



European Commission

DG AGRI & DG RTD, *Bio-NCP Correspondents - Horizon 2020 - Societal Challenge 2*

SC2 Work Programme 2018-2020 - Questions & Answers

This list is a collection of answers & clarifications given by the DG AGRI & DG RTD concerning SC2 WP 2018-2020 topic questions received from participating countries.

SFS-11-2018-2019 (12.1.2018)

" SFS-11-2018-2019: Anti-microbials and animal production has an A(2018) and a B (2019) part but in the deadline table its separation was not clear for my expert as you indicated.

Does it mean that you allocate 12 million Euro for the year 2018 and it is only for subtopic A, while the 6 million Euro is allocated for 2019 is only for subtopic B with an opening date of 16 October 2018 and with a deadline of submission of proposals by 23rd January 2019 (first stage)?"

Reply:

As stated in the WP, a budget of 12 million has been foreseen for scope A (2018), with a recommended grant size of 6 million. Therefore, 2 projects are expected to be funded;

For scope B (2019), instead, a budget of 6 million is foreseen, with recommended grant size of 6 million. Therefore, 1 project is expected to be funded.

Please note that 2019 topics/scopes/budget are indicative and may evolve until the publication of the call.

SFS-11-2018-2019 subtopic B (2019)

We have received the following request for clarification related to the topic in object:
The existing molecules with new activities could be developed as feed additives?

Reply:

- 1) The indicative topic scope is quite broad; virtually only vaccines and basic research on gut microbiome are excluded;
- 2) The text provides examples, mentioning '...feed additives, or novel molecules'. So, it is very open;
- 3) The scope requires that applicants consider guidelines, standards and legislation. Notably, it should be kept in mind that anti-microbial growth promoters are prohibited in the EU.

Please note that 2019 topics are indicative and may evolve until the publication of the call.

SFS-29-2018 (10.11.2017)

We have received the following question related to the topic SFS-29: "Can mushrooms be considered as plants in this topic called Plant Variety Testing, or should we focus on a taxonomic definition of plants?"

Please see hereinafter the reply: "In the context of the Community Plant Variety Rights System, mushrooms varieties are protected and in fact are treated as "plants

SFS-38-2018 (28.11.2017)

We have received a request for clarification related to the topic in object and, in particular, to the following WP extracts:

"Harmonisation should be based on the Eurasian coverage of the new global soil map, incorporating local soil information"; "Expected Impact: in the short to medium term: Introduce a new harmonised land information base for Europe and China".

We were requested to clarify which new global soil map the call text refers to.

Please note that the topic SFS-38-2018 refers to the new global soil map which is a project coordinated by the International Union of Soil Sciences <http://www.globalsoilmap.net/>.

CE-SFS-24-2019 (6.12.2017)

We have received the following request for clarification related to the topic in object:

It is quite unclear what such a food system approach could look like, as the call text here is quite open.

Would the development of a pilot/prototype of an indoor vertical farm (where research, validation and demonstration activities related to new technologies for optimal growth conditions and sustainable production would take place), with the long-term goal to replicate this system in other cities, fall into that category for example?

The call text says:

"Demonstration and first application in the market of innovative solutions, co-created with citizens and cities with the involvement of public authorities, economic actors and non-profit organisations, could be one way to support sustainable food security in cities."

"Proposals could comprise activities such as prototyping testing, demonstrating and piloting in a (near to) operational environment, as well as experimental production, all with a view to subsequent replication and application in other cities."

"Proposals may include limited R&D activities and a clear focus on validating the benefits of pilot activities for citizens with a view of increasing engagement and replication."

Would such a project fit the description if it includes the co-creation component with citizens and involvement of the mentioned stakeholders? Or could you give some general examples what kind of activities would fit into that call?

Please see hereinafter the reply:

This topic on 'Innovative and citizen-driven food system approaches in cities' is an Horizon 2020 Innovation Action (IA). Innovation Actions primarily consist of activities directly aiming at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication. In addition projects may include limited research and development activities. For more information on Innovation Actions please see http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-d-ia_en.pdf

The scope of this specific topic SFS-19-2014 indicates that proposals shall identify several food-related innovative approaches based on citizen science and engagement. Proposals shall explore and share the application of these approaches in a wider range of European cities. The call topic text has been left very open to give the opportunity to all proposers to come up with solutions of every kind to the specific challenge as indicated in the topic text.

The topic is part of the call on Sustainable Food Security which is Horizon 2020's main contribution to research and innovation in relation to Food and Nutrition Security in Europe and beyond. Its commitment to sustainability implies that particular attention is given to the interfaces between the economic, environmental and social dimensions of food production. The call advocates for the implementation of food system approaches through innovation activities to tackle the inherent links between ecosystems, food production, the food chain and consumer health and wellbeing. For more information and general examples see also FOOD 2030 Staff Working Document 'European Research and Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security, SWD(2016)319.'
<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/10102/2016/EN/SWD-2016-319-F1-EN-MAIN.PDF>

Vertical agriculture might comply as an example of an innovation activity for SFS-24-2014, as far as the citizen engagement is the primary focus. Nevertheless, we are not in a position to make any judgement on the proposed project as indicated in your email. Once you have submitted a proposal, the Commission checks if it is admissible (complete and properly put together) and eligible, and then asks independent experts to evaluate it for excellence, impact, and quality and efficiency of implementation.

RUR-04-2018-2019 (22.12.2017)

We have received a request for clarification related to the topic in object and, in particular, to the following part:

"Proposals should include a task to cluster with other projects financed under the topic and with the modelling platform SUPREMA established under SFS-49-2017."
Is RUR-04 open to proposals without strong link with SUPREMA?

RUR-04 is of course open to proposals that have no links with SUPREMA.

SFS-35-2019-2020 (10.1.2018)

We have received the following question; please find below the detailed reply.

Question:

"The Topic text reads: "Preference will be given to proposals focusing on specific regions of Africa."

What does this mean concretely? Does the selected region have an influence on the evaluation? Could there be more than one project in a region? Will the Commission try to cover multiple regions in Africa?

How can CGIAR Centers with a Headquarter in Africa (ILRI, ICRAF) be incorporated into consortia? Will they count as African regional partners, international partners or like "overarching" African partners?"

Answer (per sub-question):

Q:

The Topic text reads: "Preference will be given to proposals focusing on specific regions of Africa."

What does this mean concretely? Does the selected region have an influence on the evaluation?

A:

The selected region does not have any influence on the evaluation.

Q:

Could there be more than one project in a region?

A:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the evaluation criteria under H2020 and there is a possibility that two proposals having the same region in focus will be rank high and both might be funded.

Q:

Will the Commission try to cover multiple regions in Africa?

A:

Under the SFS-35-2019 topic the total budget is 35 million EUR, the EU contribution under the sub-topic A is up to 7,5 million EUR and up to 5 million EUR under sub-topic B. Under sub-topic A the intention is that the highest rank proposals will be having different regions in Africa as the main focus.

Q:

How can CGIAR Centers with a Headquarter in Africa (ILRI, ICRAF) be incorporated into consortia? Will they count as African regional partners, international partners or like "overarching" African partners?

A:

For this specific topic any general African organization located on the African continent will be counted towards African partners, as they have pan-African role they cannot be counted towards African regional partners.

Regarding the legal status of the organization in terms of obtaining funding the general H2020 rules apply:

- Organization set up under the local law is recognized as national organization and will be able to benefit from funding as per rules applied to that country. In other words the research centres and other public bodies (but not international organizations) which are established and registered as public bodies in a country, and for which the national law applies, will be considered as entities from this country;

- Organization set up as international organization can be a partner in the proposal, however funding will be only granted if the participation will be essential in obtaining the results of the project. That said organization can be a cost free partner (i.e. partner that will use its own resources) to any of the project proposals.

The General Annex A to the H2020 WP 2018-2020 clearly states that international organizations are eligible for funding:

When funding is provided for under bilateral scientific and technological arrangement or any other arrangement between the EU and the international organization;
When the EC deems participation of the entity essential for carrying out the action funded through H2020

[see http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2018-2020/annexes/h2020-wp1820-annex-ga_en.pdf]

In the particular case of ILRI and ICRAF both are national organizations as they are established under the Kenyan national law.

Eligibility of International participants (16.1.2018)

We have received two enquires about the eligibility of "international agencies" in H2020 calls for proposals (this is different to an international organisation of European interest (who do get automatic funding) as follows:

*World Health Organisation;
UN FAO.*

Reply:

Both organisations (World Health Organisation and UN FAO) are registered as International Organisations but not of European Interest (because the majority of their members are not from EU/AC)

Therefore, as a general rule, international organisations are eligible for funding under H2020 if they fulfil one of the conditions set out in Article 10(2) of the H2020 Regulation on Rules for Participation: such international organisations would only be eligible for funding if it is considered that its participation essential for carrying out the action in question or if such a funding would be stipulated in an international agreement/arrangement between the EU and that international organisation.

Targeted International cooperation (2.2.2018)

Q: "We are completing Table 3.4a: (Summary of staff effort) and wanted to check that we shouldn't be including this information for our Chinese partners. As they are applying under MOST we do not have detailed budgets/PM allocations per work package."

Answer:

As mentioned in the [proposal template](#) (page 30 of Table 3.4a: Summary of staff effort), each participant needs to indicate staff effort even for those that do not receive EU funding (the exact phrase is "Please indicate the number of person/months over the whole duration of the planned work, for each work package, for each participant. Identify the work-package leader for each WP by showing the relevant person-month figure in bold").

Please also note that in the Part A of the proposal, the costs and requested EU funding of all parties must be specified in the budget table.

The two pieces of information are complementary and needed for the assessment of the proposal (Implementation criterion).

SFS-08-2018-2019 Improving animal welfare - subtopic B Precision Livestock Farming (3.4.2018)

Questions and concerns from applicants about this subtopic:

This subtopic is an innovation action asking for proposals that should "build on state of the art animal welfare approaches to develop innovative technologies, while also considering the needs to reduce emissions of air pollutants from agriculture". From the description, it is clear that "various stages of the terrestrial livestock production system" should be addressed, but it is not stated if more than one livestock species should be considered in a single proposal, and what species should be taken in particular consideration, given the limitation of 6 million euros as overall topic budget.

Therefore this is to ask if there are particular indications related to the species that should be preferably considered, or at least to the number of livestock species to be considered in a single proposal?

The reply is as follows:

There are no indications as regards to species. Proposals can address one or more species as they prefer.

China Country page (20.4.2018)

We have received the following request for clarification:

I have a question regarding the updated China country page (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020_localsupp_china_en.pdf):

It says on page 1 that deadline for submission of proposals for the first MOST call is 15 May 2018. It also says that " this call includes two parts when seeking applications by China-based partners in Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018 proposals..."

Can you please confirm if this deadline only applies for 2018 H2020 topics and not for 2019 topics? And do you know what is the deadline for Chinese partners for 2019 topics (such as SFS-37-2019)?

Please see hereinafter the reply:

" The question seems to mainly be related to MOST and for this reason we would suggest Chinese authorities should be contacted for details.

As for the SFS-37-2019 the deadlines are 23 January 2019 (first stage) and 4 September 2019 (second stage)"

SFS-11-2019 (16.5.2018)

Q: Will this topic include projects focusing only on aquaculture?

The reply is as follows:

Topic SFS-11-2018 2019 entitled "Anti-microbials and animal production" addresses farmed animals.

Its scope B [2019] on "alternative to anti-microbials" is still a draft text, until the work programme is adopted by the Commission.

The text of SFS-11-2018-2019 specifies that "For the purpose of this topic, the words 'animals' and 'farmers' apply to both terrestrial and aquatic animals." Therefore aquaculture animals are in the scope of the topic. The topic text does not prescribe that each proposal should cover both terrestrial and aquatic animals. It is for the applicant to choose which farmed animal(s) they want to cover and justify their choice.

The budget will in principle allow for the selection of one project under scope B [2019].

SFS-30 Agri-Aqua Labs (24.5.2018)

We have received a request for clarification regarding the topic "SFS-30 Agri-Aqua Labs" and in particular on the sentence:

"While taking advantage of findings from (semi) model crops, work shall focus on crop plants and relevant agronomic conditions" [scope of topic B [2019]: Looking behind plant adaptation]:

Are the proposals expected to upscale achieved knowledge on model crop species, like e.g. A. thaliana, who has not any particular agronomic interest and then expand it to more relevant species with agronomic interest? Or shall otherwise the proposal focus on a target model species, with already renown agronomic importance, and then bring acquired knowledge to other species?

The reply is as follows:

The aim of the topic is to advance our understanding of adaptation mechanism in crop plants. This implies that work is undertaken in particular on crop plants and take into account relevant agronomic conditions. We acknowledge however, that insights on the molecular basis of adaptation mechanisms will also come from work in model plants and that some (molecular) tools which are available in model plants will have to be established in crop plants.

In this context please note that one of the expected impacts is: "Translate knowledge on the adaptive plasticity of plants and complex genotype by phenotype interactions into crop improvement and management strategies".

LC-SFS-17-2019 Alternative proteins for food and feed (31.5.2018)

We have received a request for clarification regarding the topic text:

- 1. What is meant by “clean labelling approach” at the end of the Specific Challenge section? What does this entail?*
- 2. Would a protein purified from lactic acid bacteria (GRAS) that can have both food and feed applications (containing no GMO residue) be labelled as ‘clean’?*

The reply is as follows:

- Please use the definition of the clean label as provided by Asioli et al. 2017: Some production methods are perceived as less "natural" (i.e. conventional agriculture) while some food components are seen as "unhealthy" and "unfamiliar" (i.e. artificial additives). This phenomenon, often referred to as the "clean label" trend, has driven the food industry to communicate whether a certain ingredient or additive is not present or if the food has been produced using a more "natural" production method (i.e. organic agriculture).

The purpose of this indicator is to have the “acceptability” of the consumers for the new products assessed and validated.
- The evaluators will consider various products proposed in the proposals and assess their “clean label” potential during the evaluation. The question is too specific and thus not possible to respond.

SFS-30 Agri Aqua Labs - [B] 2019: Looking behind plant adaption (12.6.2018)

Questions:

- 1. In the topic description of subtopic B- Looking behind plant adaption, it says: “Proposals should foresee a task for joint activities with other projects financed under this topic.”*

Does this only include other projects financed under this subtopic, or does it refer to all subtopics in SFS-30 (A, B and C)?

And could you kindly provide some examples of adequate joint activities, that would fulfil the requirement?
- 2. Furthermore the topic description of subtopic B says “...work is undertaken in particular on crop plants and take into account relevant agronomic conditions.”*

Does this mean that work must focus on crops with high agronomic impact and value, or does it mean that it is important to focus on a “non-model crop” as defined by the use as a “real” crop in agricultural practice?

The reply is as follow:

- In the event of financing two projects, these two projects are supposed to exploit synergies between their activities. To that end, they are requested to allocate resources and foresee joint activities. Applicants are free to propose activities

which they consider appropriate to link the work and results of the parallel projects . No guidance is given on the type and extent of activities.

2. The topic text asks applicants to undertake (most of) their work in crop plants (while taking advantage of work in model and semi model plants), without giving preference to any particular crop. It is up to applicants to explain the choice of crop in relation to the objectives of the proposed work. Furthermore, the text asks to take into account relevant agronomic conditions, i.e. make sure that results of the proposed work can be applied to existing situations in Europe.

These conditions (crop plants and relevant agronomic conditions) have been set to increase the impact of proposed activities on EU agriculture.

CE-RUR-10-2019 Circular bio-based business models for rural communities (15.6.2018):

Q: "Proposals can target any combination of non-food bio-based outputs". Is feed in this context considered to be a "non-food bio-based output"?

The reply is as follow:

Topic CE-RUR-10-2019 requests proposals to consider a variety of non-food bio-based processes and end products that could be integrated into existing agro-food systems.

No definition of 'bio-based products' is provided or referenced, hence any bio-based product outside food can be considered, including feed.

We would like to emphasise that a variety of products need to be considered, the integrated assessment helping define the most suitable product mix and process configuration.

SFS-04-2019: Integration of plant protection in a global health approach (RIA) (21.6.2018):

Q: In the project they want to include veterinary residues and the effects of these on plants and soils and as consequence on animals (feed) and humans. Are such residues within the scope of this topic? The definitions on biocides, if also veterinary substances are included, are not easy to understand. It seems there are several definitions on biocides.

Furthermore, they want to address associated components added to pesticides formulations to mobilise, increase the impact, etc. of these. Also the question here, are such associated components within the scope of the topic.

The reply is:

"The topic SFS-04 has two scopes. The scope A in 2019 is focusing on the integration of plant protection in a global health approach and targeting the impacts of plant protection products and their metabolites (PPPs) on plant, human, animal and ecosystem health.

Plant protection products are 'pesticides' that protect crops or desirable or useful plants. (https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides_en)

They contain at least one active substance and have one of the following functions:

- Protect plants or plant products against pests/diseases, before or after harvest
- Influence the life processes of plants (such as substances influencing their growth, excluding nutrients)
- preserve plant products
- destroy or prevent growth of undesired plants or parts of plants

They may also contain other components including safeners and synergists. Veterinary residues are not within the core scope of this topic SFS-04-A. Associated components added to the active substance in plant protection products are within the scope of scope A of the topic."

CE-RUR-10-2019: Circular bio-based business models for rural communities (4.7.2018):

Q: We have a conceptual doubt about the Agro-food system definition. Inside the topic description a preliminary definition is included: "‘Agro-food system’ shall be understood here as a characteristic combination of farming activities and first transformation or conditioning of the farming outputs. In coastal areas, this may include fisheries, aquaculture and first processing of their products". It is not clear for us whether the grassland may be considered as an Agro-food system itself and has enough relevance, or it is necessary to include another additional step in the end of the production chain. For example, including the use of the grasslands for feed or direct consume for animals in meat or dairy production.

The reply is:

The main economic purpose of grasslands is producing feed for livestock (which in turn is used for food purposes). The basic agro-food system in this case would consist on the grasslands cultivation, plus the associated post-harvest activities (e.g. conditioning, silage, storage, etc., as appropriate in each specific situation). Livestock husbandry may also be considered part of the agro-food system if such activity takes place close to the grasslands – the topic aim being to develop local value chains.

SFS-01-2018-2019-2020 B. Biodiversity in action: across farmland and the value chain [2019] Capitalising on native biodiversity in farmland landscape (RIA) (6.7.2018):

Q: "Proposals may involve financial support to third parties, particularly for supporting regional/local networks. The proposal will define the process of selecting entities for which financial support will be granted up to EUR 100.000 per party[5] over the project duration."

Is there any further clarification available on what this means? I assume that the EUR 100,000 grants would need to come out of the project budget, rather than in addition to the EUR 8million?

Also, the scope specifically advises liaising with relevant European Research Infrastructures such as ANAEE, but when I spoke to ANAEE they hadn't even heard of this call... I guess this means that ANAEE was a pure hypothetical example, rather than direction?

The reply is:

Regarding the possibility given to the applicants to involve financial support to third parties, if foreseen in the proposals, the grants per party should come out of the project budget. This possibility is not mandatory. Where it is necessary for the implementation of the action, applicants may call upon third parties, including subcontractors, to carry out work under the action. The conditions are described under Article 23 of the Rules for Participation:
https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal_basis/rules_participation/h2020-rules-participation_en.pdf "

RUR-15-2019 and Thematic Networks (10.9.2018):

Q: Since Thematic networks are multiactor approach, and the definition of this term specifies "involvement of various actors (end-users such as farmers/farmers groups, fishers/fishers groups)..."

Can we assume/understand that a Thematic Network can deal with aquaculture research and innovation or are TN restricted to agriculture and forestry research?

The reply is as follow:

A Thematic Network should focus on sharing existing knowledge ready for practice, it is not about doing research and innovation but also about best practices. Collecting best practices from existing (aquaculture) production is an important element for a good thematic network proposal.

Themes for RUR 15 could cover a variety of sectors, agriculture, forestry or whatever is supporting farmers' and foresters' needs. Since aquaculture often is done in greenhouses, or even recycling waste from greenhouse production in an integrated production system, you could see a possibility there to take it as a theme for a thematic network.

RUR 08-B-2019 (12.10.2018):

Q: What does the following sentence exactly means?

"For sub-topics B and C, participation of partners from CELAC countries is encouraged" Indeed, as there's no Framework agreement for H2020 with CELAC countries such as with China and Africa the precise questions are the following:

- Why a partnership with CELAC especially? Is there some specific lobby behind this request?*
- What are the expectations behind it? In terms of business? in terms of Partnership?*
- Is it linked to the specific theme of "Bio-based fertilisers from animal manure"?*

The reply is as follow:

The EU-CELAC relations include a joint initiative on research and innovation. In this context, a pilot action has been launched in 2018 to support a regional research mission on management and re-use of waste (<http://www.technopolis->

group.com/celac-pai/). Topic CE-RUR-08 has been identified as potentially contributing to the implementation of this pilot action.

Cooperation in this domain aims mainly at facilitating technology transfer/adaptation to the specific conditions of CELAC countries, and the development of a local market for organic-based fertilisers.

The scopes concerned are B and C. Only scope B will be open in 2019, with a focus on animal manure.

It must be highlighted that, whilst the topic encourages cooperation, this does not constitute a requirement, i.e. proposals shall not be penalised for not integrating a cooperation dimension.

CE-SFS-39-2019 (6.11.2018):

Q: The Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) has published its call text for this October. My Chinese partners have checked this document. There are 9 projects to be funded by MOST. The SFS-39 call cooperation does not appear anywhere in their call text. As per the call text, we understand that there is also funding for Chinese partners available for this call from their own sources. We ask you to clarify this matter. We assume that they are not (as in general) eligible for EU-funding in this call but should benefit from Chinese co-funding mechanism?

The reply is as follow:

In the original call of MOST there is a reference to topics of 2018 work programme of H2020, therefore the SFS-39-2019 is not covered by this call. We are working towards having dates for closing of the calls as close as possible, however the 2019 dates of the MOST that will cover the 2019 work programme topics is still not known. For reference the topics from 2018 call (closing date for H2020 13 Feb.) had a closing date with MOST in March 2018. The announcement of MOST about this call was at the beginning of 2018. Applicants to CE-SFS-39-2019 should submit proposals within the call deadline and wait for the next call from MOST in 2019.

RUR-10-2019 (13.11.2018):

Questions:

- 1. Is olive tree cultivation considered EU-common (as required in the topic text) or not, since it is not cultivated in the North?*
- 2. Regarding the food system, we are considering to focus on olive tree production-olive waste-polyphenols. Could you please tell me if this can be considered as a single agro food system?*

The reply is as follow:

1. The topic indicates that agro-food systems proposed by applicants "should be common in Europe and offer high replication potential". This does not imply that the chosen agro-food systems need to be present in all Member States and Associated States, or in all agro-climatic regions. It only excludes agro-food systems that are very specific of a certain location and/or irrelevant in economic terms, which is not the case of olive tree cultivation.

2. The topic defines "agro-food system" as "a characteristic combination of farming activities and first transformation or conditioning of the farming outputs". Olive tree cultivation and olive oil extraction can be considered an example of this. Specific end-products (e.g. polyphenols) are not specified in the topic, hence consortia are free to propose what they consider appropriate.

CE-SFS-39-2019 (15.11.2018):

Q: Is it possible to have more information about this sentence "Projects shall focus on technologies that could be deployed in a decentralised manner, at a relatively small scale."

The meaning of "relatively small scale" is not clear. Do you have some recommendations?

The reply is as follow:

This requirement is linked to the fact that biogas production is very often decentralised and small-scaled. As transporting biogas digestate is costly and inefficient, the topic targets solutions adapted to the biogas production landscape by focusing on small-scale solutions, but with a certain flexibility to cover a diversity of cases.

The focus on small-scale is also linked to the expected impact of developing new business models in rural areas.

CE-RUR-10-2019 (29.11.2018):

Q: The Topic CE-RUR-10-2019 focuses on a single and established agro-food system for the development of circular bio-based business models with high replication potential. We are considering to involve the utilization of camelina as an oil-rich crop that can be cultivated in marginal lands with high desertification risk in Southern European countries and following a mutli-cropping strategy as a summer cover crop in Northern European countries. We would like to ask you whether we can incorporate animal farming into the agro-food system of camelina cultivation and oil extraction, as camelina cake (by-product of camelina oil extraction process) is currently employed as animal feed. Animal farming will be evaluated as a case study together with camelina cultivation and oil extraction where residues, wastes and camelina oil/cake will be used for the production of non-food bio-based products in a sustainable manner under low cost technologies and high replication potential.

The reply is as follow:

Please note that we cannot provide advice on individual proposals, but only clarify the relevant aspects of the topic. In relation to your question, the elements of the topic that should be taken into account are the following:

- Proposals should be based on "an established agro-food system" that "should be common in Europe and offer high replication potential". You should assess whether

this is the case of camelina cultivation and/or the modality of animal farming envisaged.

- The topic also establishes that such agro-food system “can be combined with (...) use of marginal lands”. You should consider whether marginal lands can be used for camelina cultivation or animal husbandry .

SFS-35-2019 (29.10.2018):

Questions:

- 1. This call is defined as a RIA call but in the call text they are requesting to implement and test systems which seems more like demonstration activities. Could you please clarify this point.*
- 2. The requirements is involving different regions in the proposal – does the system approach need to be performed in each different region? Is it possible to advance a single pilot case for advancing intensification through dual cultures while applying the system approach.*

The replies are as follow:

1. SFS-35-2019-2020 is a Research and Innovation Action (RIA) type of call, large part of the topic concentrates on research developed under the multi-actor approach concept. It is expected that the proposed research solutions will be testes in selected case studies together with farmers involved in the conceptualization.
2. It is expected that each of the proposals will be focusing on one region in particular and will as much as possible analyse multiple agricultural systems. The list in the topic text is only indicative and any type of system can be proposed.

SFS-35-2019 (5.12.2018):

Q: In the call text there is a requirement to include a task to cluster with projects financed under SFS-33-2018. What does it mean? Is it necessary to contact with the project before submitting the application? Does it require collaboration with the project's members?

The reply is as follow:

The project funded under SFS-33-2018 - LEAP4FNSSA is creating a platform for cooperation between all projects funded under the FNSSA partnership. The requirement to have a task to cluster with this project should help first allow the consortia funded under SFS-35 have finances to travel for meetings under the partnership. This task should also potentially allow to do some common work (either as cluster with SFS-33 but also with other SFS-35 projects in case they do cover a similar area).

There is no need to contact other project coordinators before submitting the proposal.

Cooperation with other projects members should be envisaged if a scope for joint work is possible (this can be with SFS-35 projects but also with others).

CE-SFS-39-2019 (5.12.2018):

Q: As there seems to be a Deadline from MOST for a pre-proposal on the 9th of December 2018, which is the first necessary step for Chinese applicants to be able to submit a full proposal, what happens if the Chinese applicants will not pass this first evaluation hurdle? Does this mean that the European Consortium Partners will therefore not fulfil the evaluation criteria set by the EC for SFS-39 or not be eligible to submit their proposal?

What if the European SFS-39 proposal is negatively evaluated, but the Chinese proposal selected for funding by MOST or the other way round?

Do the EC and MOST communicate about their decision and make sure that if one of the proposals is selected by the EC or MOST, the other party is informed and this will be taken into consideration in the evaluation? Do you have any more insights into how this entire process will look like?

Reply is as follow:

The 2018 call of MOST is only for the H2020 calls of 2018. A dedicated MOST call for the H2020 Work Programme 2019 will be published in the next months.

The evaluation by MOST and EC is done in parallel with exchange of information and at this moment the timing of final evaluation is much closer than in the previous years. The project proposals are evaluated based on the criteria set up by MOST and EC respectively. Thus for the 2019 proposals should be submitted to both EC and MOST (in 2018 the EC deadline was in February, MOST call was closed in March).

At the end of the evaluation process the EC will grant agreement to the winning consortium and the expectation is that MOST will fund the Chinese partners. However, since there are specific rules MOST might support all, some or none of the Chinese partners. From practice, if not all partners are funded by MOST, we see that some of them are getting financial support from other funding streams (e.g. Chinese Academy of Sciences) or self-fund. Thus, indeed there is a risk that the project that will be selected under H2020 will only have funding from H2020 and the Chinese partners will not be successful. This scenario will not change the EC decision, however this will be a risk for the consortium. In those cases EC is helping and discussing with Chinese counterpart to see if other solutions are possible.

We encourage Chinese applicants to read the MOST call in detail as they are some specific rules to whom the funding is addressed.

CE-SFS-24-2019 (6.12.2018):

Q: Is it possible to provide financial support to third parties to carry out pilot projects? The process for selecting entities will be defined by project partners and citizen advisors. Financial support will be in the order of 50,000 per pilot proposal.

Reply is as follow:

For CE-SFS-24-2019 it is not possible to provide financial support to third parties to carry out pilot projects because this is not foreseen in the WP.

This grant condition has to be specifically mentioned in the WP as for e.g. SFS-01-2018-2019-2020 sub-topic B.

Other hints from the BIO-NCP Team:

Presentations of the Societal Challenge 2 Info Day held in Brussels on 25 June 2018 are now available on the event webpage:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/horizon-2020-info-day-societal-challenge-2-calls-proposals-2019>

If you still have doubts on **Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation** please have a look at the guide in the link below. We hope it may be useful for some of you!

<https://www.iprhelpdesk.eu/sites/default/files/newsdocuments/EU-IPR-Brochure-Boosting-Impact-C-D-E.pdf>

6.12.2018: Please note that starting from 30 November the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#) replaces the old Participant. The new portal is a one-stop-shop for all grants and procurement opportunities offered by the Commission, including Horizon 2020 and the future Horizon Europe

Although there is automatic redirection from the Participant Portal to the new Funding & Tenders Portal, we are providing you with the two new links:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

On line tool for **partner search:**

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/partner-search>

Latest update of this list can be found on our Finnish H2020 webpages:

<https://www.horisontti2020.fi/horisontti-2020/yhteiskunnalliset-haasteet/euroopan-biotalous-haasteet/>