



FAQ

Open calls

Annex 3

AGRO-WELL aims to leverage the potential of robotics, augmented reality (AR) and artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance working conditions and farm workers safety, enable faster and better-informed farm management decisions, and reduce the environmental impact of four different farming systems (orchards, greenhouses, open field and pig farming). Overall, AGRO-WELL aims to support the development and economically viable adoption of socially and environmentally digital and data-based farming technologies.

To increase the number of technologies advanced by AGRO-WELL, the consortium will launch one Hackathon and two Open Calls in between (November 2025 – October 2027) and distribute awards and grants over the duration of the project.



Funded by the
European Union

INTRODUCTION

The Frequently Asked Questions below aim to provide information on any questions you may have about AGRO-WELL's Open Calls.

In addition to this FAQ, please refer to the complementary documents:

- **Guide for applicants**
- **Call text**

For any further questions, you can reach out to the AGRO-WELL Open Call team via agro-well.FSTP@euroquality.fr. The technical team can assist to the extent possible, up until February 3rd, 2026, at 17:00 CET (Topic A) and July the 7th, 2027 at 17:00 CET (Topic B).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Presentation

► What is AGRO-WELL?

The AGRO-WELL project is a Horizon Europe/EU-funded initiative that seeks to revolutionize agricultural safety and sustainability by leveraging cutting-edge technologies such as **robotics, augmented reality, and artificial intelligence**.

The AGRO-WELL project aims to develop and support the use of innovative smart farming technologies to **improve working conditions**, enhance safety, and increase sustainability in agriculture through stakeholder engagement, sustainable business models, and supportive policy recommendations.

The general objective is to develop five AR, robotics, digital and data-based solutions for improved working conditions in four significant farming sectors: **greenhouses, open fields, orchards, and pig farming**. These solutions will be co-designed with and based on farmers' needs following a multi-actor approach, and their potential towards socio-economic and environmental conditions will be assessed. Together with training materials and policy briefs, this assessment will support the upscaling and adoption of these smart farming technologies.

The project reunites a consortium of 13 partners bringing to the table significant and diverse technological and scientific expertise on agriculture, robotics, artificial intelligence, and augmented reality.

For more information on the project and the consortium: <https://www.agro-well.eu/>

► What are the Open Calls and the FSTP scheme?

To expand beyond conventional engagement approaches, two Open Calls are proposed by the AGRO-WELL project to provide [Financial Support to Third Parties \(FSTP\)](#). Concretely, Open Calls are **funding schemes** acting as mechanisms looking to:

- further developing, demonstrating and replicating digital and data-based farming technologies that aim to improve working conditions,
- increase the attractiveness of the agricultural sector and/or answer labour shortage issues.

The purpose of the Open Calls is to identify and promote cutting-edge technological ideas and solutions at various TRL stages and significantly increase their technology readiness and marketable development.

The Open Calls will encourage smaller projects and farmers to develop activities within two topics:

1. **Topic A:** Demonstrate and assess relevant digital and data-based technologies in commercial farms.

2. **Topic B:** Replicate the solutions developed in AGRO-WELL in commercial farms located in other socioeconomic contexts.

For further details on the Open Calls' objectives, and the topics' specific criteria and details, please refer to the [Guide for Applicants](#).

► **What does the Open Calls fund?**

The Open Calls will fund 8 projects under the two mentioned topics. 4 projects will be funded under Topic A (up to 37,500€ each) and 4 farms or projects will be funded under Topic B (up to 30,000€ each).

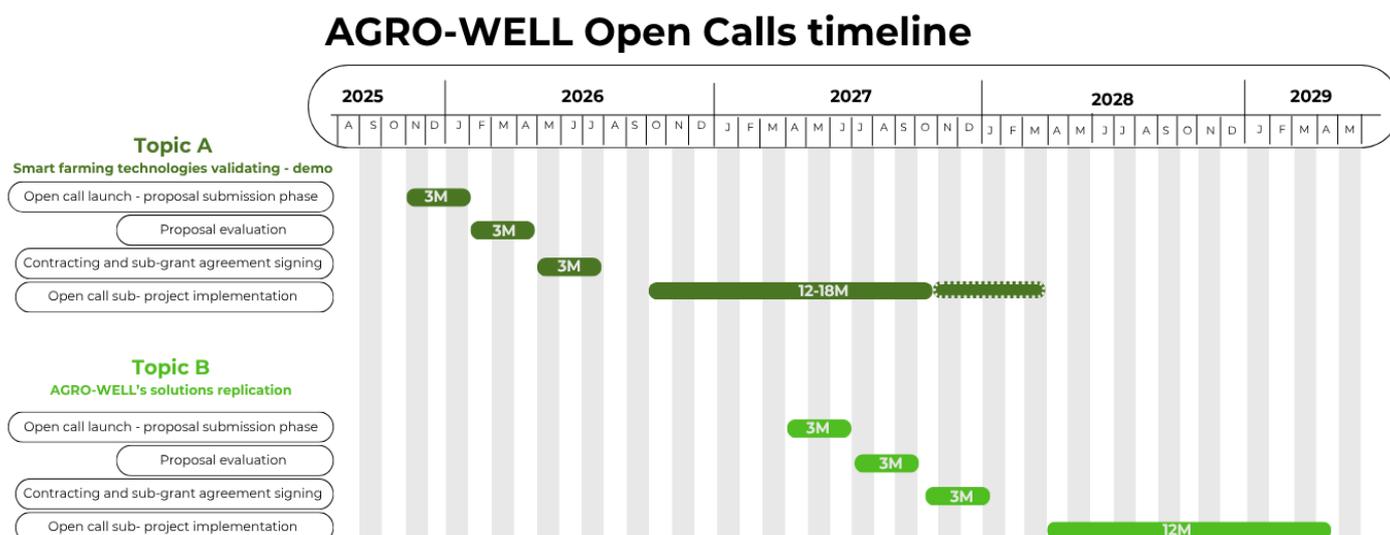
To minimise administration and financial errors, each selected applicant will receive the funding on a lump sum basis¹, in compliance with the European Commission's Guidelines about lump sum in Horizon Europe and according to the terms of the contract signed between the proposal and AGRO-WELL.

► **What costs are covered by the lump sum?**

The same categories of costs as those at actual cost are covered by the lump sum (personnel, equipment, subcontracting, travel, etc.). Unlike funding based on actual costs, the amount of the lump sum is determined at the project planning stage and set in the grant agreement. Beneficiaries do not report their costs and are not subject to financial audits, but must provide evidence that the work has been completed as specified in the technical annex. The beneficiary receives a lump sum overall, allowing for more flexibility while remaining consistent with the project's objectives.

► **What is the planned timeline?**

The Open Calls timeline is presented in the following Gantt chart.



Each Topic is launched and published for 3 months to ensure sufficient time for retrieving applications.

After evaluation and once the sub-projects are selected, the contracting and sub-grant agreement phase and signature is conducted to allow a project start date in October 2026 for Topic A (12-18 months project) and April 2028 for Topic B (12 months project).

The next deadline for submission (Topic A) is set on **Wednesday 4th February 2026**, 17:00 CET.

Application process and eligibility

► How can I apply to the Open Calls?

To apply, you can submit your application through this online [application form](#) and send the application documents email to agro-well.FSTP@euroquality.fr. To support you in the application process, please refer to the [Guide for Applicants](#).

It is important to note that late submission cannot be accepted, and those applicants who submit a proposal late via email will receive a “call close” reply. After the close of the call, no additions or changes to the received applications will be taken into consideration once the call is closed. Upon final submission, an automated “Acknowledgement of Receipt” will be sent to each applicant.

► Who can apply? What are the eligibility conditions?

AGRO-WELL will accept applications from individual applicants and small consortia consisting of up to **3** parties in countries eligible for the HORIZON-C6-2024-GOVERNANCE-01-7 call, which include:

- European Union member states and Associated countries
- Legal entities established in non-associated third countries
- International organisations with headquarters in Member State or associated country

Proposals should be relevant to the call and clearly provide information on how the proposal will answer to the expected outcomes and objectives of each of the calls.

An automatic filtering to discard non-eligible proposals will be based on the following criteria:

- I. legal entity in an eligible country;
- II. uniqueness of the proposal (one proposal per consortium);
- III. a party can participate only in one consortium;
- IV. proposal clearly falls within one of the 2 topics:
 - **Topic A:** Demonstrate and assess relevant digital and data-based technologies in commercial farms
 - **Topic B:** Replicate the solutions developed in AGRO-WELL in commercial farms located in other socioeconomic contexts.)

For further information, please refer to the [Guide for Applicants](#) and the [Call text](#) (Topic A available).

► What is the expected duration of the eligible projects?

Topic A: between 12 months and 18 months.

Topic B: 12 months.

► What supporting documents do I need to provide for my application?

For a complete application, proposals must include:

- A complete **application form** (Annex 2)



- A **Budget template** indicating planned expenses (Annex 9)
- A **Declaration of Honour** (Annex 7)
- **Bank Account information** (Annex 8)

For lump-sum budget guidance, please refer to the [lump sum resources provided by the EC](#).

Evaluation

► How does the evaluation process work?

Each proposal will be reviewed by two external evaluators, who will have specific criteria based upon the strand of the Open Call. Each evaluator will record their individual evaluations on the Portal. If a consensus is needed between evaluators, the proposals in question will be invited for an online interview with the external experts.

► Who are the proposal evaluators?

Independent external evaluators recommended by the European Commission, in the fields of robotics, precision agriculture, agricultural sciences, and agricultural innovation, will conduct the proposals review.

All evaluators have signed a declaration of confidentiality concerning the contents of the applications they read, as well as a declaration of freedom from conflict of interest. Members of the consortium organisations are not eligible for expert evaluators.

► How long does it take to have an official response after evaluation?

Evaluation will take place through the Funding and Tenders Portal at a maximum of **six weeks** from the close of the call.

► What is the scoring system implemented in the evaluation of the proposals?

Topic A

The proposals have 4 criteria for evaluation with a total score out of 20 points:

1. Concept and feasibility (Score: 1-5)
2. Innovation potential and adequacy with the sustainability needs of the agricultural sector (Score: 1-5)
3. Impact and exploitation (Score:1/5)
4. Organisational capacity and sufficiency in the team's background (1-5)

Each criterion will be scored from **1 to 5**, with a threshold of **3**. The global threshold will be at least **12** points.

Each criterion has a different percentage weight in the overall score:

- Concept and feasibility = 20%.
- Innovation potential = 30%.
- Impact = 30%.
- capacity = 20%

Topic B

[The scoring system and criteria will be adapted for the launch of the Open call dedicated to this topic in 2027.]



Selection process, Sub-Grant Agreement and Monitoring

► How many proposals will be selected?

The **4** proposals with the highest scores in each topic will be selected.

► Will applicants get feedback from the evaluators, even if they are not selected?

If proposals are found to be of inadequate quality and do not meet the minimum threshold scores or in the case of insufficient applicants, the budget may be reallocated to other topics. All applicants will receive their Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), and unsuccessful applicants will be informed that their application was not selected.

► Is it possible to challenge the evaluators and the Open Calls decision?

Within **5** working days of the reception of the ESR, applicants may submit a request for redress if they believe there was a shortcoming in the way their proposal was evaluated, which may have affected the final decision on whether they were selected as beneficiary or not, or if they believe the results of the eligibility checks are incorrect. Requests need to be justified by clear and available evidence. A structured process is detailed in [Guide for Applicants](#)).

► What happens once a project gets selected?

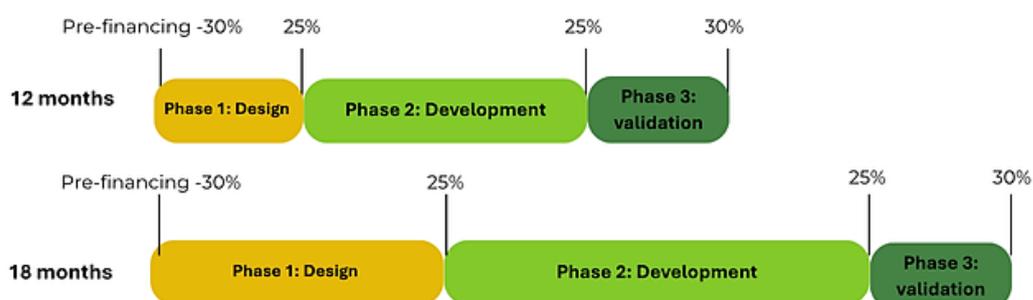
All selected projects are informed, and a **phase of negotiations** with the selected proposals will be launched, based on the evaluator comments in each ESR (if shortcomings were identified and changes are needed in the proposals). If the negotiations do not finish successfully, the proposal will be rejected and the next highest-ranked proposal will be selected. After successful negotiations, the legal representative of the selected proposal will be invited to **sign a sub-grant agreement** (contract). The final list of accepted proposals will then be published.

The sub-grant agreement will also define the validated criteria for monitoring the funded project's advancement and completion, including milestones, reports/deliverables and Key performance indicators (KPIs).

For more details on the obligations of the sub-grant agreement and its contents, please refer to the [Guide for Applicants](#).

► When will I receive the funding?

The financial support schedule is planned in a **4-step process based on the defined phases of sub-project implementation**:



- Pre-financing: once the sub-grant agreement is finalized and signed, the sub-grantees will receive a pre-financing to launch the first stages of the project. This payment corresponds to **30%** of the total grant.



- Design phase & Development phases – **2 separate payments**: the selected Subgrantees will submit relevant deliverables, planned in the sub-grant agreement, to the AGRO-WELL consortium and receive the respective payment instalment.
 - o **25%** for the Design Phase
 - o **25%** for the Development phaseUpon positive review of the corresponding deliverables.

- Final payment/validation (**30% of the total fund at M12 or M18**): will be conducted upon reception and positive evaluation of final deliverables submitted by the subgrantees.

For more information, please refer to the [Guide for applicants](#).

