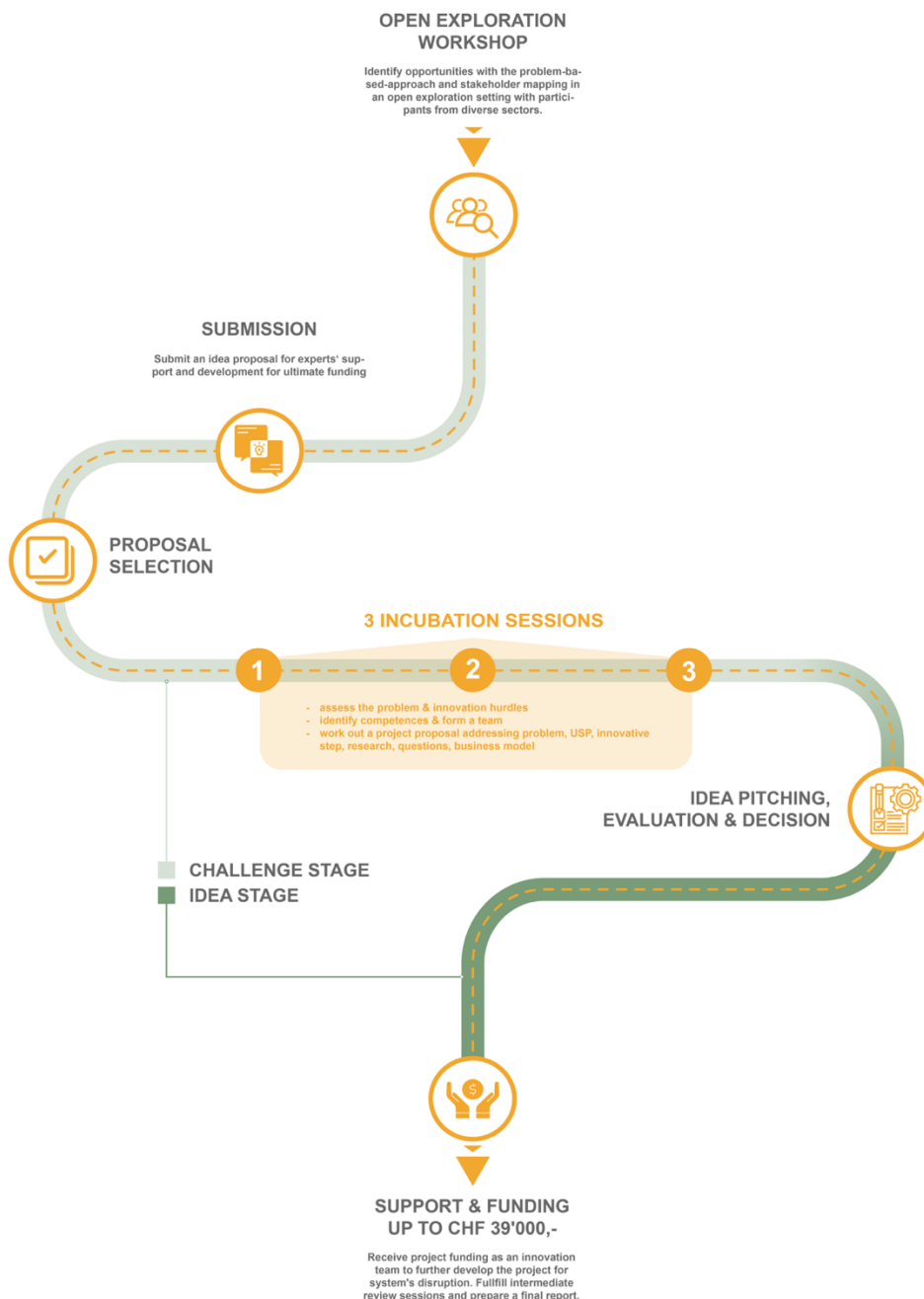**Innovation Booster Future Food Farming**

INCUBATION PROCESS | GUIDELINES & CONDITIONS

Effective date: January 1, 2025

The Suisse Agro Food Leadinghouse (SAFL) organizes the Incubation Process from radical ideas to impactful projects of the Innovation Booster Future Food Farming (IB-FFF), powered by Innosuisse.

The Innovation Booster program aims to foster a culture of open innovation, co-creation and building multidisciplinary teams to develop ideas that lead to far reaching and transformative innovations to radical ideas that have the possibility to create sustainable added value.

PROCESS

OPEN EXPLORATION WORKSHOP

Identify opportunities with the problem-based-approach and stakeholder mapping in an open exploration setting with participants from diverse sectors.

SUBMISSION

Submit an idea proposal for experts' support and development for ultimate funding

PROPOSAL SELECTION

3 INCUBATION SESSIONS

1 2 3

- assess the problem & innovation hurdles
- identify competences & form a team
- work out a project proposal addressing problem, USP, innovative step, research, questions, business model

IDEA PITCHING, EVALUATION & DECISION

CHALLENGE STAGE
IDEA STAGE

SUPPORT & FUNDING UP TO CHF 39'000,-

Receive project funding as an innovation team to further develop the project for system's disruption. Fullfill intermediate review sessions and prepare a final report.

Innovation Booster Future Food Farming

1. Challenge Collection and Idea proposal

In a first step, problems and challenges of a given subject will be identified in an open and collaborative manner at an Open Exploration Workshop. Workshops are open to all and are about understanding the root causes and effects of the problems to uncover opportunities for radical solutions.

Idea proposals responding to these challenges and problems can be submitted by a team, or an individual prepared to form an innovation team, after having participated in the workshop, through the innovation platform jointcreate.com. The idea submitter (or at least one team member) must have participated in an Open Exploration Workshop of the Innovation Booster Future Food Farming.

When submitting your idea proposal through the online innovation platform you can choose between:

- *Published* mode: the submitted proposal on jointcreate is visible to any person in the joinctreate community.

- *Unpublished* mode: the submitted proposal is only visible to stakeholders of the proposal and people within the same organizations/challenges/calls the proposal is associated with.

To support the culture of open innovation we encourage you to submit it in *Published* mode. Doing so allows you to interact with the community and to find new partners. If submitting in *Unpublished* mode, we encourage you to at least include a brief description for the greater public, by filling in the "short description" field.

In the *Published* mode all information submitted is disclosed to the public and in the public domain. In respect to future filing of IP please select carefully what level of information you want to disclose.

The submitted idea proposals will be assessed and evaluated by the organizers (SAFL) and the jury. The organizers and members of the evaluation jury are bound to confidentiality. Unless agreed differently, they will not disclose any information.

2. Eligibility & Conditions

To receive any funding, the team must be composed of at least of one implementation partner (must be a legal entity based in Switzerland, i.e. company, association or any other legal person, can also be a research organization) and one research partner (Innosuisse accepted research organization). Private persons (natural person) are not eligible to receive any funds!

Multiple funding for the same project is not permitted. Projects may only receive funding from a single source (i.e., the Innovation Booster Future Food Farming) to ensure compliance with funding regulations.

In case of any disputes within the team or major problems occurring in the projects that will damage the quality or the outcome of the project do immediately inform Claire Casteran (claire.casteran@clusterfoodnutrition.ch), Lucas Grob (lucas.grob@swissfoodresearch.ch), SAFL co-managers, and/or your assigned coach.

In case these rules are ignored we have the right to cut the funding at any time according to our own judgement.

3. Incubation Sessions

Idea proposals identified by the organizers (SAFL) to have the potential to transform and change a status quo will be admitted to the incubation phase (duration of approx. 6 weeks). It includes at least 3 coaching sessions with the Innovation Booster's coaches. Sessions will be scheduled according to language and expertise preference within max. 6 weeks following the Idea proposal selection.

These sessions will help to assess the problems and innovation hurdles, identify competencies, form a team (composed of at least one implementation partner and one research partner) and work out a project proposal addressing the problem, USP, innovative step, research question and business model. More specifically, during these sessions, you will work on the viability (the way your project will operate sustainably), the desirability (how and how much your solution is wanted or needed by customers), and the feasibility (the technical possibilities and available competences, or the likelihood of your project to be realized and achieve the wanted impact) of your project.

4. Idea Submission

Your idea has successfully passed the incubation sessions, and is ready to be submitted for idea pitching, fulfilling these criteria:

• Innovation hurdles and research questions pertinent to the problem/challenge are defined.

• The idea has a high degree of radicality and potential for transformation of the current system.

• A team with the ideal competences is committed to continuation in a collaborative development project, and the following conditions are met:

  o At least one academic research partner (must be recognized as such by Innosuisse) and

  o One implementation partner (must be a legal entity)

  o One member of the team has participated to one of the open workshops

Submission occurs through the jointcreate.com platform. Link will be disclosed to the eligible teams after Idea Evaluation. Confidentiality is guaranteed unless chosen differently in the submission form.

5. Pitching Session

Dates for online pitching sessions are announced during the incubation phase, we ask submitting teams/idea owners to save the dates.

The pitching session is nonpublic and will be held individually between idea owners/teams, members of the SAFL and the jurors. All information provided is treated confidential by the SAFL and the jurors, and all rights remain with the disclosing party or the respective holder of the right.

6. Support & Funding

Funding decisions will be made after the pitching session, based on the following evaluation criteria:

- The degree of innovation: How novel the idea is on the market; which innovation hurdle is to be taken; which research question is to be answered?

- The radicality of the idea: What potential does the idea have to transform the status quo by understanding a problem at its roots and solving it in a new way?

- The competencies of the innovation team: Does the team consist of a research and an implementation partner? Are the right competencies on board?

If the jury's decision is favorable, the project funding value amounts to **up to CHF 39'000**, composed as follows:

- **Support value: CHF 5'000**
  Project support provided during the incubation phase, including coaching, expert input, professional guidance on feasibility, viability and desirability, as well as match-making with a Swiss-wide network of over 400 entities and access to a broader ecosystem of more than 6'000 contacts through Cluster Food & Nutrition and Swiss Food Research.

- **Partner-to-partner cash contributions from the innovation team: CHF 4'000**
  Members of Cluster Food & Nutrition (CFN) and/or Swiss Food Research (SFR) will receive a sponsoring of up to CHF 2'000 to cover part of partner-to-partner contributions.

- **Idea funding: up to CHF 30'000**

  The funding will be settled in two tranches:

  - Up to CHF 15'000 after positive pitching decision and contract signed

  - Up to CHF 15'000 after successfully passing the project mid review session. Please make sure that you only use the budget of the first tranche till you have passed this milestone meeting!

7. Conditions related to the allocation and appropriate use of funding

Awards are bound to following requirements:

- Commitment to undergo several "Project Review Sessions" – we will schedule meetings with your entire team to understand how the idea is progressing and where you require additional support. These meetings will be scheduled separately with you and are not the mid review session!

  For desirability, viability and feasibility testing, the selected innovation teams have access to the living labs of the Innovation Booster support group and the networks of Cluster Food & Nutrition and Swiss Food Research.

- Willingness to provide a final report and feedback as well as a video testimonial at the end of the process.

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Teams have the right of refusal within 1 week after being notified of the decision. The awards are then valid to be retrieved within 3 months from the decision's day on.

Awards are legally bound to activities that support the further development of the idea leading to an innovation project or towards project implementation. **Award money must be used within 12 months following the pitching session**. Any award money that is not used within this period must be returned to Suisse Agro Food Leadinghouse. (Details will be described in the grant contract.)

To ensure a coherent and justified use of the allocated funds, **only expenses directly related to the project's objectives are considered eligible**. **Eligible costs** are defined as all costs directly contributing to the successful implementation of the project. The services and/or products must be consumed or used during the funding period.

Examples of non-eligible costs:

• Laptops
  Reason: can still be used after the project ends
• Tickets to the moon
  Reason: not directly related to the project's success

Examples of eligible costs:

• Tickets to a trade fair where you present your prototype
  Reason: directly related, used for desirability testing
• Computing power
  Reason: related to the success – viability

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & RIGHTS

All rights remain with the submitting party.

Example: If the project involves two parties, the intellectual property (IP) generated during the project should be clearly defined in a separate agreement between those parties For instance, one party may retain ownership of certain research findings, while the other party may retain ownership of the developed solution or technology. Ownership of rights must be agreed among the submitting or collaborative parties and is their sole responsibilities. SAFL does not take any claim on these rights.

FEE

The participation to a Campaign of the Innovation Booster Future Food Farming on jointcreate.com is free of charge.

PRIVACY POLICY

The personal details provided at registration will be used strictly only for administration purposes.

1.1 The organizers will use the information on your application form to administer and promote the Innovation Booster and further events of a similar nature.

1.2 All participants agree that the organizers may promote this event by photographs taken at the event. If you are not willing to be photographed, tell the organizers.

1.3 The organizers have the right to use for advertisement in the publicity statements or events, including all types of media, both print and online:

• photos, videos taken during the workshop but not disclosing innovative content.

• short descriptions & presentations (provided by the teams in digital form, including documents, videos, photographs).

- all participating teams' names and likenesses.

This type of information can be used for publication unless the team demands non-disclosure to an audience outside the workshop.

SAFEGUARDING CLAUSE

Should one of the provisions of this Agreement be or become ineffective or should a gap occur, this shall in no way affect the effectiveness of the remaining provisions. The ineffective provision shall be replaced by a provision that is nearest to the economic purpose of the ineffective provision.

In case of any dispute, the governing laws of Switzerland apply. The Court of jurisdiction is Fribourg.

This agreement comes into force on the date of signature. It applies to the content of the ideation campaign and for further individual meetings in relation to the idea generation process. The agreement terminates by Dec. 31st, 2027.

On behalf of the organizing partners: Suisse Agro Food Leading House, Cluster Food & Nutrition, Swiss Food Research (covering all individuals working in one of these organizations).

Fribourg, 21.01.2025

Claire Casteran
Co-Manager

Lucas Grob
Co-Manager