

Call for interdisciplinary research networks within sustainable food systems

SLU Future Food is announcing funding for two interdisciplinary networks in 2024.

Last day to apply is 2024-05-03.

Decision date: 2024-05-20

The purpose of the call?

The support is intended to establish and develop interdisciplinary research networks at SLU in the field of *sustainable food systems*. The main purpose of the support is to provide good conditions for the development of innovative, high-quality research by creating new patterns of collaboration across subject, department and faculty boundaries within SLU. The network should address sustainability challenges for the food system from a Swedish/Nordic or EU context, but can include a global perspective.

Who can apply?

The support is aimed at active researchers with a PhD degree at SLU. Doctoral students can participate provided that one of the supervisors also participates. The research network must have a clear cross-disciplinary profile, which means that the network must involve at least four (4) researchers working in different subjects, preferably from different faculties within SLU, already at the application stage. The network is then allowed to grow as the work progresses.

Form and conditions

The financial support in this call amounts to SEK 60,000 per group. The funds may be used for, for example, salary costs and travel costs for SLU researchers, travel and accommodation for invited guests, the organisation of meetings, seminars and workshops. Funds may not be used for salaries for employees outside SLU or for scholarships, tuition or course and participation fees.

Qualified support is provided by visiting professor Marie Stenseke in the form of facilitation of interdisciplinary work and some **administrative and practical support** is offered by SLU Future Food.

Conditions:

- The focus of the network's work will be on developing cross-disciplinary cooperation.
- Once the application has been approved, work must begin as soon as possible. The project period is 20 May 2024-5 May 2025.
- The research network will be open to welcoming more researchers at SLU to the collaboration. Seminar programmes and other outreach activities must therefore be clearly advertised through the network's and SLU Future Food's channels.
- The research network is in continuous contact with visiting professor Marie Stenseke and keeps her informed about how the network is developing.
- A brief status report must be submitted no later than 22 November 2024, after which payment of the funds applied for will be made.
- A brief final report must be submitted no later than 5 May 2025.

- It is not allowed for the same group to apply for both research networks under this call, and to the Interdisciplinary Academy (IDA) at SLU, but some overlap of people is allowed.

What should the application contain?

The application can be written in Swedish or English and must include the following:

- Names, titles, department affiliations and e-mail addresses (SLU addresses) of the participants in the network.
- Description of the network's scientific significance and development potential and how the different competencies in the network contribute to this.
- The purpose of the planned activities focusing on the added value of the cross-disciplinary cooperation.
- Planned activities and a brief description of how these are expected to contribute to good conditions for scientific exchange between researchers active in different subjects.
- How the planned activities relate to existing research activities.
- A very simple budget in table form showing how the funds are planned to be used.
- Brief CVs for participants (maximum one page per person).

The application should have a length of 2-4 pages (12 pt, Times New Roman), including references, and should be submitted as a pdf. CVs for the members of the group (see point above) are attached to the application.

Send your application no later than 2024-05-03, to futurefood@slu.se.

Decisions will be announced 20 May 2024.

How are the applications evaluated?

The application will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- **The scientific quality of the application and the potential** for the interdisciplinary collaboration to stimulate new interdisciplinary research of high quality in the area in question.
- **The composition of the research network** so that the network can be expected to work in a cross-disciplinary spirit. Networks that in a relevant and balanced way include a breadth of subjects and have an even gender distribution are rewarded.
- **The working methods and organisation** of the research network. Networks that have a well-thought-out collaborative division of roles between participating researchers and a plan of activities and structures that support the development and deepening of the collaboration are rewarded.
- **A combination of two or more disciplinary domains** (natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, engineering sciences, medical sciences, etc.) is rewarded.
- **New collaborations** are rewarded over already established ones.

SLU Future Food strives to ensure that the set of research networks that are supported together represent a wide range of different types of cross-disciplinary collaborations.

Decisions on support for interdisciplinary research networks under this call are made by SLU Future Food.