

Luomuinstituutti (FORI)'s call for organic research proposals is open

Scientifically ambitious and innovative research proposals can now be submitted to Luomuinstituutti's (FORI) Organic Research funding call for joint organic research projects of Luke and the University of Helsinki. The funded projects are expected to directly address strategic themes that have been recognised as important in [the research strategy of FORI](#), and support the implementation of [Finland's National Programme for Organic Production 2030](#).

The research proposals should address national priorities set for organic research such as:

- Means to increase organic production and organic crop yields, to measure and assess widely the environmental sustainability of organic plant production, to reduce harmful effects to the environment, and to adapt to climate change.
- Means to increase yield stability and crop resilience against weeds, insect pests, plant diseases, and abiotic stresses in organic crop production while improving product quality, biodiversity, and soil health.
- Means to diminish negative environmental impacts of the organic animal husbandry and to promote animal welfare and health.
- Analysis of business concepts and/or models to improve the profitability of Finnish organic production and to address organic food consumption practices and trends considering private and public consumption in Finland as well as in export markets.
- Assess the role of the organic sector in the sustainability transformation of the Finnish food system and find ways to analyze and develop the overall sustainability and self-sufficiency of Finnish organic production.
- Means to increase use of organic food in professional kitchens and public food services and assess the benefits of organic diets on health and wellbeing of us.
- Innovative research approaches addressing key bottlenecks or providing new solutions for ensuring positive development of Finnish organic farming, food systems and organic markets. Research can include productional, environmental, economic, or social innovations. It can also address the policy and regulatory system aspects of organic farming in Finland and within the EU.

The total amount of available funding is maximum 400 000 € for years 2024-2025. Projects can be started in beginning of April 2024. All projects must be completed by the end of year 2025. The funding to be granted per project is max. 80 000 euros (including only direct costs such as salaries, materials, analyses and travel costs). Overheads cannot be covered by this funding. Experts from both organisations, Luke and UH must be involved in the project.

The panel to select the best proposals for funding is comprised of representatives of the steering group of FORI and experts of the different research fields.



Criteria for getting funding

The funding decisions will be based on evaluation of the proposals according to the following criteria:

- **Societal relevance and impact:** What is the relevance of the project? What is the usability of the obtained results? How is project impact ensured and maximized?
- **Innovation and future research plans:** Will the project produce innovative results, solutions, or scientific breakthroughs? Will the project contribute to the application for additional external funding?
- **Feasibility of the research plan:** Are research objectives clear? Is the research plan methodologically sound, plausible, and realistic considering practical implementation? Are potential risks identified and their mitigation considered? Is the implementation of the project cost-effective (high output/cost ratio) and the timetable realistic?
- **Competence of the research team to carry out the proposed research:** Does the research team possess needed expertise for the research? Are researchers from both Luke and the University of Helsinki genuinely involved in the project? Are applicants members of the FORI's research network – [join here](#)

We particularly encourage proposals that strengthen Luke's and University's competencies as well as interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaboration within the research network of FORI.

How to apply?

To apply for funding, please fill in [the form](#). The call is open between Thu 25.1.2024 8.00 to Fri 16.2.2024 16.00. You can fill the application form in English, in Finnish or in Swedish.

Please note that you cannot save the form temporarily. When you press **the save button**, it means your application has been submitted and the following text appears: *"the data has been successfully saved"*.

Mandatory appendices (in pdf form):

- **Research plan**, 3-5 pages. The research plan should include the following sections:
1 Aims & objectives; 2 Research methodology; 3 Impact; 4 Work plan & schedule; 5 Members of the research team

Name the file according to the main applicant Lastname_Firstname.pdf.



- **CVs of responsible applicants at Luke and at UH**, max 3 pages, following the headings and structure of [the Academy of Finland CV guidelines](#), and containing a list of max 10 most relevant publications. Name the file according to the applicant as Lastname_Firstname_CV.pdf.
- **Budget** (use only template offered)
- Letter of commitments. You are also requested to attach a letter of commitment from both organizations to apply. Please make sure that you have your organisation's approval to implement your project.

Additional information:

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