**What do you mean by sustainable farm-based protein?**

*Our definition of 'sustainable protein' production would cover improving efficiency and environmental sustainability of traditional farm-based proteins (e.g. livestock, protein-crops, livestock feeds, farm-based alternative proteins).*

**I am not a farmer, grower, or forester, does this mean I can still apply or lead a project? Do farmers need to claim 50% of the project costs? Do farmers/growers/foresters need to be involved in the project or is it optional?**

*To be able to lead a project in this competition, you must be a UK registered business of any size or a UK Registered Research Organisation (RO). If the lead organisation in a project is an academic institution or a Research and Technology Organisation (RTO) it must collaborate with at least 2 businesses of any size.*

*Farmers, growers or foresters (primary producers) don’t need to lead or directly participate in a project as a ‘partner’, as they may participate in an advisory capacity or subcontracting role, etc. This is up to each project to structure as best suits them.*

*While a primary producer does not need to claim grant as part of the project, we do require that* ***if*** *any grant is being allocated to them, either directly (as a grant claiming partner) or indirectly (such as subcontracting), then at least 50% of that money needs to go to primary producers based in England. For example:*

* *If you have £100 going to farmers in your project and you have 2 farmers, 1 based in England and 1 in Scotland/NI/Wales. At least £50 needs to be going to the English farmer.*

**When can I start my project?**

*All projects in this competition must be in a position to start no later than the 1 April 2023. Innovate UK will inform projects if they are successful in this competition by the 2 December 2022. Successful projects must then complete all project set up activities before they can start. Projects must have received their Grant Offer Letter (GOL) and returned a signed copy to Innovate UK before starting any project work as you cannot claim for any work carried out prior to your official project start date as specified in the GOL.*

**Can you match fund with other DEFRA or Innovate UK schemes?**

*No. You cannot use other public sources of funding to match fund your project as all matching funding for all projects must come from private sources only.*

**Would farmed seaweed be considered not just for animal feed, but also other uses such as a fertiliser? Are technologies that would improve water and soil qualities be in scope?**

*As the focus of this competition is sustainable farm-based protein production, we would need to see how your project output is having an impact on this. If there is no link to protein production and/or protein-rich crops then that would fall out of scope. If the project involves growing seaweed as an alternative food source for human consumption or fish production then that would also be out of scope for this competition.*

**Can my project focus on manufacturing or use of waste streams?**

*The competition is aiming to improve the sustainability of farm-based protein production in England and the funding does not cover proteins produced or manufactured past the farm-gate, where there is no direct benefit to England's farmers or growers.*

**What other sources of funding are available for agricultural or horticultural projects?**

*Defra and UKRI’s Transforming Food Production team (TFP) recently announced the second round of the Farming Innovation Programme:* [*Feasibility*](https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1279/overview/e7deb89b-2048-4f87-a5a2-019459520d04) *and* [*Small R&D*](https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1280/overview/9b0deb7f-6cfe-492f-ba78-4ec248b565c5) *competitions, which are part of a different fund of the Farming Innovation Programme and have a broader scope.*