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Opportunities in EIT Food

Prague, 19 November 2026

EIT Food Country Representative Czechia

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EIT Food is growing Europe's food innovation ecosystem to scale solutions and accelerate systematic change



We are Europe's largest food innovation community

Established by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), an EU body, we operate with a growing network of public and private partners.

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Our aspiration

A thriving and fair food system that ensures a well-nourished, food-secure Europe, operating within planetary boundaries.

How we work

We connect industry, startups, researchers and policymakers to turn innovation into impact - for healthier lives, a transition toward net zero and a resilient food system.

EIT Food partnership

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

EIT Food enables our Strategic Partners' voices to be heard and support them to shape EU-wide innovation as well as work with them to be thought leaders and influencers across the key challenges for the sector.

DELIVERY PARTNERS

Delivery Partners work with EIT Food on the delivery of projects and programmes. Taking the lead across a range of projects, Delivery Partners also have the opportunity to engage locally or regionally as a leader on an impact area or theme.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Community Members have access to EIT Food's extensive network of partner organisations across the value chain of innovation, as well as to our sector insights and knowledge.

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Higher Education

Lunds Universitet
Università di Torino
University of Reading
University of Warsaw
Queen's University Belfast
Aarhus University
University of Agriculture in Krakow
Universitat de València
University of Helsinki
Wageningen University & Research
Instytut Ekonomiki Rolnictwa i Gospodarki Żywnościowej Państwowy Instytut Badawczy

Industry

Bayer
BGI
Cargill
the helix way
Lesaffre
Betavia
Danone
PepsiCo
Grupo AN
shakeup factory
Solmeyea
proveg international
Roquette
Carbery
Mars Petcare
Mosa Meat

Research Centres & Non-Profits

AZTI
DIL
INRAE
gfi Europe
AID
idea
INSA Institut de Recerca en Nutrició i Seguretat Alimentària
NEIKER
HIT Hub Innovazione Trentino
CSIC
Campden BRI food and drink innovation
provincie Zuid-Holland
Łukasiewicz Poznański Instytut Technologiczny
Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research PAS
IRWIR PAN Polish Academy of Sciences Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development

Feed

FoodHIVE Community

- Find collaborations
- Community news
- Pitch your idea
- Post your opportunity
- EIT Food events

Participants @ EIT Food

- Participant resources
- Participant news

Links

- Community guidelines
- FAQs
- Download the Android ...
- Download the iOS app
- About EIT Food

Feed

Popular



Your space to connect with the EIT Food community

Welcome to FoodHIVE, **EIT Food's community platform** bringing together partners, innovators, startups and students from across the food system.

Here you'll find the latest **events, opportunities and conversations** from across the platform, tailored to your profile and interests.

👇 Use this feed to **discover what's happening in the network, learn from others and connect with members working to shape the future of food.**

Log in now to experience the true benefits of FoodHIVE.

Upcoming events

8 SEP
Info session: Introduction to the EU Agri-Food Biotech Alliance (September)
1:00 – 2:00 PM CEST

28 OCT
Next Bite Satellite Resilient Agriculture
10/28/2026, 9:00 AM – 10/29/2026, 6:00 PM CET

Trending posts

EDIBLE Benelux 2026 | 13–16 October Antwerp & Brussels
Mariana Meira e Cruz

Next Bite Satellite Resilient Agriculture
Mariana Meira e Cruz

https://www.eitfoodhive.eu/

Driving healthier lives, sustainability and resilience

We are guided by three missions which align our ecosystem, programmes and partnerships to accelerate systemic change across Europe's food system.

Healthier lives through food



Net zero food system



Food system resilience



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We focus on three areas for greatest impact

Protein Diversification

Resilient Agriculture

Agrifood Biotech



These are where

- **EU policy** momentum aligns
- **Market readiness** exists
- **Ecosystem strength** is highest
- Change can create **most impact**
- **Scaling potential** is strongest

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Resilient Agriculture Initiatives

Collaborative actions to accelerate the **adoption of regenerative practices** across Europe's agrifood system for farmers, agrifood businesses, students, financial institutions and policymakers.

13,000
farmers engaged

270+
startup innovations delivered

71,000+
hectares in transition

220+
farms individually advised







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Protein Diversification Think Tank

Driving innovation, strategy, and policy to accelerate the shift toward sustainable and diverse protein sources.

30+
cross-sector experts

6
strategic reports delivered

8
high-level events, incl. COP29 Blue Zone

1
EU policy brief launched at COP28

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Other Think Tanks



Resilient Agriculture

14
European partners fostering collaboration and action for resilient food systems



Healthy Ageing

45
European leaders from **15** countries advancing scalable solutions

EU Agri-Food Biotech Alliance

Uniting Europe's agri-food biotechnology ecosystem.

A coordinated platform that brings together industry, startups, researchers, investors and policymakers to accelerate biotechnology from research to market, strengthening Europe's competitiveness and global leadership.

+140
organisations involved



- Align stakeholders

Across the European agri-food and feed biotechnology ecosystem.

- Amplify existing initiatives

To maximise impact and avoid fragmentation.

- Coordinate public and private investment

To accelerate innovation and scale up.

- Accelerate industrial deployment and market adoption

Of biotechnology solutions

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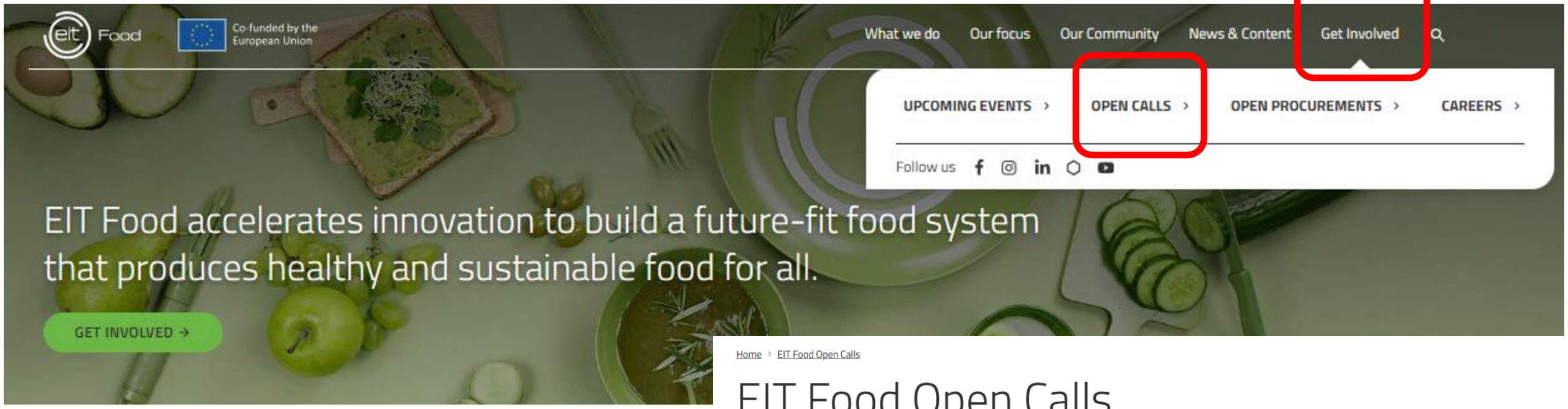
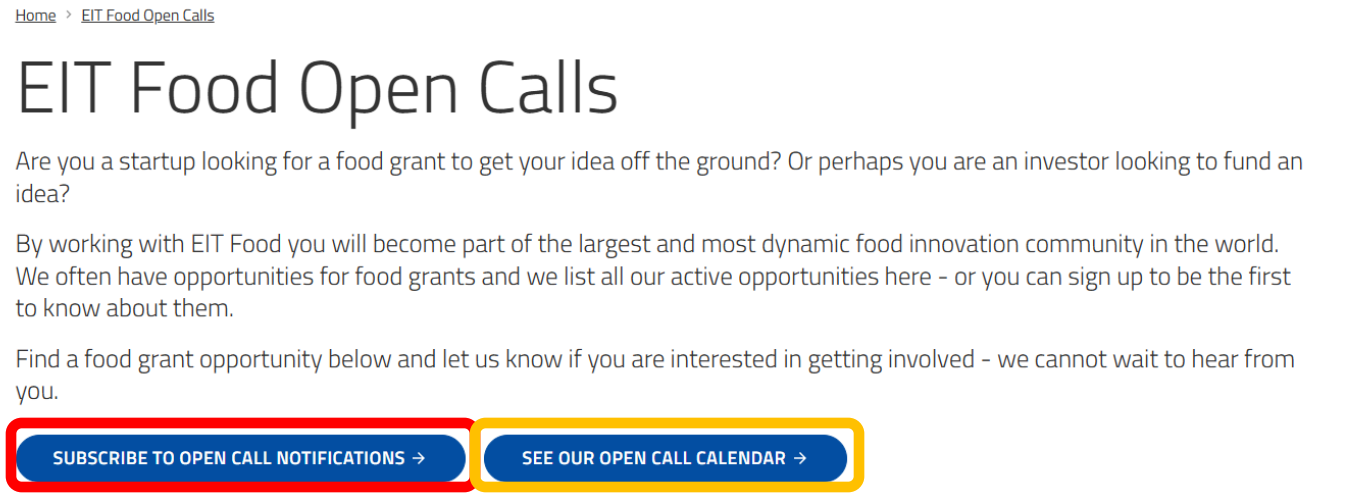
BE INFORMED ABOUT CALLS and other OPPORTUNITIES

https://www.eitfood.eu/





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EIT Food - Open calls



https://www.eitfood.eu/open-calls-overview

1. **Purpose:** Supporting women entrepreneurs through training, mentoring and business development: **Grow** for early-stage ventures at national level; **Advance** for startups with market traction seeking to scale internationally.
2. **Who can apply:** Universities, research institutions, incubators, accelerators, companies and NGOs in eligible RIS countries, with experience supporting women entrepreneurs.
3. **Funding:** Maximum per application for the full 2027–2028 period: €120,000 for Grow; €116,000 for Advance.
4. **Application deadline:** 5 January 2027

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EIT Food - Open calls



1. **Purpose:** Co-financing startup–corporate proof-of-concept and pilot projects to validate agrifood innovations and accelerate commercialisation.
2. **Who can apply:** A single agrifood startup, collaborating with a corporate customer.
3. **Funding:** up to €60,000 per project.
4. **Application deadline:** 30 November 2026



1. **Purpose:** Supporting agrifood biotech startups to validate technologies and accelerate commercial deployment.
2. **Who can apply:** A single micro/small startup, backed by a corporate partner belonging to the EU Agri-Food Biotech Alliance
3. **Funding:**
   - 1 – Validation (TRL 4–6) – €60,000, lump sum
   - 2 – Demonstrator (TRL 7–9) - €250,000, actual costs
4. **Application deadline:** 18 January 2027

EIT Food - Open calls



1. **Purpose:** Accelerating startups developing solutions aligned with New European Bauhaus values through mentoring, business support and European networks.
2. **Who can apply:** Early-stage, for-profit startups, meeting the call's innovation, financial and ownership criteria.
3. **Funding:** €50,000 total support per startup: a €22,000 grant and €28,000 in services.
4. **Application deadline:** 15 January 2027



1. **Purpose:** Helping agrifood founders overcome financial barriers and turn venture-building projects into viable startups
2. **Who can apply:** Founders and teams whose ventures are not yet legally incorporated, currently enrolled in a Seedbed Venture Catalyst programme
3. **Funding:** Up to €30,000 per venture project, supporting activities over six months.
4. **Application deadline:** 16 December 2026 and 27 January 2027.

EIT Higher Education Initiative

Funding Opportunities > Open & Upcoming Calls > Call for Proposals 2026

NOW OPEN | Up to €1.25 million per project

Call for Proposals 2026

The EIT Higher Education Initiative (EIT HEI) Call for Proposals 2026 is open! The Call supports higher education institutions (HEIs) in strengthening their capacity to turn STEM talent, knowledge and research into deep-tech and manufacturing innovation and entrepreneurship, contributing to European competitiveness. Projects will drive this transformation across three interconnected areas: talent development, institutional capacity for knowledge valorisation and innovation, and integration into innovation ecosystems. Apply now for up to €1.25 million in funding per project!

Innovation | Deep Tech | Entrepreneurship | Manufacturing | Call 2026



Deadline
13 Jan 2027, 17:00 CET

Starts
Project starts 1 May 2027

Project duration - 18 months (1 May 2027 – 31 October 2028)

Apply Now

https://eit-hei.eu/funding-support/funding-opportunities/open-calls/call-for-proposals-2026/

EIT Food - expected calls in 2027

Innovation pipeline

- Impact funding call
- Seedbed Team UP
  - Tech projects that come for university researchers
  - Next call opens in Jan / Feb 2027

Thematic scaling opportunities

- **Biotech –** Proof of Concept and Biotech Bridge
- **Resilient Agriculture –** Test Farms, Landscapes, Soil Health

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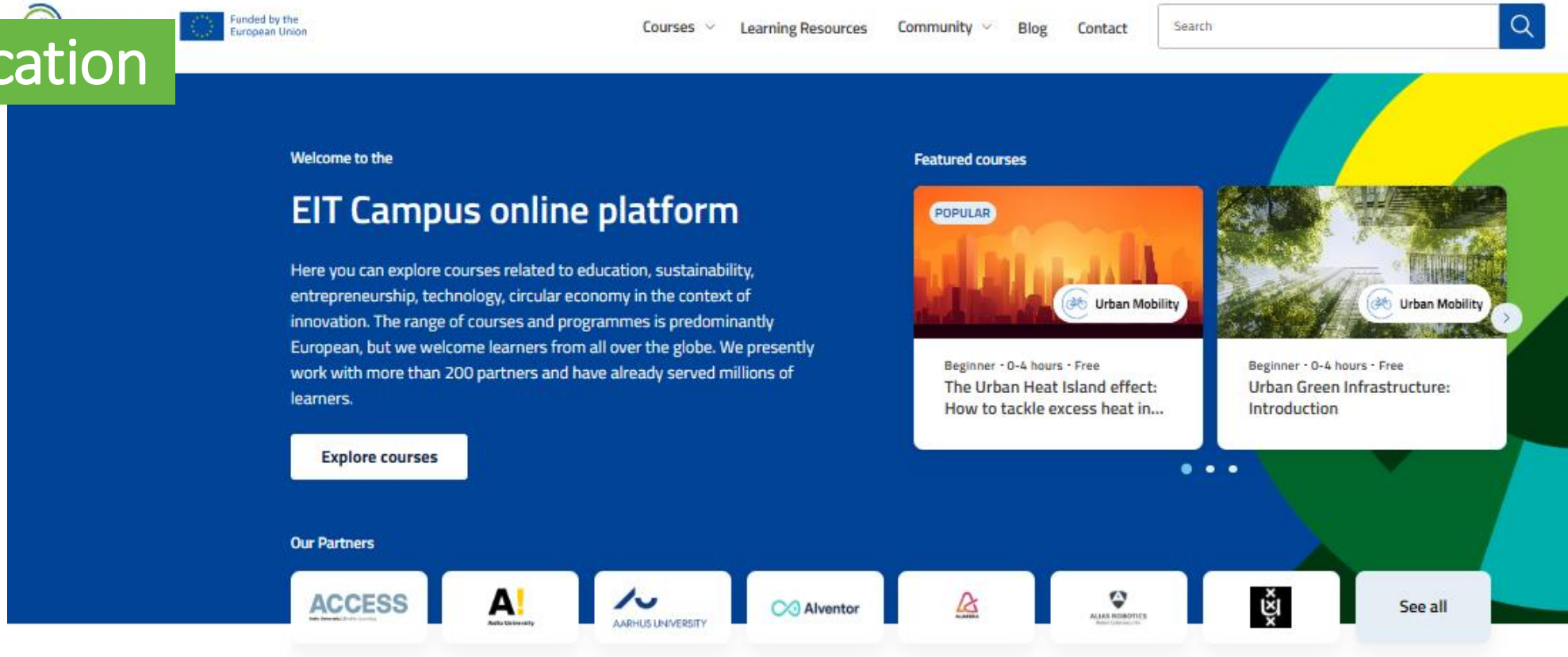
EIT (Food) Education

EIT CAMPUS

https://eit-campus.eu/





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Agrifood Entrepreneurship Initiatives

Supporting the creation and scaling of agrifood startups by providing training, mentoring, funding, and access to Europe's largest food innovation ecosystem.









*EIT Community programmes

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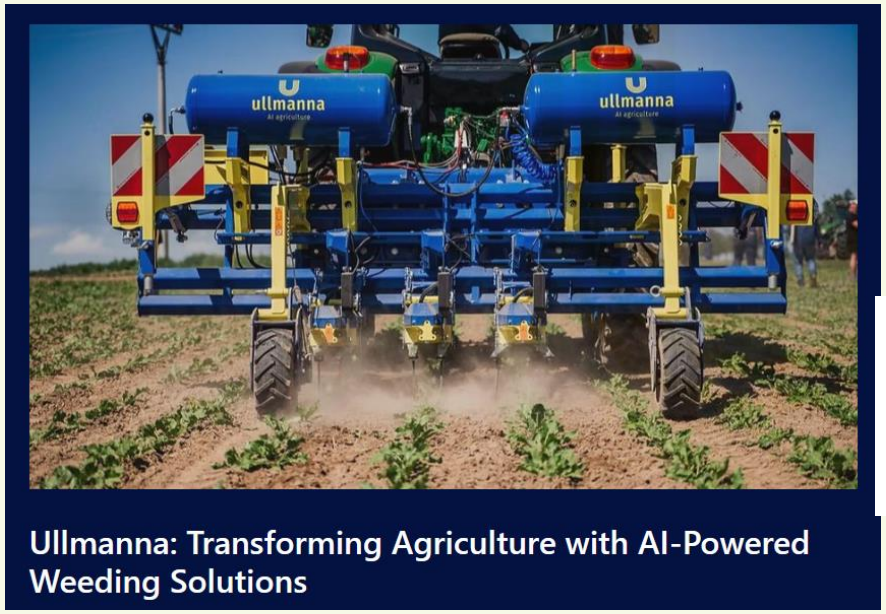
SUCCESS STORIES - Examples

MarbleMate

Discovered a patented technology designed for elegant food supplements with pharmaceutical-level absorption and customizable delivery.
EIT Food Accelerator Network





Ullmanna’s intra-row weeding machine uses artificial intelligence to identify and remove weeds without pesticides, revolutionising sustainable farming. Their innovation is improving efficiency in organic farming and setting new standards in the agritech industry.
EIT Food Test Farms + EIT Food Accelerator Network

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Growing innovation

https://eitfoodhub.vscht.cz/
https://dex-ic.com/eit-food

www.eitfood.eu

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DEX IC: tina.iglicar@dex-ic.com