



# Call for projects

## New teams 2nd edition

### Key date

Application submission  
deadline :  
**August 4, 2025**



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**INAF**

INSTITUT SUR LA  
NUTRITION ET LES  
ALIMENTS FONCTIONNELS

Funded by :

Fonds  
de recherche

Québec



## 1. Context and objectives

This call for projects, now in its second edition, is part of the Pôle Bioalimentaire's commitment to support new applied research projects aligned with its priority focus areas. It aims to initiate and stimulate new research partnerships among researchers from different disciplines, by fostering the emergence of innovative ideas and the generation of evidence-based knowledge useful for the transition toward sustainable food systems.

Projects must be led by new research teams and align with one or more of the seven focus areas of the Pôle Bioalimentaire.

### The seven focus areas of the Pôle Bioalimentaire

1. **Quality and accessibility of the food supply:** including nutritional quality, food safety, contaminants, traceability, availability, and accessibility of food, while integrating aspects related to cultural diversity (including Indigenous populations), ethics, and public health.
2. **Food transition:** emerging and alternative food matrices, consumption habits, and culinary practices integrating future food proteins.
3. **Territorialized food systems:** including governance models, short supply chains, food logistics and transportation, land use, the right to food, social justice, local agriculture, self-sufficiency, and food autonomy.
4. **Decarbonization and adaptation to climate change:** sectoral adaptation to climate change, carbon neutrality, eco-efficient technologies, the carbon footprint of the supply chain, transformative technologies, reduction of inputs, and valorization of outputs.
5. **Circular economy and food waste reduction:** reducing food loss and waste, valorizing co-products, reducing packaging, and educating citizens.
6. **Support for supply chain competitiveness:** including digital transformation, artificial intelligence, modeling, workforce training and retention, the development of entrepreneurial and intrapreneurial skills, and market access.
7. **Inclusion, social acceptability, and fight against misinformation:** knowledge mobilization and transfer, ethics, literacy, food myths, transgenesis, diets, and food fraud.

These projects must propose concrete actions in partnership with user communities to advance knowledge, test solutions, or provide tools for stakeholders in the biofood sector, with a view toward systemic change. The objective is to stimulate collaboration between research environments and user groups to strengthen innovation, agility, and the impact of biofood initiatives across Québec.

This call for proposals is part of a structuring initiative led by the Pôle bioalimentaire, powered by the Institute of Nutrition and Functional Foods (INAF) and supported both financially and strategically by the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ). It brings together all Quebec researchers who are members of strategic clusters affiliated with the Nature and Technology, and Society and Culture sectors of the Fonds de recherche du Québec.

## 2. Eligibility criteria and conditions

- All researchers must be affiliated with a Quebec postsecondary institution recognized by the FRQ and be members of an FRQ research cluster in the Nature and Technology or Society and Culture sectors at the time of the project's implementation.
- The team must consist of at least two researchers from two distinct department (mandatory) and two different strategic clusters (mandatory). The formation of new intersectoral teams is mandatory. Please contact us for assistance with networking needs ([pole@inaf.ulaval.ca](mailto:pole@inaf.ulaval.ca)).
- All researchers must be members of the Pôle bioalimentaire. If membership is not in effect at the time of application submission, support will be provided to facilitate registration and ensure the applicant's eligibility.
- Partnering with an end-user organization for project implementation is required.
- The team may also include collaborators. A collaborator is a person identified by the principal researcher as providing specific expertise to the project or research program for which funding is requested. They cannot be delegated the management of any portion of the funds and are not considered a researcher within the core research team.
- Researchers who have already received funding from a previous Pôle Bioalimentaire call for projects may be part of a team, but they will not be eligible to receive funding under this call.



- The proposed project must fall within one of the seven focus areas of the Pôle.
- Researchers may only be part of one official application under this call for projects.
- Teams receiving financial support must submit a detailed statement outlining the allocation of the received funds in accordance with FRQ regulations.
- Each project team awarded funding must submit a mid-term report to help monitor project progress. This report must outline the objectives achieved through the research in terms of benefits for the biofood sector or scientific advancements generated by the project.
- Projects whose deliverables will contribute to the preparation of more ambitious funding applications to provincial and federal organizations will be prioritized.
- Projects may last a maximum of 18 months. All projects must be completed by March 31, 2027.
- Collaborations outside Québec are allowed. However, funds cannot be transferred to institutions based outside Québec.

### 3. Application submission

Applications must be submitted using the application submission form ([downloadable here](#)) and must include all the information listed below.

#### 1. Project Information (max. 3 pages)

##### 1.1. Project title (in French and English)

**1.2. A short project summary** (in French and English): Provide a concise summary of the project that may be used for public communications (e.g., on the INAF website, LinkedIn post, etc.).

**1.3. A project description** (max. 2 pages): Present the context and problem statement, objectives, methodology, and implementation plan, including a project timeline.

**2. Team members:** name the researchers and collaborators, their home institutions, their affiliations with FRQ strategic clusters, as well as the scientific



and technical complementarities required to achieve the project's objectives within the proposed timeline.

3. **Expected results and short- and medium-term perspectives** (max. 1 page): Describe the expected outcomes for end users and the projected development perspectives for the biofood industry in Quebec in the short and medium term.
4. **Knowledge dissemination and mobilization plan** (max. 1 page): Define the project's end users, specify the dissemination strategies for the results, and outline the planned actions to mobilize knowledge among end users.
5. **A detailed budget and justification of funds** (max. 1 page): Provide a detailed budget, justifying the requested expenses in relation to the project's objectives. Specify the distribution of funds among team members, if applicable.
6. **Curriculum Vitae (CV)**: Include the CVs of researchers involved in the project.

The deadline for submitting the application in PDF format is **August 4, 2025**. Documents must be sent to the following email address: [pole@inaf.ulaval.ca](mailto:pole@inaf.ulaval.ca). Please use the subject line: "Submission for the communication Call for Projects".

## 4. Evaluation of applications

### Evaluation Procedure

Eligible applications will be submitted to a scientific evaluation committee composed of researchers whose expertise aligns with the nature of the proposed projects and who have no conflict of interest with the applicants. A representative observer from the FRQ will also be present.

Applications will be evaluated based on the four criteria listed below.

### Evaluation Criteria

- Project quality (25 points): Scientific rigour, relevance of objectives, robustness of methodology, feasibility of the timeline, and budget coherence.
- Team quality (25 points): Synergy of research expertise, collaboration between private and academic partners, resource sharing, interdisciplinarity, complementarity of strategic clusters, and contribution to the formation of a new research team.



- Potential results for the Quebec biofood sector (30 points): Advancement of knowledge, contribution to innovation and sector competitiveness, expected leverage effect, supervision of students, and potential use of deliverables to support a more ambitious funding application.
- Knowledge mobilization plan (20 points): Scope and quality of the mobilization and knowledge transfer strategy, engagement of end users, and their integration into the dissemination and application process.

## 5. Announcement of results

This competition has a total budget envelope of \$150,000. The allocation of funded projects will be announced no later than **September 2025**, with projects expected to start no later than **October 1, 2025**. A midterm and final report on deliverables and results must be submitted.

## 6. Nature of financial support

- **Granted amount**: A maximum of \$50,000 per project (excluding indirect research costs).
- **Eligible expenses**: Costs related to materials, equipment, and resources directly required for project execution that are not typically covered by institutions; compensation for participants, salaries, scholarships, and professional fees (for students and professionals); travel expenses; dissemination and knowledge transfer expenses. (Details on eligible expenses can be found in the following document: [https://www.inaf.ulaval.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Liste\\_depenses\\_admissibles\\_POLV2-2.pdf](https://www.inaf.ulaval.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Liste_depenses_admissibles_POLV2-2.pdf)).
- **Support duration**: The project must be completed no later than March 31, 2027, with no possibility of extension.



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