knowledge and Innovation Agenda Agriculture, Water and Food 2024–2027

Over the next 25 years, the Netherlands faces enormous challenges in the fields of agriculture, water and food. In 2050, we will have a vital rural area and resilient nature in a climate-resistant Netherlands. In this landscape, water and soil are driving forces, the agriculture and food systems are ecological and economically sustainable and healthy, and the deltas and large bodies of water are safe. This is not only a great challenge, but also presents opportunities for Dutch business and society.

To meet these challenges and seize opportunities, top sectors, ministries and other governmental organizations, businesses, knowledge institutions and civil society organizations have jointly drawn up an agenda that describes what new knowledge and innovations are needed to achieve these goals: the Knowledge and Innovation Agenda Agriculture, Water and Food 2024–2027 ([KIA-LWV](#)).

The agenda consists of 6 missions:

1. Resilient nature
2. Sustainable agriculture and horticulture
3. Vital rural areas in a climate-resilient Netherlands (NB: 3B and 3C are *not* part of the 2026 PPP call)
4. Sustainable and valued food that is healthy, accessible and safe
5. Sustainable and safe use of the North Sea and other large water bodies
6. Safe and resilient delta (NB: this mission is *not* part of the 2026 PPP call)

These missions are supported by three key technologies:

1. ST1 Smart Technologies for the blue-green domain
2. ST2 Biotechnology and breeding
3. ST3 Fermentation and Bioconversion

The agenda stimulates collaboration by supporting investments from the business community (= private) to align with government resources (= public). In this way, societal challenges are met whilst simultaneously strengthening economic opportunities for sectors and for the Netherlands as a whole. The TKI's Agri&Food (A&F) and Horticulture & Starting Materials (T&U) play a connecting and coordinating role in this.

2. Call for PPP proposals

The TKIs A&F and T&U are issuing a call for all parties active in the field of knowledge and innovation in the domain of agriculture, food and nature to submit proposals for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives, to start in 2027. A PPP project contributes to one or more goals in the KIA and focuses primarily on the development of *new* knowledge and innovation¹. Other instruments are available for initiatives that focus on upscaling or implementation of knowledge and innovation; the KIA website provides an overview of these.

Wide scope for proposals

Proposals across the full scope of the KIA-LWV are welcome, with the exception of programs 3B, 3C and Mission 6. The KIA-LWV identifies Innovation Programmes, each program having several sub-programs through which knowledge and innovation take shape. The same applies to the Key Technologies. It is important that proposals link up with these Innovation Programmes. A complete overview of (sub)programmes and the knowledge challenges identified can be found on the [KIA website](#).

Priority themes

Within the KIA-LWV, certain themes require extra attention, for example because knowledge and innovation in these areas are both important and urgent, yet do not develop spontaneously or, conversely, occur in a too fragmented manner. The following five themes will receive an extra **boost** in this call in the form of **a reserved budget and matchmaking**:

- a. Project: Programmatic Approach to Resilient Cultivation in Greenhouse Horticulture
- b. Circular chains and bio-based raw materials
- c. Food innovation and a sustainable, healthy society

¹ Research that directly or indirectly conflicts with central government policy is not eligible for funding. This includes research related to tobacco or alcoholic beverages that conflict with the objectives of the Prevention Agreement.

- d. Knowledge and Innovation Goal-Oriented Approach
- e. Innovation for nature restoration

See Appendix 4 for a detailed description of these themes.

3. General frameworks

In the PPP call, funding is made available by the Ministries of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNVN) and Economic Affairs (EZ). The use of these funds is subject to conditions, including those arising from laws and regulations.

Requirements for a PPP proposal

- The primary focus of any PPP proposal must be on **applied research** (also known as "industrial research"), meaning the research is focused on gaining new knowledge and skills focused on the development of new, or at least significant improvements of existing products, processes or services².
- This applied research must be in the form of precompetitive research for which a contribution with public money is legitimate.
- All PPP proposals must clearly indicate how the knowledge and innovations developed will be disseminated to relevant sectors and other parties. Disclosure of the results through, for example, professional literature, education or conferences is a condition for eligibility for public funding. However, restrictions apply to how much of the cost of this can be covered by the PPP grant.
- The entity submitting a proposal must be a company, trade association or NGO based in the Netherlands. Any consortium must consist of at least one research organisation and two other parties, such as businesses or trade associations, NGOs or public organisations. Generally speaking, someone from a research institution will take the role of project manager during implementation/following the award of funding.
- International cooperation is permitted under the conditions described in Annex 3, provided it contributes to the impact of the project and/or the quality of the consortium.
- PPP proposals have a maximum duration of four years. There is no minimum duration.
- The budget must be balanced and well founded. For the exact structure of the budget, please follow the guidelines in Annex 3. Proposals with an unbalanced budget and/or where not all required partners are known at the time of submission will be declared **inadmissible**.
- The proposal and budget must be prepared in accordance with the 2026 templates provided for this purpose. Use of older templates is not permitted.

Cooperation

The starting point for this call is public-private partnership. This means that the project must actually be carried out jointly by multiple consortium partners. In the interests of knowledge exchange, alignment with practice and strengthening the knowledge infrastructure, collaboration between multiple research organisations and the involvement of SMEs are also strongly encouraged.

Available budget

In the 2026 PPP call, approximately **€10 million (excl. VAT)** is available for research to be carried out in 2027 (Table 1). Of this, **a maximum of half** is reserved for proposals on priority themes. The total budget is structured as follows:

7. WR capacity LNVN: approximately €5.6 million excl. VAT is available for PPP research in 2027 (€6.7 million incl. VAT), to be carried out by Wageningen Research on topics within the LNVN domain³. Cooperation with other research organisations is possible. In such cooperation, partners will be bound by the applicable support and grant frameworks.
8. PPP grant from the participating TKIs:
 - a. TKI Agri & Food is making approximately €10 million available for new projects that are substantively related to the domain of agri and/or food, including aquatic production. Half of this

² According to the definition provided by [RVO](#). Fundamental research is not excluded provided it demonstrably contributes to the (long-term) KIA objectives. For experimental development (including implementation and upscaling), lower statutory maximum grant percentages apply than those permitted in the PPP call; therefore, projects of this kind are excluded from funding.

³ [XIV Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality | Ministry of Finance - Central Government](#)

amount is reserved for proposals under priorities b, c and/or d. This budget is available to all parties eligible for funding.

- b. TKI Horticulture & Propagation Materials is making approximately €4 million available for new projects that are substantively related to the Horticulture & Propagation Materials domain. Of this, a maximum of €1.5 million is reserved for a single programme proposal under priority a. This budget is available to all parties eligible for funding.
9. PPP grant based on cross-sector collaboration:
 - a. TKI Life Sciences & Health is making approximately €1 million available for new projects that, in addition to being suitable for the KIA-LWV, also contribute to the objectives of the KIA Health and Care, as described in priority c.

Table 1. Available budget per funding source. N.B. Additional frameworks may apply per funding source; see section 4 of the call for proposals.

Funding source	Budget (million euros excl. VAT)	Of which reserved for priority themes
WR capacity of LVVN	€5.6 million for research to be carried out in 2027	2.8 million for priorities a, b, c, d and/or e
PPP grant:		
- TKI A&F	€10 million for research to start in 2027	5 million for priorities b, c and/or d
- TKI T&U	€4 million for research to start in 2027	€1.5 million for priority a
- TKI LSH	€ 1 million for research to start in 2027	€1 million for priority c
Total available budget (indicative)	€10 million* for research to be carried out in 2027	

** The units of funding sources differ: WR budgets only cover funding in 2027, whereas PPP grant budgets cover the total duration of a project. The total budget available for research in 2027 is therefore indicative, based on an average duration of approximately 3.5 years.*

See **Appendix 3** for further specifications and conditions. All parties mentioned are permitted to have their research activities additionally funded by co-funding from other partners, provided that the overall project budget complies with the required funding ratio.

4. Funding of PPP projects

Joint investment is important because it expresses commitment and provides a framework for cooperation (financial contribution reflects commitment and influence).

Public-private funding ratio

The minimum co-financing requirement in this call is, **a standard minimum of 50%** for Industrial (Applied) Research. Of that 50%, at least 25 percentage points (i.e. half) must consist of private contributions, of which at least 5 percentage points must be in cash. It is also a requirement that at least 25 percentage points (half) consist of cash contributions. Cash contributions from public partners other than LVVN, such as other government departments, provinces, municipalities, water boards and land management organisations, are permitted provided the aforementioned conditions are met.

Notwithstanding the above, proposals with a strong **social focus** or a broad collective approach, and a currently limited direct interest from market parties (no viable business model is yet apparent), are eligible, under strict conditions, for **70% funding** from WR capacity. The use of PPP subsidies from TKI A&F and T&U is excluded from this exception. For submissions under the alternative funding ratio, approval from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality is required prior to submission.

See **Appendix 2** for a full overview of the conditions of the funding model above.

Applicants wishing to make use of the exceptional funding option are required to request written permission to do so (see section 5. Procedure). It is at the discretion of the funder to determine whether a final project proposal actually falls within the scope of the exceptional funding ratio.

Who is eligible for funding?

Public funds made available through this call may only be used by the following parties:

- a. Research organisations⁴, up to 80% (PPP grant) or 100% (WR capacity) of their contribution to the project;
- b. Innovative enterprises⁵, up to 50% of their contribution to the project;
- c. SMEs and similar organisations, up to 60% of their contribution to the project.

A condition applies that the **activities** must be **research-related**. For all parties listed, it is permitted to have their research activities additionally financed from cash contributions from other **private partners** (= co-financing in cash) or to finance these themselves (= co-financing in kind). See Appendix 3 for further specifications and conditions.

Maximum grant per project

A maximum of €1.5 million (excl. VAT) in funding may be awarded per project. Proposals requesting a higher amount will be excluded from evaluation and therefore cannot be granted. There is no minimum size for a project.

International cooperation

In part of the KIA, international cooperation is desirable, for example because the issue is cross-border or requires expertise that is only available abroad. In such cases, the participation of foreign partners is allowed under the conditions described in **Appendix 3**.

5. Procedure

PPP proposal submission

From mid-June to **September 1st, 2026**, it is possible to submit PPP proposals via the submission link on the KIA website. A PPP proposal must include an accompanying budget. Mandatory formats for both the proposal and the budget are available on the KIA website under '[Grants](#)'. Please note that applicants wishing to apply for 70% funding instead of 50% (exception 1) should send a request with justification to info@landbouwwatervoedsel.nl by June 1st 2026 (see Appendix 2).

Matchmaking sessions

Matchmaking sessions will be organised in May for the priority themes (see the announcement on the [KIA website](#) for exact dates). The aim is to provide information on the scope of the themes and to encourage the formation of consortia. Participation is **mandatory** for parties wishing to submit a proposal on these themes as lead partner or project leader, and is strongly recommended for other interested parties. Registration for the sessions is open until one week prior to the session via the registration link on the KIA website. A matchmaking session has already taken place for the priority theme of nature, and this requirement does not apply. Targeted information provision and the promotion of consortium formation will be organised in a different manner by LVVN.

Consultation option

Parties intending to submit a PPP proposal may take the opportunity to meet with a delegation on behalf of the responsible TKI's and ministries. Participation in an interview will only result in an indication of suitability within the KIA and contribution to the existing portfolio. No rights can be derived from it. Proposers who wish to have a consultation interview can **register** for this **until May 1st via** the registration link on the KIA website under '[Grants](#)'. There is a limited number of places available; first come, first served. Uploading a project idea is a mandatory part of the proposal; the format for this can be found on the website. The consultations will take place on **28 May**.

Assessment of PPP proposals

PPP proposals are reviewed by the TKIs for compliance with administrative requirements, such as use of the correct format, completeness and sufficient co-financing. The main assessment is carried out by review committees consisting of a balanced representation of experts from industry, government and research organisations.

⁴ For a definition of 'research organisation', see the [RVO](#) website.

⁵ The term 'innovative enterprise' is defined in the General Block Exemption Regulation. For a definition, see the Q&A on the KIA website.

The criteria for assessment are:

1. Relevance to one of the priorities (Annex 4), contribution to the portfolio
2. Impact, contribution to achieving the goals of KIA
3. Quality of the PPP proposal
4. Quality of the consortium

A further explanation of the criteria can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Proposals submitted on **priority themes** will be evaluated separately by the funding parties (LVVN and TKIs) for their substantive relevance to the theme. If the evaluation is positive, these proposals will be designated as priority proposals, with a maximum per theme as stated in the description in Annex 4. If this maximum is exceeded, a selection will be made based on best suitability. A condition is that these proposals are assessed as sufficient in terms of content according to the criteria in Annex 1. Should no eligible proposal be submitted on priority themes, the TKIs reserve the right to enter into discussions with the most promising consortia in order to fill the gaps.

Proposals are granted based on the mutual ranking of proposals within an Innovation Programme or key technology. This ranking is determined by the average scores on the above criteria, supplemented by the following conditions (in the order listed):

1. Proposals of insufficient quality (criterion 3) will be excluded from funding;
2. Proposals designated as priorities (see next paragraph) will be funded as a priority, insofar as this is appropriate within the allocated budget;
3. Diversity is sought within a KIA component. Overlap between project proposals to be granted will be avoided.

Overall granting of PPP proposals will be based on the ranking by KIA component.

Advice and decision-making

The TKIs and LVVN draw up a programming recommendation for the allocation of available resources, taking into account the conditions of the funding streams. A consortium is accountable to only one TKI. The advice is submitted to the relevant TKI boards and the Ministry of LVVN. Lead applicants will receive a reasoned decision regarding the outcome after November 1st, 2026. There is no possibility to appeal against the evaluation results of individual proposals.

Overview procedure

Date	Activity
April 1st	PPP call opens
by 16 May	Registration for consultation meetings, submission of proposals for 70% funding
28 May	Consultation meetings (by registration, not compulsory)
mid-June	Proposal submission link online
September 1st	Proposal submission deadline
Sept/Oct	Assessment by TKI office, review committees
Late Oct.	Decision TKI boards / top teams and the Ministry of LNV
After Nov. 1st	Feedback to submitters
Nov–Dec	Evaluation with KIA programme teams and focus groups
Nov '26 – March '27	Drafting of consortium agreements, allocation of funds
April 1st, 2027	Withdrawal of funding if no consortium agreement is yet in place

For additional information about this call, please email info@landbouwwatervoedsel.nl

Appendix 1: Criteria for evaluating PPP proposals

Complete PPP proposals will be evaluated according to the criteria below. Criterion 1 is a knockout criterion: a proposal is either suitable or not. The remaining criteria are scored on a scale of 1 to 6, with scores of 4 or above considered satisfactory. The three criteria carry equal weight; a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 6 points can be awarded per criterion.

1. Suitability

- Does the proposal focus primarily on one or more of the KIA's (sub)programmes and the objectives set out? ([see ToCs](#))

2. Impact (6 points)

- Does the proposal offer added value on top of the existing portfolio?⁶
- Do the intended results make a significant contribution to achieving the missions as described in the KIA – and is this contribution well-substantiated?
- Does it involve promising new knowledge or innovation that would otherwise be substantially delayed or not happen at all?
- Does the proposal involve a disruptive technological, social or systems innovation?
- Are the intended results applicable to different user groups and be effectively accessed?
Is there a connection to relevant (regional) networks, living labs, implementation programs, partnerships or study groups – where relevant?

3. Quality of the proposal (6 points)

- Is the proposal well written and is the approach clear, logical and consistent?
- Is it demonstrably well connected to relevant existing knowledge and activities?
- Is the proposed approach effective and efficient in relation to the intended outcome?
- Is sufficient consideration given to social and institutional preconditions (e.g. support base, legislation) that may affect the outcome?
- Are the activities commensurate with the requested budget (value for money / efficiency)?
- Is it specified clearly who will carry out the research (PhD student, analyst, researcher, etc.)?

4. Consortium (6 points)

- Does the consortium contain the right expertise to carry out the project successfully?
- Are the parties needed to achieve the desired change actively involved?
- If not all of these parties are consortium partners, how is their involvement (sufficiently) ensured and is this expected to lead to the desired outcome?
- Does the composition of the consortium demonstrate sufficient support and commitment within the Dutch agriculture, food and nature sector?

⁶ An overview of ongoing and recently completed PPP projects can be found [here](#). N.B. It is advisable to look more broadly than just the portfolio of PPP projects.

Appendix 2: funding alternatives

Default model

Funding for a project consists of **up to 50%** of the total project budget from available funds from this PPP call. Consortium partners jointly contribute at least the same amount. The following requirements apply to the minimum co-financing requirement of 50%:

- At least half (25 percentage points) is cash co-financing; the remainder of the co-financing may be in kind;
- At least 25 percentage points must consist of private contributions; of these, at least 5 percentage points will be cash co-financing;
- Cash contributions from public partners other than LVVN, such as other government departments, provinces, municipalities, water boards and land management organisations, are permitted provided the above conditions are met.

A consortium is free to make a higher own contribution. No minimum public/private or cash/in-kind ratios apply to co-financing above the minimum 50%.

Exceptions

Exception: 70%/30% grant to co-financing ratio

Applicants wishing to make use of this exception must submit a request with a justification to info@landbouwwatervoedsel.nl by **June 1st**. The Ministry of LVVN will decide on the appropriateness for exception variant and will inform the applicants by July 1st at the latest. The extent to which the scope of the project proposal is in line with the policy objectives of the Ministry LVVN, so that there is a strong social orientation, is part of the decision-making process.

Whether a project proposal qualifies for a different funding ratio under the exceptions is at the discretion of the funders. The decision on financing variants is separate from the decision to grant the final proposal submitted; herein, the judgement of the review committee based on the evaluation criteria listed in the call is leading.

Under the following conditions, a reduction of the minimum co-funding to 30% (default is 50%) may be requested:

- The proposal has a strong **social focus** or a broad collective approach, but a limited direct interest from market players⁷ (there is no business model on the horizon)⁸
- This concerns exclusively the use of WR capacity. In projects with mixed funding, this exception applies in proportion to the share of these funds in the total grant requested.
- The 30% co-financing must be provided by private partners. Contributions from public partners to the project are permitted but do not count as co-financing.
- Of this, at least 25 percentage points must consist of private contributions; of these, at least 5 percentage points must be cash co-financing;

⁷This exception also applies to proposals that meet the criteria for the Green Breeding programme (see [Homepage – Green Breeding](#))

⁸ For example: the development of a *Campylobacter* rapid test falls under the 50% category, whilst the development of hygiene measures to prevent the spread of *Campylobacter* falls under the 30% category.

Appendix 3: Budget, rates and co-financing requirements

A multi-tab format is available for preparing the budget. (The format can be found on the KIA website under [‘Grants’](#)). The budget must be completed in full and must be **comprehensive and balanced**.

Budget Format Instructions

consortium partners tab:

- Enter name of organization and Chamber of Commerce number. Use the drop-down menus to select: organisation type and hourly rate calculation method.
- If the organisation type is not entered correctly, the Cost Summary tab will also be incorrect.

Cost Summary tab:

- Provides an overview of costs and funding; filled out automatically from the other tabs

Tab and **Leading partner** and tab **cost other project partners**:

- A tab is filled out for each partner. Partners’ names are visible at the top and come from the ‘Participants’ tab. Specify the costs to be incurred; entering only amounts is grounds for rejecting the budget.
- Enter the costs in the correct categories; if in doubt about the costs, see tab **‘Explanation of Cost Types’**.
- At the bottom of the tab, fill out what funding is applicable: grant (PPP grant, WR capacity, cash contributions (= funding from other partners) and/or in-kind contributions (= own investment).
- When completing, please note the allowable grant rates as specified in the **‘Grant rates’** tab. Please also note the allowable grant sources (WR or PPP).

Cash Contribution tab:

- In the top column, enter the cash contribution from private partners and indicate who will be the recipient(s). Make sure that this matches the cash funding details entered in the individual tabs of receiving partners.

Checks (by applicant and by TKI agencies):

1. The total costs in the cost overview tab must equal the total funding
2. The grant per partner cannot exceed the maximum allowable grant percentage (100, 80, 60 or 50 – depending on the type of partner)
3. The costs per partner must be fully covered by grant and/or co-funding.
4. Co-financing shall be at least 50% (or 30%), of which at least 25 percentage points shall be in cash;
5. If a partner contributes in cash, it cannot use a PPP grant;
6. The set of activities must be appropriate within the definitions of fundamental or industrial research as used by RVO (the Netherlands Enterprise Agency).

Public funding

Projects should involve one or more **research organizations**. By this we mean:

- Wageningen Research
- Other TO2: TNO, Deltares, Marin
- Universities and colleges
- Other research organizations: including KWR, LBI, RIVM, KNMI

Maximum aid intensity PPP grant within the framework of the PPP call

In the case of funding from PPP grants, the maximum aid intensity is determined by law as follows:

- **Research organisations**: up to 80% of their commitment:
- **Innovative companies**⁹ such as GD, Schothorst, NIZO, CLM, Vertify, SCFF: up to 50% of their commitment
- **SMEs** and similar organizations: up to 60% of their commitment, provided they can present an SME declaration and their activities qualify as Industrial Research.

These parties may additionally finance their research activities from cash contributions from other **private partners**; this then counts as cash co-financing. They may also additionally fund their activities themselves ; in that case, this contribution counts as in-kind co-financing. Supplementation from from public contributions is not permitted by law.

⁹ The term ‘innovative enterprise’ is defined in the General Block Exemption Regulation. For a definition, see the Q&A on the KIA website.

Co-financing

Private co-financing (cash and in-kind) can be contributed by:

- Companies and trade/producer organizations
- Civil society organizations
- Public Benefit Organizations (ANBI's)
- Private research organizations

Public co-financing can be contributed by:

- Water boards
- Public research organisations (including educational organisations)
- Provincial authorities, municipal authorities, civil service departments
- Ministries other than LNVN

What may not count as public co-financing¹⁰ :

- In kind contribution of public partners
- Funds from other schemes such as Regional Deals, field labs...

Definition of contribution in-kind

It must be possible to allocate any contribution in-kind to the research project / partnership during the project period. A contribution in-kind is a cost incurred by a (private or public) party that adds value to the project. It is up to the parties who set up the PPP to indicate whether a project includes any contributions in-kind.

The following contributions may be eligible as **in-kind contributions**:

- Labour costs.
- Costs of consumables, tools and software (licences) that are directly related to the project, based on the original purchase price.
- The purchase and operational cost of equipment, machines and infrastructure, on the understanding that these are based on the depreciation costs to be allocated to the project, calculated on the basis of the original purchase price and a depreciation period of at least five years; costs of consumption and maintenance during the period of operation.
- The provision of data to facilitate research on a project does not constitute a contribution in-kind, but is considered a contribution of knowledge. As far as additional efforts are required in the context of the partnership to generate that knowledge, the additional costs may be included as a contribution in-kind.

Cost calculation and rate structure

A distinction is made between three parties:

1. Parties receiving PPP grants and collaborative partners engaged with grant funds.

These parties should calculate the costs for labour according to the standard methods described in Articles 10 to 14 of the Framework Decision on national EZK and LNVN grants. The costs will be taken into account without sales tax if the grant recipient who incurred the costs can deduct sales tax.

For the calculation of eligible costs for funding, the consortium partner may choose between:

- a. the integral cost system (Article 12, Framework Decision)
- b. the wage cost plus fixed surcharge system (Article 13, Framework Decision), or
- c. the fixed hourly rate system (Article 14, Framework Decision).

Ad. a: the integral cost system: The system must be approved by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). A statement, communication or letter from the consortium partners accountant regarding the proper derivation of the rates from the internal budgets should be provided as substantiation of the integral cost system.

Ad. b: The wage cost plus fixed surcharge system: The partners must provide a calculation of the hourly rate per deployed employee, i.e. the cost component (gross wage costs including employer's costs) and the hourly component (1,650 or less in case of part-time work).

As justification for the costs, the partner must provide an auditor's report or a calculation of the rate (payroll + employer costs divided by hours), the payroll statement and the employer charges. The employer costs provided by the partners for social contributions and pension charges should be

¹⁰ This requirement is additional to the formal requirements of NEA (RVO)

reasonable and can be subject to inquiry. If these charges exceed 30% of gross payroll costs, these costs must be further substantiated with the exact calculations of social security and pension charges.

Ad. c: the fixed hourly rate system: Eligible costs are calculated by multiplying the number of hours spent on the PPP by a fixed hourly rate of 60 euros (Article 3.1.1 of the Regulations on National EZK and LVVN Subsidies).

2. Wageningen Research

For WR capacity, WR rates apply. For third-party funding within a PPP project from WR capacity, a distinction is made between:

- a. Outsourcing to third parties (subcontracting). The third parties are bound by the frameworks that follow from the subcontract and the Public Procurement Act.
- b. Collaboration with research organizations as part of the consortium. Partners are bound by cooperative agreements and applicable support and grant frameworks.

3. Parties not receiving grants

The hourly rate for parties not receiving a grant will be calculated on the basis of a customary and verifiable method for the consortium partners in a cooperative project, which is based on business principles and standards considered acceptable in society and which the consortium partners in a cooperative project routinely apply (Article 3.2.1 of the National EZ and LVVN Grants Regulation).

International cooperation

Participation of foreign partners in the consortium is allowed under the following conditions:

- Foreign partners are excluded from funding. However, they may receive co-financing or provide co-financing themselves.
- Participation by **companies not based in the Netherlands** is only possible if the company provides essential knowledge, expertise or technology to the consortium.

For projects involving development of strategic/critical technology¹¹, in addition to the above, the following applies:

- Companies that **do not have a legal entity in the EU** are excluded from participation;
- Moreover, companies that have a legal entity in the EU but whose **headquarters** are located **outside the EU** may be asked to agree to additional clauses in the consortium agreement with the aim of preventing 1) *leakage and unwanted transfer of knowledge and technology (including IP and trade secrets) to third countries with negative consequences for our national security* and 2) influencing the the implementation of the project from a third country.

¹¹ This applies to the (further) development of highly innovative technology that can be used for both civil and military purposes. Initiators may consult with the [Economic Security Business Desk](#) or the [Knowledge Security Desk](#) if there is any doubt as to whether certain technology qualifies as strategic or critical.

Annex 4: Priorities PPP call KIA-LWV 2026

Priority a: Project: Programmatic Approach to Resilient Cultivation in Greenhouse Horticulture

Businesses and knowledge institutions are invited to jointly submit a research project in the field of resilient cultivation in greenhouse horticulture. The aim of this project is to take the first steps towards intrinsically resilient cultivation systems that do not rely on chemical plant protection products (other than low-risk products), whilst offering economic prospects for the grower.

Background

Growing concerns about the effects of chemical plant protection products on health and the environment, combined with a dwindling supply of authorised and effective products, make a transition in horticulture necessary. To ensure the sector remains future-proof, the development of intrinsically resilient cultivation systems is essential.

In recent years, the greenhouse horticulture sector has taken significant steps towards the development of resilient cultivation systems. This has led to a considerable reduction in the use of chemical plant protection products, but current progress is still insufficient to achieve the targets set. Further innovation, particularly in the field of plant resilience, remains necessary. The sector has repeatedly indicated that additional and in-depth research is essential.

The calls for proposals issued by the TKIs in recent years have yielded valuable knowledge, but have mainly resulted in isolated projects lacking sufficient interconnection. An effective transition to resilient cultivation systems requires a more integrated, programmatic approach.

Resilient Cultivation in Greenhouse Horticulture calls for an integrated approach in which plant resilience, plant vitality, biological control, substrate and soil resilience, and supporting techniques are not deployed as isolated measures, but are developed and applied as a coherent system.

Framework

- A matchmaking meeting will be organised on 13 May for participation in the programme. Interested parties are warmly invited to attend. Participation is mandatory for lead partners from the private sector and project leaders intending to submit proposals.
- The project focuses on the following priority issues: aphids, scale insects, thrips, mildew and/or viruses.
- There is scope for 1 project with a maximum duration of 4 years.
- The use of BRAIN technologies is encouraged but not required (this concerns technology development in the fields of Biotechnology, Robotics, AI (data), and/or Nanotechnology (sensors)).

Other

- For enquiries, please contact Olga Scholten (o.scholten@tkitu.nl) or Michiel Roelse (m.roelse@tkitu.nl)

Priority b: Circular chains and bio-based raw materials

Background: Why is a systemic shift needed?

Geopolitical uncertainty regarding raw materials is increasing the demand for locally/regionally produced bio-based materials, the efficient use of available bio-based materials, reuse of the highest possible quality, and the reduction of losses at every stage of the chain. Furthermore, combating climate change requires the use of bio-based raw materials to replace the fossil-based raw materials we currently use for energy, fuels and materials. At the moment, agriculture in the Netherlands remains heavily dependent on imports of soya and artificial fertilizer, making us geopolitically vulnerable and meaning that our own practices cannot always be held up as 'best practice'.

The Netherlands possesses a robust logistics infrastructure, a large agri-food industry and leading research institutes in the circular economy. This puts the Netherlands in a strong position to develop and upscale circular supply chain solutions. This can encompass both food and non-food proposals of agricultural raw materials, as well as the use of wood. For example, the efficient production of materials and chemicals alongside the production of food and animal feed. Producing raw materials for both food/animal feed and materials/chemicals requires clear decision-making frameworks and more integrated supply chains.

Linking agricultural production to non-food supply chains can be achieved in various ways; growing crops that have a direct application as materials, such as flax, hemp or miscanthus; growing crops that, via (bio)refining, provide raw materials for various products, such as the production of starch for food or non-food applications (chemicals, bioplastics) and a protein-rich product for food or animal feed and straw for non-food applications from grain. The latter requires the linking of various successive chain links from different sectors, which partly exists but also partly still needs to be developed. Underlying this are technological questions regarding the adaptation of bio-based raw materials for a range of products. The National Technology Strategy, industrial policy and the coalition agreement emphasise the importance of innovation in the field of technologies. However, there are also many socio-economic issues regarding the design of a new (sub)system, logistical challenges and the weighing up of various alternatives. These are issues that have only been addressed to a limited extent in the current project portfolio. Furthermore, the knowledge regarding bio-based alternatives among businesses, retailers and consumers – which is necessary to play a role in the societal acceptance of this transition – is often still insufficient.

What questions should the PPP address?

System innovation is central to the research, as the various stakeholders must start collaborating in a new way. Technological research can form part of the PPP, in which case the socio-economic aspects of technological solutions must also be included in the research. Consider the following questions:

- a) How can local actors organise themselves around a joint technological solution and establish links with downstream chain partners? For example, how can the barrier to making meaningful investments in separation technology, biotechnological conversions, or other BRAIN technologies be lowered? How can supply chains be established for the efficient use of bio-based raw materials (preventing the loss of raw materials and energy) and the valorisation of by-products? What data is required? How can supply chains be organised in a more circular manner, on what scale should loops be closed, and which raw materials are involved?
- b) How can methods for the integrated assessment of the use of bio-based raw materials for both food and non-food purposes be developed and applied to circular bio-based raw material supply chains? How can standardised methods relating to certification, LCA methodology, CBA analyses, etc. be made more applicable to circular bio-based raw material supply chains?
- c) How can the perceived disadvantages of bio-based raw materials (limited and local availability, variable quality, excessive cost, etc.) compete with the perceived advantages of the fossil fuel supply: high security of supply, global availability, guaranteed quality levels, low prices. How can the transfer of essential knowledge to supply chain stakeholders and consumers – which is vital to supporting such a transition – be achieved? How can businesses, retailers and consumers be supported not only in choosing sustainable food but also in opting for alternatives to fossil-based products?

Practical information

A maximum of two proposals will be funded under this priority from reserved funds. Proposals must focus on at least two of the above sub-questions in order to promote a systemic approach and strengthen coherence and interaction between the primary sector, supply chain stakeholders and public authorities. In doing so, the aim is to explicitly foster collaboration that transcends individual interests and contributes to broad applicability and scalability.

Priority c: Food innovation and a sustainable, healthy society

Background

Changes in food supply, food choices and the food environment are essential for a healthier society and a future-proof food system. Diet has a significant impact on health and plays a role in chronic conditions such as obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. At the same time, food production and consumption have a significant impact on the climate, biodiversity and water quality. Innovations in the food system offer opportunities to improve both health and sustainability.

An integrated approach is crucial, bringing together food innovation, consumer behaviour and food environment. This aligns with frameworks such as the [Samen impact maken: duurzaam en gezond eten voor & door iedereen](#) and the [Voedselmanifest 2050](#), which provide insight into barriers and opportunities relating to health, growing up healthy, an ageing population, chronic diseases including lifestyle-related diseases, climate change, water quality and biodiversity. It is not just about product development or market introduction, but about a coherent approach in which sustainable, safe and healthy foods are developed, applied and accepted in practice, in collaboration with all relevant links in the chain.

Effective approaches combine innovations with systemic and environmental measures such as incentives, regulation and steering towards a more sustainable and healthier supply, alongside social and cultural mechanisms and positive spill-over effects. By linking motivation, skills and an appropriate food supply, the likelihood of lasting behavioural change increases. This requires a supply chain approach in which stakeholders ranging from raw material producers to retail, foodservice, technology, civil society organisations, government and knowledge institutions collaborate on technically, economically and behaviourally effective solutions.

The Dutch food cluster is a global frontrunner in the field of sustainable and healthy food production. At the same time, the current food environment and consumption patterns are associated with significant societal costs. Food innovation offers significant economic opportunities and should contribute to a healthy, sustainable society, but at the same time faces challenges such as earning capacity and supply chain incentives. Successful interventions and innovations require a tailored approach for each target group, life stage and transition phase, with the involvement of all supply chain partners.

These interventions and innovations contribute to a broader societal ambition in the areas of health, sustainability and the living environment, as set out in the [KIA Agriculture, Water & Food](#), the [KIA Health & Care](#) (30% reduction in the burden of disease caused by unhealthy lifestyles by 2040) and the [Green Deal on Sustainable Care](#), which focuses on prevention, a healthy living environment and a smaller ecological footprint.

In short: acceleration requires collaboration between disciplines, a multidisciplinary approach and a value chain approach.

What question should the PPP address?

Main question: “How do we increase the impact of sustainable and healthy food innovations on food consumption and dietary patterns, with the aim of reducing the ecological footprint, promoting healthy development and preventing chronic diseases?”

Sub-questions:

- How can existing knowledge about more sustainable and healthier food be better utilised and translated into innovative concepts, products and markets that are scalable at national and international levels, and supplemented with new knowledge where necessary?
- How can a sustainable and healthy range of products be effectively integrated into consumers’ food and living environments, so that this leads to broad acceptance and adoption, and the upscaling of interventions that demonstrably contribute to prevention and sustainability?
- How can developments in smart technology, data and AI be translated and applied to introduce sustainable and healthy food innovations more effectively and bring them to the right target groups?

Practical information

A maximum of two proposals within this priority can be funded using reserved WR capacity and/or a PPP grant from TKI Agri&Food. In addition, one or more proposals can be funded by TKI Life Sciences & Health; this requires that one or more SMEs form part of the consortium, in order to ensure practical application and market impact.

Proposals should address at least two sub-questions to promote a systemic approach and strengthen coherence within the food system and the interaction between consumers, supply and the environment. Proposals addressing less than two sub-questions will not be considered for assessment. Collaboration that transcends individual interests and contributes to broad applicability, scalability and impact is strongly encouraged.

The proposal must use the SMART method to specify how the results contribute to the central research question and how project partners and other stakeholders will collaborate to achieve the intended impact.

SMEs are explicitly invited to participate as an essential link between innovation and the consumer. Proposals that strengthen the earning capacity of Dutch SMEs and contribute to a future-proof, sustainable and healthy food chain are encouraged. SMEs may also be eligible for funding within the PPP structure, subject to the conditions of the PPP call.

Priority d: Knowledge and innovation-driven approach

Importance and urgency

On the part of public authorities, supply chain stakeholders and the agricultural sector, there is a need to make farm-specific sustainability performance of individual farms objectively measurable. If farm-specific sustainability performance can be determined objectively and in a more standardized manner, this can provide a common basis for public and private parties in achieving societal objectives relating to agriculture, for example in the areas of climate, biodiversity, soil, water, scarce resources and animal welfare.

The ability to determine farm-specific sustainability performance has several, partly overlapping functions: 1) it forms a basis for creating incentives for farmers to improve (guidance/interventions), 2) it provides greater insight into the possibilities for further improving sustainability at farm level (management), and 3) it forms a basis for reporting progress on sustainability targets at higher levels of aggregation (e.g. region or supply chain) (accountability). It can thus also serve as a foundation for a shift in policy from steering towards generic measures to steering towards farm-specific performance (target-based management), with the advantage that farmers can be better encouraged to choose the measures that are most effective in the context of their farm.

Objectively determining farm-specific sustainability performance of Dutch agricultural holdings is a complex and extensive task that requires innovation in the field of data management and collaboration between parties. In any case, it requires proper recording and access to information from the individual farm. To keep working manageable with farm-specific sustainability performance, standardisation and harmonisation of definitions, calculation rules, data systems, etc. between parties (public and private) is essential. Ideally, unnecessary differences in definitions and calculation methods should be avoided, available data should be used in multiple places, development costs should be limited through collaborative learning, and transparent agreements should be made regarding data ownership and sharing. Automation is necessary to reduce administrative burdens, to facilitate unambiguous interpretation, and to enable the assurance of data input. New (governance) agreements are also needed regarding the further development, management and use of data, calculation tools and results.

What questions should proposals address?

There is a need in various areas for knowledge and innovation projects that help to create the (data) ecosystem required to shape the above-mentioned development. The following research questions are relevant:

1. **Automation and reduction of administrative burdens:** What are the possibilities for further automating data collection and limiting the data input required from the farmer themselves? How, for example, can data sources such as invoices from financial records, satellite data, machine data and sensor measurements be utilised to further increase both reliability and objectivity whilst simultaneously reducing administrative burdens?
2. **Data sharing and data ownership:** What agreements, governance structures and (legal) frameworks are necessary to properly safeguard transparent, secure and widely supported data ownership and to enable data sharing between farmers, public authorities and supply chain parties? Which models for data ownership are applicable within the Dutch agricultural context? How can the interests of different parties be safeguarded in agreements on data access and use? Which conditions promote trust and participation among farmers?
3. **Calculation tools:** How can effective calculation tools be developed for all agricultural sectors? What generic quality requirements must calculation tools meet, for example regarding transparency, version control and stakeholder involvement? How can the future development and management of such calculation tools best be ensured? And how can calculation tools create value for businesses (in terms of policy scope or financially)? The actual development of calculation tools may also form part of this.
4. **Quality requirements and data validation:** Can generically applicable quality requirements for data input and results be identified? And can these be differentiated according to application and intervention level? Can generically applicable validation protocols be developed that guarantee the reliability and verifiability of input and results?
5. **Refinement and integration of measurements:** How can we ensure that results from field measurements (such as measuring livestock emissions or soil quality) are optimally integrated? How can we ensure that

model-based approaches in calculation tools are sufficiently validated? And can this data provide new perspectives for action for farmers?

6. **Regional processes and collaboration to achieve targets:** how can we collaborate to achieve targets at the regional level? What role can public and private parties play in this? Which agreements and governance models are effective in this regard? What can be learnt from practical cases, such as regional measurement projects or field labs?

Practical information

A maximum of two proposals can be funded under this priority from reserved funds.

Proposals should focus on at least two sub-questions to promote a systemic approach and integration. In doing so, there is a clear emphasis on collaboration that contributes to broad applicability and scalability. A cross-sectoral approach is therefore encouraged; sector- or area-specific case studies may form part of this.

The proposal must use the SMART method to specify in concrete terms (a) how the results contribute to the central research question and (b) how project partners and any other stakeholders will collaborate to achieve the intended impact.

Priority e: “Innovation for nature restoration”

Background

Over the next decades, the Netherlands faces major societal challenges with far-reaching consequences for the physical layout of our country. These include housing construction, energy transition (including offshore and onshore wind power), ‘Ruimte voor de rivier 2.0’, protection against sea-level rise and other adaptations to climate change, and the food transition. How do we ensure that this does not come at the expense of nature and biodiversity, which are already under severe pressure, both on land and in the water? Biodiversity in the Netherlands has declined sharply. Although the decline is stabilising in some areas, the quality of nature remains critical, particularly in agricultural areas. The basic quality of nature is well below adequate and is declining. In the North Sea, the Wadden Sea and other major water bodies, biodiversity is also under severe pressure due to intensive human use and climate change. How can we use the right integrated area-specific knowledge and understanding of pressure factors – alongside innovations – to shape the substantial restoration and conservation tasks that must be achieved on land and in water? And how do we ensure that nature is part of the solution through *nature-based solutions* that also benefit nature itself – through both innovative concepts as well as making optimal use of existing concepts in area-based processes?

Nature-inclusive innovations and optimal area-specific knowledge can be utilised for their contribution to achieving statutory nature conservation targets (Birds and Habitats Directives, Nature Restoration Regulation and nitrogen reduction) and, from planning to implementation, they can contribute as (partial) solutions to a wide range of societal challenges. Reducing or even put a halt to biodiversity loss, combined with increasing climate resilience, is also important for the long-term return on investment. How do we ensure that the private and public parties involved are easily engaged and have access to knowledge (and knowledge development) that helps them make the right choices in this regard? In addition to technical and substantive knowledge (including the effects of land and water use on nature, nature-inclusive design, and integrated monitoring of progress towards achieving nature conservation goals in area-based processes), it also requires societal/social and financial-economic innovations (including the adaptation of financial systems, nature-inclusive lease terms and tendering rules) that are – preferably – developed in close interaction with practitioners. Innovative measuring and monitoring systems and integrated area and monitoring of pressure factor are helpful in this regard. In short: plenty of opportunities for innovation, both for nature and with nature!

Public-private research and research in which implementing parties (such as agricultural nature associations and site managers) collaborate with knowledge institutions, (local) authorities and private knowledge providers (including consultancy firms) to find innovative solutions for and with nature contributes to the lasting recovery of biodiversity and a thriving natural environment. Work is currently underway on a national nature plan that addresses challenges both within and outside protected nature areas in a coherent manner. The nitrogen strategy focuses on rural areas. However, nature restoration is also explicitly about greening urban areas and major water bodies such as the Wadden Sea and the North Sea. Innovative nature-based solutions also contribute to numerous other policy objectives at European, national and regional levels. These include the development of nature-inclusive economic opportunities and revenue models, and nature as a solution to societal challenges such as climate adaptation and mitigation, our physical and mental health, and water quality and water safety. Area-based approaches, combined with ambitious targets, play a key role in this. The government is working on nature-inclusive policy, in particular based on the Nature-Inclusive Agenda. The aim is to stimulate and facilitate nature-based innovations that contribute to achieving nature conservation targets whilst simultaneously taking into account sustainable revenue generation in balance with nature across the ten sectors/domains of [the Nature-Inclusive Agenda](#) (construction, energy, the financial sector, health, infrastructure, agriculture, education, the leisure economy, water, and business parks).

In addition, innovative forms of monitoring and managing our natural environment can enable more efficient and effective work on nature restoration. A great deal of knowledge is already available. The main challenge is to translate this knowledge into practical terms and make it suitable for public and private parties who make decisions about the design of our physical living environment or design solutions for its development.

What questions should proposals address?

The following research areas are relevant:

- **Developing nature-inclusive revenue models:** What are the innovative opportunities for sectors (from construction or recreation to healthcare or agriculture and fisheries) to integrate nature into their business models? How can nature contribute to cost savings or new revenue streams, in a way that also contributes to the lasting restoration of biodiversity and a thriving natural environment?
- **Innovative management and enhancement of nature:** Which interventions are effective and efficient for nature restoration? What innovative roles can market players play in this? What knowledge is lacking to achieve this enhancement, and how does the project contribute to filling that knowledge gap?
- **Nature-inclusive landscapes:** how do we ensure that nature is fully integrated into spatial decision-making? How do we safeguard the basic quality of nature, restore degraded landscapes, and involve residents and users in landscape restoration?
- **Innovative forms of nature financing:** Many market players, from small businesses to multinationals, would like to work in a more nature-inclusive way but lack the right financing options to do so. What innovations in our financial system can help remove these barriers? From financiers and investors, accountants, insurers, governments and other stakeholders.
- **Nature-inclusive behaviour and decision-making:** How can nature-inclusive choices by citizens, consumers, site managers, farmers and professionals be encouraged? How does the project contribute to the optimal achievement of nature-related objectives in spatial planning processes? How are opportunities for synergy with water safety, (fresh) water availability, the optimal achievement of nature-related objectives (e.g. meadow bird management) and CO₂ sequestration being utilised?
- **Innovative nature monitoring:** Which innovative methods (technological or non-technological) can provide the best and most efficient insight into the state of our natural systems, are easy to use by various public and private stakeholders, and help to make choices that strengthen nature? Which monitoring of pressure factors and of target achievement in spatial planning processes can contribute to nature restoration and optimal management?

Practical information

- Number of proposals to be funded: up to 4 within this priority, but possibly fewer
- Form of collaboration: PPP (public-private partnership) in accordance with the terms of the call
- Target group: consortia of knowledge institutions, local authorities, site managers, businesses (with an emphasis on SMEs) and/or other relevant parties

The proposal must use the SMART method to specify in concrete terms (a) how the results contribute to the central research question and (b) how project partners and any other stakeholders will collaborate to achieve the intended impact.