



Terms & Conditions

Agrifood Disruptor Program

Index

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Program Objectives.....	3
3. Organizing Body.....	3
4. Application Process and Selection Stages.....	3
5. Program Format & Timeline.....	4
Program Preview.....	4
Online Bootcamp.....	4
Market Discovery Journey.....	5
Pitch Day.....	5
6. Eligibility Criteria.....	6
7. Selection Criteria and Evaluation.....	6
8. Awards and Incentives.....	7
9. Code of Conduct.....	8
10. Intellectual Property (IP) and Confidentiality.....	8
11. Legal and Policy Considerations.....	8
12. Contact Information.....	9

1. Introduction

The [Agrifood Disruptor Program](#) is a strategic initiative promoted by [BGI Sustainable Ventures](#) and supported by [EIT Food](#). It is designed to bridge the gap between academic research and market innovation in the agrifood sector. By equipping researchers, early-stage entrepreneurs, and innovators with entrepreneurial tools and industry knowledge, the Program facilitates the transformation of scientific findings into marketable solutions.

This Terms & Conditions document outlines the structure, participation criteria, code of conduct, evaluation process, and legal considerations associated with the Program. By applying to and participating in the Agrifood Disruptor Program, individuals and teams agree to abide by the terms set forth herein.

2. Program Objectives

The Agrifood Disruptor program aims to foster an entrepreneurial mindset among researchers, entrepreneurs and innovators, provide insights into the agrifood ecosystem, particularly within the framework of EIT Food and support the journey from lab to market through structured training, mentoring and real-world market discovery, nurturing high-potential ideas with commercial and environmental impact.

3. Organizing Body

The Agrifood Disruptor Program is created and promoted by BGI Sustainable Ventures, a leading innovation accelerator promoting sustainable entrepreneurship. The Program is supported by EIT Food, the Europe's largest and most dynamic food innovation community.

4. Application Process and Selection Stages

We kick off with the Program Preview Session, on June 18 (10:00 WEST), a free 2-hour online sneak peak of the Program, showcasing research-to-market success stories and exploring how participants' technologies can fit into the agrifood landscape.

Following the Program Preview, the Online Bootcamp is scheduled to begin in July. The top teams from the Online Bootcamp will be selected to advance to the Market Discovery Journey phase that culminates with the Pitch Day. The Full Program is a 4-month journey to help bring research-based solutions to market.

While participants are strongly encouraged to join the full program, they can choose to:

- Join the Program Preview Session only, on June 18th (10:00 WEST)
- Apply for the Full Program (4 months)

All applications must be submitted through the same [registration form](#) until June 30.

5. Program Format & Timeline

The working language of the Agrifood Disruptor Program is English.

The Agrifood Disruptor program follows an online format, combining live online sessions with asynchronous mentoring.

Program Preview

The Program Preview Session (June 18 - 10:00 WEST) is a free, 2-hour online preview session designed to introduce the program. Participants will also discover real research-to-market success stories and explore how their technologies can shape the agrifood landscape.

Online Bootcamp

The Online Bootcamp (July 2026) is a central component of the Agrifood Disruptor program, designed to provide participating teams with foundational knowledge, practical skills, and strategic insights necessary for advancing their research towards market application. Through expert-led sessions, mentoring, and collaborative work, participants will explore entrepreneurship in agrifood, build effective business models, and sharpen their pitching abilities. The Online Bootcamp is structured to promote experiential learning and team-based exploration of innovation pathways.

The Online Bootcamp consists of four interactive sessions designed to introduce participants to the Agrifood Ecosystem and support the development of entrepreneurial and business skills. Throughout the sessions, participants will explore key topics such as entrepreneurship, market fit, value proposition, market sizing, pitching and storytelling, intellectual property, funding landscape and sustainable business models, complemented by practical group work, and opportunities for discussion and feedback.

Market Discovery Journey

The top teams from the Online Bootcamp will be selected to advance to the Market Discovery Journey phase (August-September 2026). This stage is designed to help teams to identify and validate their market fit through direct engagement with industry stakeholders and expert mentors.

During this phase, there will be an online session focused on Market Discovery. After that each team will receive tailored mentoring and support, focusing on customer discovery, market segmentation, competitive landscape assessment, and value proposition refinement. Teams will also be encouraged to conduct interviews, pilot testing, or prototype feedback sessions, depending on the maturity of their ideas.

The objective of this phase is to validate core assumptions, uncover market needs, and strengthen the teams' readiness for commercialization or further development. Activities will be carried out asynchronously, with flexibility to accommodate participants' schedules, while maintaining regular check-ins with assigned mentors.

Teams are expected to prepare an updated pitch incorporating insights gained during the market discovery journey. These refined pitches will be presented at the Pitch Day.

Pitch Day

At the end of the program, selected teams will present their final pitches during the online Pitch Day, receiving expert feedback from a renowned jury panel (October 2026) that will then evaluate the pitches. This evaluation will define the winning team.

6. Eligibility Criteria

The program is open to researchers at all levels, including Master's students, PhD candidates, and junior or senior Post-Doctoral researchers, early-stage entrepreneurs, and innovators in the agrifood sector.

All applicants should be based in Europe or [associated countries](#). During the selection process, a good representation of projects based in Portugal, or led by Portuguese nationals based anywhere in Europe and associated countries, will be ensured.

We're looking for:

- Junior or senior researchers in agrifood-related areas of expertise
- Early-stage entrepreneurs with agrifood-related technologies
- Innovators (e.g. startups) in the agrifood sector working in TRL 3–6*

*TRL 3-6 means Technology Readiness Levels progressing from early experimental proof-of-concept to a system or prototype demonstrated in a relevant environment.

7. Selection Criteria and Evaluation

All applications will be reviewed and assessed by an internal evaluation committee composed of experienced professionals and experts from BGI Sustainable Ventures and its partner organizations. The evaluation process is structured to ensure transparency, fairness, and alignment with the program's objectives.

The evaluation framework is based on four main criteria:

1. **Innovation and Novelty** – This includes the originality of the idea, the use of scientific knowledge in innovative ways and how the solution departs from existing solutions.
2. **Feasibility and Practicality** – The assessors will consider the technical and operational feasibility of the idea, resource needs and implementation challenges.
3. **Impact Potential** – Teams will be evaluated on the potential of their solution to generate significant positive change in the agrifood sector. This includes economic, environmental and societal impact.

4. **Scalability and Growth Prospects** – This includes the potential for the idea to be scaled or adapted to other contexts or markets and the long-term vision of the team.

Each criterion will be rated on a scale (e.g. 1 to 5) and used to generate a composite score for each application and pitch. The highest-scoring teams will be selected to advance through the stages of the program.

Innovation can be related to any area within the agrifood sector. However, particular preference will be given to those aligned with one or more of the innovation areas detailed below:

- **Bioinputs:** Natural inputs that boost plant growth, improve soil health and enhance resilience to abiotic stress (e.g. biostimulants, biofertilizers, etc).
- **Fermentation:** Microbial processes enabling the production of scalable, sustainable, bio-based ingredients and solutions.
- **Byproduct Valorisation:** Valorisation of agro-industrial byproducts to enhance soil health, nutrient/food product development and overall system efficiency.
- **Circular Economy:** Redesigning agrifood systems to minimise waste, optimise resource use, and close biological and material loops.
- **Digital & AI-driven Agriculture:** Digital, data-driven and AI-powered solutions for precision farming, decision support, automation, and improved resource efficiency.

8. Awards and Incentives

Participants in the Agrifood Disruptor Program will benefit from access to experienced mentors and industry experts, hands-on training in entrepreneurship and innovation and official recognition and visibility through BGI and EIT Food networks.

Invited teams will have the opportunity to pitch at a major national agrifood event (Agrifood Open Day) in front of industry stakeholders, partners and potential investors.

The winning team will be awarded expert support to apply to EIT Food opportunities.

The top teams in the field will also have access to follow-up support through AmpliAqua® R&D incubation.

9. Code of Conduct

All participants are expected to maintain a professional, respectful and inclusive environment. Participants must ensure the originality and ownership of their submitted ideas and refrain from plagiarism. Respect towards fellow participants, mentors, and program staff is crucial. Attendance at all required sessions is compulsory. Failure to attend may result in disqualification from the Program, unless justification is given.

10. Intellectual Property (IP) and Confidentiality

Participants will retain full ownership of the intellectual property they bring into or develop during the program. BGI does not claim any rights to participants' ideas but may help with visibility promoting success stories and innovations developed during the program, always with appropriate credit to the authors.

11. Legal and Policy Considerations

Personal data collected during the application and participation process will be handled in accordance with applicable data protection regulations (GDPR). The data will be used for program administration / communication and for contacts about future opportunities through BGI channels.

I understand that I may opt out at any time from receiving the information by sending an e-mail with a request to be removed to the following address: geral@bgi.pt.

The organizers reserve the right to make necessary adjustments to the Program format, schedule or content.

Any disputes arising from participation in the program will be resolved by the organizing committee, whose decision will be considered final and binding.

12. Contact Information

For any questions or additional information about the Agrifood Disruptor Program, please contact the organizing team at agrifood@bgi.pt.

By submitting an application to the Agrifood Disruptor Program, all team members acknowledge that they have read, understood and agree to comply with the terms and conditions outlined in this document.