

**Translation background
and purpose
Call for proposals
KIEM GoFood &
International collaboration
AWF 2026**



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1. Introduction

1.1 Dutch version decisive

This clause of the Call for proposals describes the background and purpose for the KIEM GoFood & Internationale samenwerking LWV round 2026 is organized and consists of seven chapters. This Call for proposals has been published in both Dutch and English. The Dutch version is deemed authentic. For legal interpretation the text of the Dutch version will be decisive.

2. Background

The Knowledge Innovation Mapping grant programme (hereinafter KIEM) is aimed at exploratory research of new practical questions through practice-oriented research activities, carried out by a network of partners from the professional field and knowledge institutions. Through this programme, Taskforce for Applied Research SIA hopes to promote networking and the exploration of practical questions that can serve as seeds for larger research projects or innovations and thereby help address societal challenges. KIEM consists of thematic schemes in cooperation with partners and an open scheme that can be used to apply for research funding without a predefined theme. Each thematic KIEM scheme has its own limitations, as described in the Call for Proposals. For information about KIEM funding round themes and the associated thematic limitations, see the website of Taskforce for Applied Research SIA.

Taskforce for Applied Research SIA is using KIEM to work towards various goals from the 'Investing in Impact 2023–2026' strategy. KIEM facilitates (exploratory) practice-oriented research, networking and accelerated innovation.

KIEM encourages research organisations to organise themselves around societal, regional and national themes and to contribute substantially to innovation agendas such as the Knowledge and Innovation Covenant (KIC). Taskforce for Applied Research SIA does this by taking the initiative, making investments and working with funding partners to develop thematic KIEM schemes.

2.1 KIEM GoFood & International AWF Collaboration

Taskforce for Applied Research SIA and its partners, the Agri & Food and Horticulture & Propagation Materials TKIs (Top Consortia for Knowledge and Innovation) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature (LNV), want to accelerate two specific themes from the [Knowledge and Innovation Agenda for Agriculture, Water and Food \(KIA-AWF\)](#): 1. the Dutch food industry and 2. International collaboration.

1. Dutch food industry

To be able to fulfil society's current and future demands in the areas of sustainability, health and safety, the Dutch food industry must innovate. This industry includes many small and medium-sized enterprises which, unlike larger enterprises in the same industry, cannot set up their own Research & Development (R&D) facilities and often aren't yet collaborating with knowledge institutions.

The majority of these small and medium-sized food enterprises are not taking as much advantage as they could of the knowledge available at universities, universities of applied sciences and other knowledge institutions. They are missing out on opportunities to innovate, implement new products and processes and create the associated market impact, despite this being desperately needed to support sustainable and competitive food production in the

twenty-first century. The Agri & Food TKI and Taskforce for Applied Research SIA want to use KIEM GoFood & International AWF Collaboration to promote connections between these small and medium-sized enterprises and public knowledge institutions.

2. International Collaboration on the KIA for Agriculture, Water and Food

The Dutch agricultural and horticultural industry is highly developed internationally and has an international orientation. Issues addressed by the KIA are also transnational in nature, for example emissions and raw material streams. Furthermore, other countries may have access to knowledge and innovations that could help achieve the KIA missions once adapted to the Dutch context. Business opportunities and issues go beyond national borders. International collaboration presents different challenges compared to regional or national collaboration. Collaboration always begins with the search for suitable partners, investigating the feasibility of international collaboration, discovering how the collaboration works out in practice and exploring shared issues. The Agri & Food and Horticulture & Propagation Materials TKIs, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature and Taskforce for Applied Research SIA are using this KIEM GoFood & International AWF Collaboration sub-theme to promote connections between Dutch small and medium-sized enterprises, public knowledge institutions and international partners.

Through KIEM GoFood & International AWF Collaboration, Taskforce for Applied Research SIA is also contributing to the Knowledge and Innovation Covenant 2024–2027. This covenant is a product of the Mission-oriented Innovation Policy. The covenant places great importance on practice-oriented research by universities of applied sciences.

The Mission-oriented Innovation Policy is based around eight societal themes, which have been elaborated into Knowledge and Innovation Agendas (KIAs). See our [Mission-oriented Innovation Policy web page](#) for more information.

3. Purpose

This section provides more information about the aim of the programme, the objective of the scheme and the societal impact.

3.1 Aim of the programma

The Knowledge and Innovation Agenda for Agriculture, Water and Food (KIA-AWF) aims to address (societal) issues in these areas. The Agri & Food and Horticulture & Propagation Materials TKIs are implementing part of this KIA by encouraging the government and businesses to tackle issues relating to these themes together. This starts by defining research needs in the business community and then working with knowledge institutions to address them through research projects and promotional activities. The aim is to encourage the formation of public-private partnerships to convert the issues identified into innovative knowledge and ultimately, innovative expertise.

3.2 Aim of the scheme

The KIEM GoFood & International AWF Collaboration is aimed at exploratory research of new practical questions through practice-oriented research activities. These research activities are carried out by networks of research organisations and partners from the professional field. Through KIEM GoFood & International AWF Collaboration, Taskforce for Applied Research SIA is funding networking and the exploration of practical questions that can serve as seeds for follow-up projects or innovations.

That means that to be considered eligible, proposals cannot focus exclusively on the promotion of staff expertise or development of a new study programme or curriculum for a university of applied sciences, nor be part of a university of applied sciences' regular activities.

3.3 Thematic limitations

Proposals submitted under the KIEM GoFood & International AWF Collaboration scheme must relate to one of two sub-themes.

Sub-theme 1: Dutch food industry

Proposals that fit the Dutch food industry sub-theme relate to practical questions of interest to small and medium-sized (industrial) food manufacturers or small and medium-sized suppliers such as packaging manufacturers, suppliers of raw materials and additives and suppliers of processing equipment, with the exception of primary production and plant breeding. These practical questions are aimed at improving the sustainability of the industry (e.g. reducing residual waste streams), production processes and end products or at creating healthier end products.

Questions addressing the sustainability of the industry, production processes or end products should relate to the effects on the quality of the food or relevant additives. As an example, switching from a gas oven to an electric one for food production may affect the process and quality, but using electricity instead of gas to heat the production plant will not.

Within KIEM GoFood & International AWF Collaboration, the Dutch food industry sub-theme is aimed mainly at strengthening and increasing the market impact of small and medium-sized enterprises' innovations with the help of research and educational institutions. Research activities relating to KIEM GoFood & International AWF Collaboration must result in at least one of the following: knowledge sharing, further development of research results, application of results to new (scalable) products in the proof-of-concept stage, development projects, upscaling and commercialisation. There should be a clear focus on the applicability of results.

Sub-theme 2: International Collaboration on the KIA for Agriculture, Water and Food

International collaboration on innovations can be essential in achieving the KIA missions, as certain KIA goals require a transnational approach, for example when raw material streams and emissions cross national borders;

Knowledge and innovations available in other countries can also be highly relevant to KIA goals once adapted and further developed in a Dutch context.

Funding for the International AWF Collaboration sub-theme is intended as 'seed money' to build connections between international parties and the Dutch knowledge system. The intended focus is on highly concrete, practical questions for which such collaborations can truly make a difference.

Proposals submitted under the International AWF Collaboration sub-theme should relate to the feasibility of international collaboration and the establishment of new or improved collaborations and/or knowledge development relating to at least one specific KIA mission. This can involve the creation of new knowledge, but also the adaptation of existing knowledge and innovations in other countries to a Dutch or local context. Consortium members' roles and involvement in the research must be clearly apparent through their project contributions.

For projects submitted under this theme, it is very important to address the following question: "Does following up on this project appear feasible and if so, what would that involve?" How can the leading company or consortium continue from here? What are possible next steps? Which tools can be used to achieve this? How can the project generate impact to help achieve the KIA's goals? In which ways does the project open up opportunities to develop new knowledge?

Projects that only focus on exploring sales opportunities for existing products will not be accepted.

Considering the international context, the expectation is that at least one professional partner be located abroad. If the consortium for the proposed project doesn't include any foreign partners, your proposal must substantiate why the project's effectiveness isn't affected.

