



Horizon Europe Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment 2025 work programme

2025 calls of potential interest for researchers in Innovation, Technology, Entrepreneurship and Marketing (ITEM) group

Our expertise for Cluster 6



Agri-Food/Tech – some recent successes involving TU/e researchers

- **Code Re-Farm (Horizon 2020; <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101000216>)**

The EU-funded Code Re-farm project will examine poultry and goat production systems to better understand the links between husbandry systems and determine the intrinsic quality of products along the value chain, from farm to fork. The project's findings, combined with insights on societal demands and sustainability of production processes, will drive alternative solutions that fit sustainable, consumer-driven businesses. TU/e will lead its own work package delivering innovative business modelling and stakeholder engagement work alongside partners in the Dutch agri-food sector. Our team will also work closely with partners NOLDUS and AERES to deliver a complex Dutch use case where the key outputs of the project will be trialled and evaluated through the participation of Dutch farmers, suppliers, retailers and consumer groups.

Further information is available at the Code Re-Farm project website: <https://coderefarm.eu/Projects/Coderefarm.html>

- **Urbane (Horizon Europe; <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101059232>)**

“URBANE: One Health approaches to support agroecological transformation of peri-urban farming” The EU-funded URBANE project will apply a One Health approach to study issues related to the application and intensification of peri-urban agriculture built around the principles of agroecology. TU/e researchers will be in the lead for the development of new business models that support the transition of peri-urban farming towards agroecological farming concepts and practices. New sustainable and inclusive models will be worked out that support the URBANE approach, do justice to the local contexts, and include assessment of future upscaling potential to ensure long-term sustainable impact.

Further information is available at the URBANE project website: <https://urbane-project.eu/wp-urbane/>

- **CropMix (Dutch National Research Council NWO funding)**

“Designing mixed cropping systems and transition paths towards sustainable ecology based agriculture” (CropMix) – investigates and implements the transition from intensive farming methods in the Netherlands to more sustainable methods. The cross-disciplinary research team will develop new knowledge about the ecological principles that make crop systems sustainably productive. TU/e researchers will focus on logistics & supply chain modelling and business & value chain modelling. They will also contribute to stakeholder engagement, citizen science, Living Labs and the effective communication and dissemination of project results.

Further information about the CropMix project is available here: <https://cropmix.nl/en/>

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- **CUES (Horizon Europe; <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101136507>)**

In a world navigating the complexities of a sustainable food future, the challenge is to transform culture, food value chains and policy. The need for a more sustainable food system calls for innovative solutions. Consumers seek both sustenance and confidence that their choices align with the environment, society and the economy. In this context, the EU-funded CUES project aims to develop methods and interventions to guide consumer behaviour and create persuasive cues, promoting a crucial change in the quest for a sustainable and trustworthy food system. This approach involves consumers, food value chain actors and policymakers with the aim of fostering a triple change among these stakeholders in the food ecosystem. CUES aspires to reach and affect all of these audiences. TU/e will equip actors in the food value chain with tools and strategies to shift away from unsustainable practices and promote more eco-friendly options. By creating a learning community and behavior change toolkits, we strive to inform, motivate, and engage at least three million consumers, encouraging them to increase their consumption of sustainable food.

Further information is available at the CUES project website: <https://cuesproject.eu/>

- **GroundWork (Horizon Europe Mission: Soil;)**

GROUNDWORK aims to catalyse the transformation of the European livestock & agricultural sector towards improved soil health, enhanced ecosystem resilience, and regenerative food production by harnessing the potential of adaptive livestock management across diverse EU regions, within a participatory R&I approach. To achieve this objective, GroundWork will engage a wide range of livestock grazing stakeholders to co-design and implement Regenerative Livestock Grazing Practices (RLGPs) based on regional farming realities and contexts. TU/e will lead a WP focusing on project sustainability and scale-up, including co-designing regenerative farming business models.

- **ReWire (Dutch National Research Council NWO funding)**

REWIRE aims to identify new collaboration opportunities and actively design ways to leverage these in the multilevel ecosystems to support progress in realising circular agriculture missions. The project addresses two overarching research questions: (i.) “How do collaboration and coordination challenges at multiple levels affect progress in achieving circular agriculture missions?”, and (ii.) “What are feasible actions to overcome these and to stimulate new cross-level interactions in ecosystems connecting innovation actors, regions and governance levels?” TU/e researchers will lead a work package that is about developing strategies to manage collaboration and changing business models in the agricultural ecosystem. Through this the work package will provide clarity about the different roles of actors in the agricultural ecosystem. This is especially important for complex problems that need solutions to be iterated over time

Further information is available via the UU project website here: <https://rewire.sites.uu.nl/>

Cluster 6 – Context and policy background

- The EU's Strategic Plan for Horizon EU has identified six long term targeted impacts where Cluster 6 will make a difference, including (tailored to ITEM research topics, **bold = potential ITEM contribution**):
 - Food and nutrition security for all within planetary boundaries is ensured through **knowledge, innovation and digitalisation** in agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and **food systems**, which are sustainable, **resilient, inclusive**, safe and healthy from farm to fork;
 - **Innovative governance models** enabling sustainability and **resilience** are established and monitored through enhanced and shared use of new **knowledge, tools, foresight**, and environmental observations as well as **digital, modelling and forecasting** capabilities
- Research must contribute to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and accelerate the ecological transition required by the European Green Deal. Of particular relevance will be SDG 2 – Zero Hunger; SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being; SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth; **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**; **SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities**; SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 13 – Climate Action, SDG 14 – Life Below Water and SDG 15 - Life on Land".
- Cluster 6 will contribute to..... reducing GHG emissions from the agricultural sector markedly and **transforming the food system...foster innovation** to develop the circular economy and exploit the potential of biological resources for **renewable products**.
- Cluster 6 projects must support the objectives of the **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030**, the **Circular Economy Action Plan**, the **EU Industrial Strategy**, the **Bioeconomy Strategy**, the **EU Forest Strategy**, the **Blue Growth Strategy**, the **Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability** and the **EU Plastics Strategy**, in addition to the **EU climate policy**.

HEU 2025 – Cluster 6 target calls for ITEM researchers;

Call ID & Title	Dates (Open/Close)	Call Type	Total Funding (Euro M)	Funding per Project (Euro M)	Conditions
CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-01-two-stage: Living labs and lighthouses co-creating innovative solutions for forests and freshwater ecosystems restoration	06 May 2025 / 04 Sep 2025; 18 Feb 2026	RIA	14	7	Lump Sum
CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-05-two-stage: Developing agroecology living labs and lighthouses for climate action under the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) partnership	06 May 2025 / 04 Sep 2025; 18 Feb 2026	RIA	16	8	Lump Sum FSTP (60K max per third party)
CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-06: Improving grassland management in European livestock farming systems	06 May 2025 / 16 Sep 2025	RIA	16	8	
CL6-2025-02-CIRCBIO-01: Novel circular business models to enable the just transition to a sustainable and circular economy	06 May 2025 / 17 Sep 2025	IA	10	5	

HEU 2025 – Cluster 6 target calls for ITEM researchers cont'd..

Call ID & Title	Dates (Open/ Close)	Call Type	Total Funding (Euro M)	Funding per Project (Euro M)	Conditions
CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-09: Unleashing the potential and advancing the impact of the digitalization/Artificial Intelligence of the climate-neutral bio-based value chains	06 May 2025 / 17 Feb 2026	IA	10	5	
CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-01-two-stage: Open Topic: Innovative solutions for the sustainable and circular transformation of SMEs	06 May 2025 / 04 Sep 2025; 18 Feb 2026	IA	10	5	
CL6-2025-02-COMMUNITIES-04: Creating urban co-creation spaces for driving sustainable food system transformation	06 May 2025 / 16 Sep 2025	RIA	12	6	Lump Sum
CL6-2025-02-ZEROPOLLUTION-06: Provide digital solutions tailored to small and medium-sized farms to monitor and sustainably manage agricultural inputs and natural resources	06 May 2025 / 17 Sep 2025	IA	8	8	FSTP (60K max per third party)



Please contact Chris Knighting at c.d.knighting@tue.nl for further information and to discuss proposal ideas.

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