

Assessment Criteria

Food & Bio Cluster Denmark Pathways to Net-Zero: Futureproofing Sustainable Agri-Food Systems Towards 2050

Below are four assessment criteria, each of which are unfolded in a number of points that form the basis for the assessment of the application to *Food & Bio Cluster Denmark Pathways to Net-Zero: Futureproofing Sustainable Agri-Food Systems Towards 2050*.

All four criteria are included in the evaluation and contribute to the overall evaluation. The assessment provided by each evaluator is the reasoned opinion of the evaluator and is not a simple weighted sum of the ratings on the criteria.

The points that form the basis of each assessment criterion are a guide for the applicant and evaluator as to what can be included in the applicant's statement and the evaluator's assessment. For a given application, some points may be more relevant than others. The assessment on a given criterion is the evaluator's overall assessment of the relevant points for the criterion in the given application.

Applications are evaluated by 1-2 external national experts using criteria 1. Criteria 2-4 are evaluated by 2-5 external international experts. 1 impartial person will evaluate criteria 1-4 across all applications. The final decision will be made by the Food and Bio Cluster Denmark's Board of Directors* based on the assessments. When determining which projects will receive funding, the Board of Directors will consider the alignment of the project's objectives with the Food & Bio Cluster Denmark Partnerships mission, its contribution to roadmap impact and strategic priorities, and its fit within the overall portfolio of projects and initiatives.

*In June 2025, AgriFoodTure and Food & Bio Cluster Denmark merged. Food & Bio Cluster Denmark is the name of the merged organization and the Innomission 3 Partnership.

1. Strategic fit to the Food & Bio Cluster Denmark roadmap and mission

This criterion assesses the extent to which the project contributes strategically to Food & Bio Cluster Denmark's [Roadmap](#), Inflection Points in the [Impact Framework](#), and Milestones describes in the call text, as well as the long-term ambition for a climate-neutral Danish agri-food sector. The criterion focuses on the project's strategic relevance, role and contribution.

The assessment is based on the following equally weighted sub-criteria.

a. Contribution to the North Star

Assessed based on:

- *the clarity with which the project relates to Food & Bio Cluster Denmark's long-term ambition of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in the Danish agricultural and food sector by 2050,*
- *the potential impact of the project at an individual and societal level, including its contribution to enabling or accelerating reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and related environmental effects,*

- *the relevance of the project's contribution in relation to climate, environment, nature and a competitive food sector, and*
- *whether due consideration is given to public health, food security and animal welfare.*

The assessment focuses on the project's potential contribution and enabling effects within the broader system, rather than on direct attribution of emission reductions to the project alone.

b. Contribution to prioritised inflection point(s)

Assessed based on:

- *how clearly the project positions itself in relation to one or more prioritised inflection points that are critical for achieving the North Star,*
- *whether the project addresses strategically important transformations at the current stage of the mission, and*
- *the plausibility that the project can contribute to accelerating change within these inflection points through research, innovation, implementation or learning.*

c. Societal transformation and behavioural change

Assessed based on:

- *the project's potential to contribute to changed behaviour, practices or decision-making among actors along the value chain, institutions or consumers/citizens,*
- *whether relevant societal, organisational, institutional or behavioural barriers are identified, and*
- *how the project contributes to increasing societal readiness, acceptance and uptake of solutions or approaches.*

The assessment emphasises the integration of societal and behavioural perspectives where these are critical for achieving impact.

d. Strategic innovation and excellence in relation to the roadmap and mission

Assessed based on:

- *the quality and robustness of the project in relation to clearly identified unmet needs,*
- *the degree to which the project introduces novel technological, organisational, social or systemic approaches that are relevant and timely for advancing the mission, and*
- *the extent to which the project demonstrates excellence in combining scientific, technical and societal perspectives.*

e. Strategic scalability and learning potential

Assessed based on:

- *whether the project contributes to solutions, approaches or knowledge that can plausibly be scaled, replicated or adapted within a national and international context,*
- *the extent to which the project generates learning, evidence or early signs of progress that are relevant beyond the project context,*
- *whether the project clearly describes how results, learning or intermediate outcomes will be shared with relevant actors, including other Food & Bio Cluster Denmark projects, in order to support broader progress within the mission, and*

- *the extent to which the project demonstrates awareness of key external conditions for scaling or uptake (e.g. regulatory frameworks, market structures, infrastructure, incentives or coordination needs), and how these are considered or addressed within the scope of the project.*

2. Quality of the idea

(Quality of research and innovation)

Assessed on the basis of:

- a. That the goals and objectives of the project are clear and that they are specific, observable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound.
- b. That it is clear that the idea is innovative and goes beyond state-of-the-art in an academic and societal field at an international level.
- c. That the competitive situation of the idea is made clear – both with regard to the academic and societal elements. The disruptive potential of the idea must be clearly stated.

3. Impact

(Value creation during and after the project period)

Assessed on the basis of:

- a. That it is clear which unmet need/societal problem the project addresses in a national and international perspective.
- b. That it is plausible that the project generates societal and/or economic impact for Denmark through economic growth and/or by solving societal challenges.
- c. That the project's progress towards implementation - after the Food & Bio Cluster Denmark investment period has ended - has been adequately explained.
- d. That the associated implementation, business, or sales model is adequately described including a plan for scalability.
- e. That intellectual property rights are described, if relevant.
- f. That the project's Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) have been adequately explained, including an explanation of how and why the project progresses on the TRL-scale.
- g. That the project's Society Readiness Levels (SRLs) have been adequately explained, including an explanation of how/why the project progresses on the SRL-scale.
- h. That it is clear which strategic relevance the project has in relation to the project participants' strategy and/or Food & Bio Cluster Denmark's roadmap in the field.
- i. That the possibilities for international market penetration as well as scaling are clearly described.

4. Quality of execution

(Efficiency in the execution of the project and implementation of the project results)

Assessed on the basis of:

- a. That a clear and detailed operational project plan has been prepared, which includes the methods applied within the project and lists the project's work packages and their content, deliveries, milestones and participant contribution.
- b. That the project's relevant critical paths as well as the dependencies of the work packages are adequately described.
- c. That the project is realistically budgeted and realistic in relation to the activities set up.
- d. That the composition of project participants has the relevant competencies and experience to carry out the project work tasks, and that organization, governance and leadership will be taken care of.
- e. That relevant and specific risks have been identified and that it has been explained how these are mitigated.
- f. That relevant legal, ethical, and regulatory aspects have been adequately described in relation to the project's implementation.
- g. That it is clear which other options for funding opportunities the project will attract/has attracted before, during and after the project ends.