



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Joint Research Projects on Agriculture, Food, Nutrition and Health - AgroHealth2024



### 1. Call Opening

#### 1.1. Introduction

The Lleida Biomedical Research Institute Dr. Pifarré Foundation (IRBLleida) aims to create synergies between basic, clinical, and epidemiological research, so that biomedical research becomes a driver for improving daily clinical practice.

The Agrotechnology research centre Agrotecnio aims to become an international reference centre addressing key challenges in the agrifood value chain in an integrated manner advancing to the implementation of the One Health Initiative, emphasizing an integrated approach that harmonizes and optimizes the health of individuals, animals, plants, and the environment.

Within the framework of these goals, IRBLleida and Agrotecnio, and after a positive mid-term evaluation of the 1st AgroHealth2022 call, announce the 2nd Call for Joint Research Projects on Agriculture, Food, Nutrition and Health – **AgroHealth2024**.

#### 1.2. Summary

The [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) recognizes nutrition as a critical element of health and wellbeing. Better nutrition is particularly related to improved infant, child and maternal health, a stronger immune system, safer pregnancy and childbirth, lower risk of non-communicable diseases (such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease) and longevity. Furthermore, WHO has recently stated that 'by working together, the health and agriculture sectors can ensure policy coherence and deliver a safe and nutritious food supply that not only contributes to good health and well-being but also fosters healthy communities and economies.

Thus, Agrotecnio and IRBLleida will support **collaborative synergistic projects that extend the boundaries of knowledge and bridge agriculture in its broadest sense with biomedical research along the nexus of Agriculture, Food, Nutrition and Health**. The nexus also includes medical uses of plants as production vehicles for nutritional and pharmaceutical applications, the latter in the context of infectious diseases caused by HIV, SARS, etc.

### 2. Call Description

#### 2.1. Scope

Projects should target unmet medical needs, including obesity, diabetes, lipidaemia, metabolic syndrome, exercise physiology, infectious diseases, molecular and cellular human metabolism, nutrient–gene interactions, nutrient-drug interaction, or



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Joint Research Projects on Agriculture, Food, Nutrition and Health - AgroHealth2024



chemoprevention, through approaches such as the reduction of harmful residues from food ingredients, the impact of nutritional intervention on disease, nutrient-gene interactions, or the development of novel functional foods and ingredients, or exploiting the advantages of plants as production platforms for recombinant pharmaceuticals, amongst others.

Collaborative research projects between a minimum of one Agrotecnio and one IRBLleida group should eventually lead to new collaborations that are sustained after the completion of the project. Thus, the generation of research outputs should allow the collaborating groups to apply for more ambitious competitive national and international calls. Both IRBLleida and Agrotecnio are compromised in their support to young researchers, we thus encourage scientists under the age of 45 to apply with their proposals to this call.

The projects should follow the EU's Do No Significant Harm Principle (DNSH) regulations to undertake scientific research and technological development processes that take into account effects and potential impact on the environment and society.

### 2.2. Funding & Payment

Funds for the AgroHealth2024 call will be provided by Agrotecnio and IRBLleida. Up to three proposals with a budget of up to 45,000€ per project may be funded in this second Call.

Once the final award decision has been announced, the two institutes will make the funds allocated in the project available to researchers. If necessary, one of the institutes will transfer the funds necessary for the development of the project to the other. The two co-PIs will manage their own funds through their respective institutes.

### 2.3. Duration & Important Dates

**Call Opening:** June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

**Call Deadline:** June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 3 p.m.

**Estimated provisional Resolution:** November 2024.

**Estimated final resolution:** December 2024

Once accepted, the project can last up to a period of two years, starting on January 2025. This period may be extended for a maximum period of 6 months.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Joint Research Projects on Agriculture, Food, Nutrition and Health - AgroHealth2024



### 3. Candidates profile

#### 3.1. Eligibility

Each proposal must identify two co-Principal Investigators (co-PI), one from each institution who must meet the following requirements:

- Be affiliated to Agrotecnio or IRBLeida, or have applied for affiliation before the application deadline, and maintain their affiliation throughout the duration of the AgroHealth project.
- Have a doctoral degree.
- Have a scientific/technical track record consistent with the proposed project.

#### 3.2. Incompatibility

AgroHealth2024 grants are compatible with any other research funds if the specific activities to be covered by AgroHealth2024 do not overlap with other ongoing projects. If funding has been requested for activities included in the AgroHealth2024 proposal, within pending grant applications elsewhere, this must be explicitly stated in the application indicating the call or application and the estimated date of award decision. If funding for the Call is finally secured, the Principal Investigators will have to resign from one of the grants.

A researcher who submits a proposal to the Call as co-PI of a project may not participate in any other project submitted to the Call. In the event of non-compliance with this requirement, all AgroHealth2024 projects with the participation of this researcher will be excluded from the Call.

Other researchers participating in the Call as collaborators may do so in no more than two projects. In the event of non-compliance with this requirement, PIs will be contacted, and collaborator should choose the two projects on which they want to be maintained.

### 4. Application & Award Decision

#### 4.1. Proposal Submission

To participate in the call, the candidates will submit the following documentation using the **AgroHealth24 application form**.

All the materials in the proposals should be written in English (unless otherwise specified). The materials needed for a full proposal to be evaluated are:

- Curriculum vitae (CVA FECYT format) of the two co-PIs of the proposal, selecting the best 5 publications for each of the Co-PI over the last 5 years

(period extendable according to Annex I) that should be submitted using the IP Data Document.

- A detailed project proposal not exceeding 20 pages (single line spacing with Calibri 11) should be submitted using the **AgroHealth24 application form**. The proposal will include the following points:
  - Summary in Catalan, English and Spanish.
  - Background and state of the art.
  - Relevant bibliography.
  - Hypothesis.
  - Objectives.
  - Justification of the interest of the Project and synergies brought about by the collaboration
  - Work plan and methodology
  - Previous experience of the team related to the project topics
  - Technology and/or knowledge transfer potential
  - Prospects of extending collaboration beyond the project
  - Other funds granted and/or requested (pending decision) substantially overlapping with the project proposed
  - Adaptation to the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation
  - Requested budget, maximum € 45,000 distributed in:
    - Personnel: Directly involved in the proposal (may not exceed 50% of the total grant requested).
    - Small equipment
    - Consumables
    - Subcontracting (may not exceed 50% of the total grant requested).
    - Travel expenses (may not exceed 5% of the total grant requested).
    - Other expenses: publication costs, etc. (may not exceed 10% of the total grant requested).
- If needed, ethics (CEEA and/or CEIm) and biosecurity committees' approvals or documents indicating that the proposals have been submitted for their approval.
- Signed Responsible Declaration Form (**AgroHealth24 application form**).

#### 4.2. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation process will be carried out by the *Agencia Estatal de Investigación* ([www.aei.gob.es](http://www.aei.gob.es)).

The key aspects that will be evaluated are the scientific excellence of the proposal, the track record of the two Co-PIs, the feasibility of the proposal and the potential impact of the project. More specifically, the proposals will be scored according to the criteria indicated in the following table:



Criteria		Definition	Points
Scientific-technical aspects of the proposal	Quality, novelty and originality	How is the proposal expanding horizons against the state-of-the-art? What is the experimental design? Is the gender perspective been taken into account?	15
	Viability and workplan	Define the work packages. Include a Gantt's Chart containing project workflow.	15
	Impact	How is the proposal improving current solutions in terms of social, patient welfare, economic and/or other relevant impact?	10
Principal Investigators' CVs	-	25	
Potential Technology and Knowledge Transfer	-	10	
Prospects for extending the collaboration beyond the project	-	10	
Implementation of RRI policies	-	5	
At least one of the Principal Investigators under the age of 45 on the closing date of the Call (extendable according to Annex 1)	-	5	
Both Co-PIs belong to groups that were not funded together in 1st AgroHealth2022 call	To encourage the maximum number of new collaborations between Agrotecnio and IRBLeida groups, the proposals in which the two Co-PIs belong to groups that were not funded together in the same project in the 1st AgroHealth call 2022, will receive 5 additional points.	5	
Maximum	Total sum	100	

### 4.3. Award Decision

A committee made up of the two directors and two additional members, each one designated by a director will oversee the call, reviewing, ratifying, and publishing the provisional recommendation for funding based on the evaluation of the proposals that will be performed by the external agency (*Agencia Española de Investigación -AEI*).



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Joint Research Projects on Agriculture, Food, Nutrition and Health - AgroHealth2024



Any allegations to the provisional award decision will have to be submitted within 5 days of its publication and will be addressed by the external agency. If it is deemed necessary, the AEI will be requested to respond to them. Once the allegations are resolved, the final resolution will be published.

Once the final award decision is published, the PIs will have a period of 15 days to accept the grant.

### 5. Beneficiaries' obligations

#### 5.1. Project Follow-up

At the end of the first year of the project, the co-IPs should jointly submit a medium-term report to the Grant Office of both institutes indicating to what degree the proposed objectives and milestones have been met, justifying any deviation from the original plan.

#### 5.2. Project Outputs

The support of IRBLleida and Agrotecnio must be duly acknowledged in all project outputs. In any oral or written communication about the research project and/or the results obtained from the received grant, the main researcher (or the person who shows/ disseminates the results) must mention specifically the support of IRBLleida and Agrotecnio and use the logos of both institutions whenever possible.

#### 5.3. Final Reporting

Within a maximum period of six months after the end of the project, the PIs will submit a joint final report to the internal Grant Office of both institutes, describing the degree of achievement of the objectives and the outputs initially proposed.

### 6. Other Clauses

Participation in this call for proposals implies knowledge and acceptance of all its terms and conditions, including:

#### 6.1. Proposal Documentation Confidentiality

The documentation associated with the proposals will be treated as confidential information, being obliged to maintain the confidentiality of the information all persons involved in the evaluation and assessment of the proposals, and may be used for informative and dissemination purposes, subject to prior consent of the applicants.



## 6.2. Terms and Conditions, Industrial and Intellectual Property

The intellectual or industrial property and exploitation rights that may derive from the implementation of the granted project will belong to IRBLleida and Agrotecnio, recognizing as authors or inventors the people who have conceived and implemented these ideas and applying the intellectual and industrial property regulations of IRBLleida and Agrotecnio.)

## 6.3. Personal Data Collection Purpose and Processing Information

### Responsible for the processing

**Identity:** INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIÓN BIOMÉDICA DE LLEIDA (BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF LLEIDA)

**TAX ID:** G25314394

**Address:** Avda. Alcalde Rovira Roure n°80, 25198, Lleida

**E-mail:** [protecciodedades@irbllleida.cat](mailto:protecciodedades@irbllleida.cat)

### Purpose of data processing and conservation

Basic information on the protection of data processing: Database of grants.

At the **INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIÓN BIOMÉDICA DE LLEIDA** (hereinafter referred to as **IRBLLEIDA**), acting on behalf of both institutions, we process the information you provide as an interested party to manage the processing of your CV and application to the grant.

The data obtained will be kept for a period of up to 12 months.

### Legitimation for data processing

The legal basis for the processing of your data is the consent of the interested party when contacting the INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIÓN BIOMÉDICA DE LLEIDA.

### Recipients of your data

Your data will be communicated to third parties and collaborators related to the organisation. Apart from these entities, your data will not be communicated to third parties.

### Rights of interested parties

The owners of the data processed by IRBLLEIDA always have the right to access their data, rectify it, oppose its processing, or delete it if they believe it is no longer necessary for the purposes for which it was collected. In addition, if you wish, you may request the portability of your data and limitation of their processing. In the latter case, we will only keep them for the exercise or defence of claims. You may also revoke your consent at any time.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Joint Research Projects on Agriculture, Food, Nutrition and Health - AgroHealth2024



To exercise these rights, you may contact IRBLLEIDA by e-mail at [protecciodedades@irblleida.cat](mailto:protecciodedades@irblleida.cat). Likewise, if you consider that your rights have been infringed, you may lodge a complaint with the Catalan Data Protection Authority.

### 7. Annexes

#### 7.1. Annex I

Important aspects that will be evaluated in this proposal are inputs (funding, industry contracts, etc) and outputs (publications, patents, etc) of the PIs of the projects during the last 5 years. This period of 5 years can be extended due to the following situations:

- a) Six months for each maternity/paternity leave
- b) Temporary incapacity during pregnancy for reasons related to it. An extension of the same duration as the sick leave will be accumulated to the extension included in section a).
- c) For temporary disability due to serious illness or accident of the applicant, with medical leave equal to or greater than three months, the extension period will be the same as the disability duration (certified with official leave).
- d) Care of people in a situation of dependency, in accordance with the provisions of the Law 39/2006, of December 14, on the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Attention to people in a situation of dependency. An extension will be applied in weeks resulting from the number of weeks of activity as a non-professional caregiver.

All the leaves must be correctly credited at the time of filing the grant application.