

Green Development and Demonstration Programme (GUDP)

Invitation of applications for
The Organic Research,
Development and Demonstration
Programme (Organic RDD) 11

Application deadline 6 May 2025 at 12.00

Colophon

Green Development and Demonstration Programme

Invitation of applications for funding under The Organic Research, Development and Demonstration Programme (Organic RDD) 11

This invitation has been prepared by The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark, ICROFS and the GUDP-secretariate.

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The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark



The GUDP-secretariat
The Danish Agricultural and Fisheries Agency, Augustenborg
Augustenborg Slot 3
DK-6440 Augustenborg
Phone: +45 7218 5600

E-mail: gudp@lbst.dk
www.gudp.dk



ICROFS – International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems

Aarhus University, AU-Viborg
P.O. Box 50, Blichers Allé 20
DK-8830 Tjele
Phone: +45 8715 7771

E-mail: icrofs@icrofs.org
www.icrofs.dk

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Invitation of applications for The Organic Research, Development and Demonstration Programme (Organic RDD) 11

International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems (ICROFS) invites, in collaboration with the board of the Green Development and Demonstration Programme (GUDP), applications for funding of projects which carry out research and development and/or demonstration in relation to business-oriented innovation within the Danish organic food sector and deliver public goods that contribute to the protection of climate, environment, biodiversity, animal welfare and rural development. The projects must support both green as well as financial sustainability, and GUDP and ICROFS place great emphasis on the scientific quality, news value, impact, and relevance of the projects.

The legal framework for grants under the Green Development and Demonstration Program (GUDP) can be found on the [Danish legislation information website](#) and [GUDP's website](#). The GUDP scheme is regulated through the GUDP Consolidation Act¹ and the GUDP Regulation² and is subject to the general rules of administrative law, including the Public Administration Act and the Public Records Act. Please, be aware that the GUDP Regulation which applies to Organic RDD 11 is new. Subsidies under the GUDP scheme are granted in accordance with EU state aid rules, including the General Block Exemption Regulation³ (hereinafter GBER) and/or the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation⁴ (hereinafter ABER).

A total funding of up to approx. DKK 55 million for Organic RDD 11 is available in 2025.

The funds available for this application round have been made available to the GUDP as part of the political agreement on the allocation of the research reserve funds for 2025⁵. The funds are earmarked for organic farming and food systems and are implemented in a collaboration between ICROFS and GUDP. Within the framework of [ICROFS' Research and Development Strategy 2023](#) and GUDP's legal basis, [the strategy 2023-2027](#) and [the action plan 2025](#) of the GUDP board this application round is targeted at selected challenges within organic food production, and the call and application material have been adapted accordingly.

This call covers applications for research projects including development and/or demonstration. Projects may apply for a total grant of DKK 250,000 to DKK 10 million - projects applying for less than DKK 10 million are very welcome! As a starting point, 70 per cent of the funding for this

¹ Consolidation Act no. 23 of 4 January 2017 about the Green Development and Demonstration Programme (the GUDP Consolidation Act): <https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/ta/2017/23>

² Consolidation Act no. 514 of 27 May 2024 about the Green Development and Demonstration Programme (the GUDP Regulation): <https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/ta/2024/514>

³ The EU Commission's Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, Official Journal of the EU, L 187, p. 1 incl. later changes.

⁴ The EU Commission's Regulation (EU) No 702/2014 of 25 June declaring certain categories of aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union incl. later changes.

⁵ Agreement on allocation of the research reserve funds in 2025 <https://ufm.dk/aktuelt/pressemeddelelser/2024/filer/aftaler-om-for-delning-af-forskningsreserve-mv-for-2025.pdf>

application round may be used for projects with a business plan (Type 1 – is described on page 9), while up to 30 per cent of the funds can be used for projects focusing on the contribution of organic farming to public goods without a business plan (Type 2 – is described on page 9). The final distribution of funds will depend on the submitted applications.

Deadline for applications is Tuesday 6 May 2025 at 12.00

- Applications incl. annexes must be received by GUDP no later than 12.00 on the date of application - be aware that e-mails with a total file size over 25 MB cannot be handled by GUDP's servers.
- To be considered eligible for funding from the Organic RDD scheme, the application must comply with the application deadline and the formal requirements described in this call and in the accompanying guidelines.

Before you apply

We kindly suggest that you carefully read through this call and the '[Guidelines for completing the application forms for the Organic Research, Development and Demonstration Programme \(Organic RDD\) 11](#)', and [ICROFS' Research and Development Strategy 2023](#) before preparing the application. Furthermore, we recommend that you look at the 'Instructions on payment of Grants' (only in Danish) for grants given in round 2-2023 and onwards under [the Green Development and Demonstration Program \(GUDP\) - Danish Agricultural and Fisheries Agency](#) under the grant scheme '[Organic Research, Development and Demonstration Programme \(Organic RDD\)](#)'. Choose the tab "Søg om udbetaling" ("Apply for payment").

Also, be aware of other grant schemes for research, development, demonstration and market maturation in the food sector and consider which scheme is most relevant to your project before applying. Lists of grant schemes can be found among others at State Grant Schemes: <https://www.statens-tilskudspuljer.dk/> and in the Grant Guidelines of The Danish Agricultural and Fisheries Agency <https://fiskeristyrelsen.dk/tilskud/soeg-tilskud/tilskudsguide> as well as at ICROFS' website: <https://icrofs.dk/soeg-forskningsmidler/alternative-forskningsmidler>. Reference can also be made to the publication [Fundinglandskab – energi, miljø og grøn udvikling \(Funding Landscape – Energy, Environment and Green Development \(only in Danish\)\)](#).

Learn more

Information meetings and individual feedback

Information meetings are held by the ICROFS-secretariat in connection with the call. At the information meeting on 26 February you can learn more about the Organic RDD 11 call, including the criteria on which the evaluation of project applications are based. At the information meeting on 26 March, you can hear more about the application forms and requirements for completion. Keep an eye on www.icrofs.dk for further information and registration.

If you are in doubt whether your project idea meets the criteria for receiving grants from the Organic RDD programme, you are welcome to send a project outline of maximum 2 pages to the ICROFS-secretariat. Based on the submitted project outline, the secretariat will provide you with individual feedback. You can find the template for the project outline in English on the Danish Agricultural and Fisheries Agencies grant guide under the grant scheme '[Organic Research, Development and](#)

Demonstration Programme (Organic RDD)'. Also, you can find it on ICROFS' website. The project outline must be sent via e-mail to icrofs@icrofs.org, and the secretariat strives to have a maximum processing time of one week.

Requirements for the application

Application forms and guidelines

The application forms and the guidelines for filling in the application forms can be found at ICROFS' website, and under the grant scheme 'Organic Research, Development and Demonstration Programme (Organic RDD)' in the Grant Guidelines of The Danish Agricultural and Fisheries Agency. Choose the tap "Søg om tilskud" ("apply for grant"). It is a requirement that the application forms that are customized to the Organic RDD programme are used and that they are submitted within the deadline. Please, note that the application material must not be altered.

An application consists of:

- Form A: Main application form (including research-part)
- Form B: Budget form, Gantt diagram, lists of milestones and deliverables
- Form C: Participant form
- Form D: Additional business plan (if relevant)
- CVs for project manager and relevant key persons, incl. persons conducting research
- Up to 4 pages of enclosures – e.g. references, illustrations, technical drawings or supplementary calculations of the project effects.

Language

The application must be written in English, and all forms must be completed in English. However, a brief project description in Danish is required in Form A.

Submission

The application must be submitted by e-mail to gudp@lbst.dk. This includes:

- All relevant application forms, CVs and enclosures gathered in one PDF file. The total PDF file should be submitted in a non-scanned version without signatures as well as a scanned version with all signatures. If digital signatures are used, it is sufficient to send one PDF file in a non-scanned version with all digital signatures as long as the text is copyable.
- Form B must be attached in a separate Excel file.

Submission of the application material must be in accordance with § 15 of the Public Records Acts, as GUDP, as a public authority, must record the submitted documents received as part of administrative case processing, to the extent that the documents are relevant to the case. Submission of documents that for example cannot be opened without a digital key, does not, in principle, meet § 15 of the Public Records Act.

Acknowledgement letter confirming receipt of the application

When the application is received, the GUDP-secretariat will send an e-mail confirming receipt of the application, and when the application round ends, you will receive an acknowledgement letter confirming that the application has been received.

When will approvals and rejections be announced?

GUDP expects to announce approvals and rejections for grants by the end of 2025.

Applications may be rejected if they do not comply with the GUDP Act and the GUDP Regulation as well as the requirements stated in this call and the associated guidelines.

New in this Organic RDD application round

The following content changes have been made to this Organic RDD 11 application round as a result of the GUDP Consolidation Act being updated as of 27 May 2024:

Rules on overhead

- The change concerns the amendment of the rule in § 26, subsection 3, on overhead. The regulations on overhead are amended so that up to 18 per cent can be achieved without documented overhead expenses and up to 30 per cent if the overhead expenses are documented. Thus, the requirement that the company must promote societal goals through activities benefiting a broad audience and that the company must not be the immediate beneficiary to receive overhead of up to 30 per cent is removed.

Starting the project at your own expense and risk

- Change regarding § 10. Subsection 4 is removed ('Subsection 4. The applicant may start the project activity at their own expense and risk after submitting the application.'). This means that it is no longer possible to start projects before the GUDP-board has made a decision to fund the project.

Requirements for applicants and projects

Who can apply for grants?

- Research institutions
- Company registered persons
- Private companies
- Trade associations
- Associations/unions
- Self-governing institutions

All applicants must be registered in the Danish Central Business Register ('Det Centrale Virksomhedsregister – [CVR.dk](https://cvr.dk)). Foreign research institutions or companies cannot participate in a project as project participants, but they may, however, act as external advisors.

Grants are provided for?

Within the Organic RDD-programme grants are provided for applied research projects including development and/or demonstration activities. The project must at the same time promote both green and economic sustainability.

ICROFS' three sustainability criteria

Green sustainability is related to ICROFS' three sustainability criteria 'the Credibility of organic farming in relation to organic principles', 'the Contribution of organic farming to public goods' as well as 'Resilient systems', including the environment, climate, nature and biodiversity, sustainable use of resources, gentle production methods, soil health, animal health and welfare, human health and nutrition as well as food security and food quality. You can read more about public goods on ICROFS' website: <https://icrofs.dk/oekologiens-bidrag-til-samfundsgoder>.

Economic sustainability must be reflected in the proceeds of the project. Further economic impact must be visible in the dissemination of the project's idea, method or technology in the organic food sector.

It could be new:

- Tools or methods
- Processes
- Products
- Management and logistics solutions
- Technologies
- Production and agricultural systems

Grants are *not* provided for?

- Pure research projects
- Pure development projects
- Pure demonstration projects
- Pure investment projects
- Development of innovation competences
- Educational and course activities and similar
- Marketing and test marketing
- Collective generic campaigns (e.g. joint trade organisation campaigns)
- Special innovation activities (borrowing staff)

Organic principles and regulations

As a rule, grants are only given to projects if the applied methods are compatible with the organic principles⁶ and regulations⁷. Project activities are thus expected to follow the existing Organic regulations. There may be circumstances where certain project activities do not follow the existing

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02018R0848-20230221> (principles: pp. 12-16)
<https://icrofs.dk/om-icrofs/hvad-er-oekologisk-jordbrug/de-oekologiske-principper/>;
<http://www.ifoam.bio/principles-organic-agriculture-brochure>

⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DA/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02018R0848-20230221>

organic regulations. If this is the case, it **MUST** be clearly indicated and justified in the application. This typically occurs in projects where the organic regulations are challenged, but the project's purpose is in line with the organic principles.

Project types eligible for grants

Type 1 (with a business plan):

- Duration max. 4 years
- Projects with applied research content including development and/or demonstrations activities (but NOT pure research projects).
- The project must improve both green and economic sustainability
- A business plan demonstrating the utilization of the project results must be prepared.

Type 2 (without a business plan):

- Duration max. 4 years
- Projects with applied research content including development and/or demonstrations activities (but NOT pure research projects).
- Impact on public goods and green sustainability effects as well as the further economic effects for stakeholders and society
- The project results cannot be turned into a financial gain for the individual farmer or company, and a business plan is NOT to be prepared for the project, but the further economic effects for stakeholders and society must be estimated.

Both Type 1 and Type 2 projects are projects in which one or more participants accomplish a number of interdependent and supporting activities such as:

- Applied research activities that are related to planned research and critical studies to acquire new knowledge and skills that can be used to develop new systems, products, processes or technologies and to document public goods. The results of the activities carried out are not expected to be commercialized in the short term.
- Development activities, including demonstration activities that are related to developing new or improved systems, products, processes or technologies based on the acquisition and use of existing scientific and other relevant knowledge and skills. The new systems, products, processes or technologies are expected to be applicable and commercialized, in the short term. Development activities may include prototypes, demonstrations, production of pilots, testing and validation of new or improved products, processes or services in contexts that are representative of real operating conditions, with the primary purpose of technically developing products, processes or services that have not yet received a final form.
- Demonstration activities that disseminate knowledge on how specific research and/or development activities can be used by a wide range of actors. Demonstration includes dissemination of scientific or technical knowledge etc. that is not distortive and does not market/resemble marketing of specific products or services. Meaning:
 - All stakeholders must have access to the demonstrated knowledge/practical solution.

- Demonstration does not include specific products or services that must be bought, to make use of the demonstrated knowledge/practical solution.

ICROFS' purpose, strategy and focus areas of the call

Purpose and strategy

ICROFS' purpose is to coordinate, conduct, and disseminate strategic and application-based research of high, international quality. ICROFS coordinates, on behalf of GUDP and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark, the national organic research program Organic RDD. [ICROFS' Research- and development strategy 2023](#) thus constitutes the basis for Organic RDD 11.

The Research- and development strategy is based on [IFOAM's principles of organic agriculture](#) and the [EU council regulation on organic production](#) and sets the direction for ICROFS' allocation of research- and development funds. The goal is research-based knowledge and technologies, that support a continuous growth and development of the organic sector, and increases the credibility, sustainability, and contribution to public goods, of and from the organic sector. The strategy is devised by ICROFS with a wide involvement of businesses, industry, organizations, research environments, and the authorities.

Success criteria

[ICROFS' Research- and development strategy 2023](#) aims for practice-oriented solutions and research, which is carried out in close collaboration between researchers and stakeholders throughout the value-chain (farmers, companies, authorities, consumers, organizations), in order to develop innovative and competitive solutions, as well as documenting and disseminating these to stakeholders and society. This is reflected in the following four key success criteria to be promoted in the research projects:

- Sustainability - the projects must contribute to an organic production and food system, which is sustainable in the broad sense of the term, including climate, biodiversity, environment, health and welfare as well as economically, and socially
- Innovation - the projects must contribute to innovative production- and food systems that meet consumer- and societal demands for organic products and public goods
- Growth - the projects must contribute to resilient, productive, and efficient organic production- and food systems, and support continuous sustainable growth in production
- Credibility - the projects must contribute to the credibility of organic farming and food systems in relation to IFOAM's principles of organic farming

Based on the success criteria, the Organic RDD-projects are evaluated and prioritized from their quality and impact on five areas:

- Research-based quality (Forskningsfaglig kvalitet)
- Green impact
- Economic impact
- Dissemination and end-user involvement

- Relevance and potential regarding the development of organic agriculture and food systems

Focus of the Organic RDD 11 programme

The central development tracks for the Organic RDD 11 programme are to support the green transition through growth in the organic area and growth in demand, consumption and export of organic products, including plant-based foods, for the benefit of climate, environment, drinking water and nature (Landbrugsaftalen – the Agricultural Agreement of October 4, 2021⁸)

The development of the organic sector must be made with a focus on creating an industry which is sustainable and robust for both the farmer and for society and meets expectations of the consumers and society.

Through six focus areas [ICROFS' Research and development Strategy 2023](#) addresses the central challenges and potentials of organic farming and food systems.

- CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY
- CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT
- BIODIVERSITY
- HEALTH AND WELFARE
- THE ORGANIC CONSUMER OF THE FUTURE
- ORGANIC FARMING – AS A LIVING

Under the Organic RDD 11-programme, applications can be made for all six focus areas. The projects should conduct a farming and food system approach, be interdisciplinary and holistically oriented, and incorporate the value chain and users of the knowledge produced. It should be noted that agroecological and regenerative methods as well as agroforestry are an integrated part of [ICROFS' Research and development Strategy 2023](#). Projects targeting these topics are welcome on an equal footing with projects targeting other topics that fall under the strategy.

Prioritisation and selection criteria

Organic RDD projects must contribute to the criteria illustrated in ICROFS' "spider web" (see figure 1 below). Applicants must ensure that the investigated effect(s) within any of the criteria is seen as part of a larger whole. Thus, applicants must aim to ensure that improvements in one area do not have significant negative impact on others.

⁸ [Agreement on the green transition of Danish agriculture of 4 October 2021](#) between the government, Venstre (the Liberal Party of Denmark), Dansk Folkeparti (Danish People's Party), Socialistisk Folkeparti (Green Left), Radikale Venstre (the Danish Social Liberal Party), Enhedslisten (the Red/Green Alliance), Det Konservative Folkeparti (The Conservative People's Party), Nye Borgerlige (the New Right), Liberal Alliance (Liberal Alliance) og Kristendemokraterne (the Christian Democrats).

A project does not need to have an effect within all criteria in the spider web, however:

- **Type 1 projects** (with a business plan) must have effect on at least one green and one economic criterion as well as effect on the criterion 'Dissemination and stakeholder involvement'.
- **Type 2 projects** (without a business plan) must at least have an effect on the green criterion 'Contribution of organic agriculture to public goods' and on the criterion 'Dissemination and stakeholder involvement'. The results may not generate an immediate financial gain for the individual farmer or company, but the further economic effects for stakeholders and society must be estimated (Criterion 5). To the extent that the projects can also contribute to the other criteria applicable to Type 1 projects, the contribution to the criteria 'Credibility in relation to organic principles,' 'Resilient systems,' and 'Project proceeds' should be quantified. If the project has effects in relation to the criterion 'Project proceeds,' the applicant should consider whether the project should be applied for as a Type 1 project.

For the green criteria, regardless of whether the project has multiple effects, only the primary effects should be quantified, while any other green effects (non-primary effects which are not investigated in the project) should be described in text form.

In addition to the projects' effects in relation to the criteria in ICROFS' "spider web," ICROFS places particular emphasis on the scientific quality, news value, and relevance of the projects, as well as their anchoring in the industry. ICROFS' board prioritizes among the best project applications based on what the board considers will have the greatest impact on organic production and its contribution to public goods.

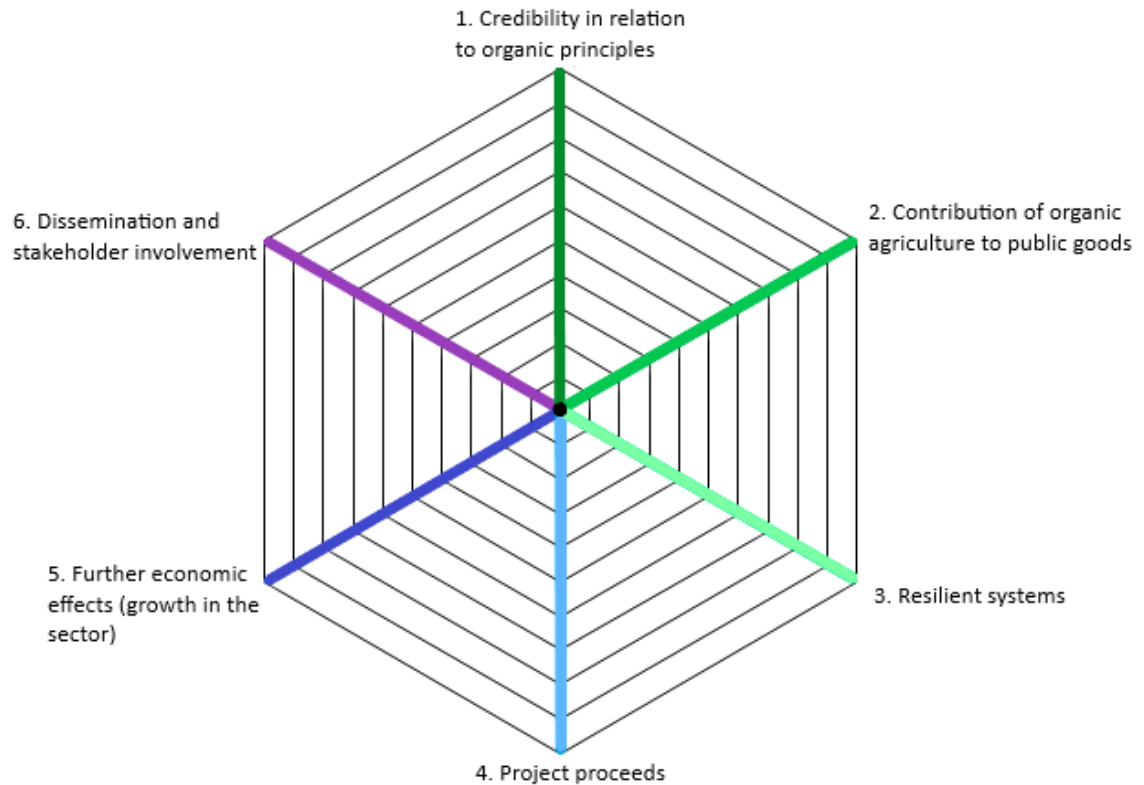


Figure 1: ICROFS' "spider web". The six criteria that are included in the evaluation of the project applications

ICROFS' three green sustainability criteria

The project must have an impact/effect on at least one of ICROFS' green sustainability criteria.

1. Credibility in relation to organic principles

- Here, the focus is on effects from the consumers' perspective.

2. The contribution of organic farming to public goods

- Here, the focus is on effects from society's perspective – often more long-term effects.

3. Resilient systems

- Here, the focus is on effects from the producers' perspective.

Overall, effects related to 'Credibility in relation to organic principles' will often reflect the consumers' perspective, while effects related to 'The contribution of organic farming to public goods' reflect a more general societal concern and a more long-term perspective. Effects related to 'Resilient systems' reflect the producers' perspective.

As shown in Figure 2 below, there is overlap between the three green criteria, and an effect can fall under more than one green criterion. Therefore, it can be difficult to say unequivocally that an effect belongs to one or the other criterion. However, an effect should only be described under the criterion found most appropriate by the applicant.

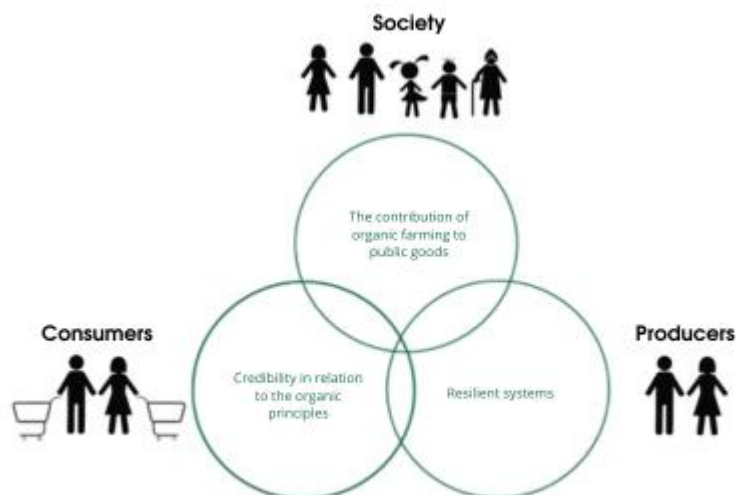


Figure 2: ICROFS' three green sustainability criteria

Below is a brief introduction to each of ICROFS' three green criteria, along with some examples of what is considered a contribution. The list under each criterion is not exhaustive.

1 Credibility in relation to the organic principles

The credibility of organic farming in relation to the fundamental organic values and IFOAM's principles⁹ for organic farming are a prerequisite for consumers to maintain their confidence in the organic production method and organic products and thus for continued growth of the organic sector. In other words, this is about the consumers' trust in how and under what conditions organic production takes place

The project's contribution to increased credibility in relation to IFOAM's principles for organic farming must be described and the applicant must thus quantify the expected project contributions and effects. Some examples of what is considered contributions to increased credibility in relation to the organic principles are given below.

The list is not exhaustive.

- Improved soil fertility – the project's contribution to improved soil fertility, including texture, water, biological activity, nutrition, carbon sequestration etc.

⁹ <https://www.ifoam.bio/principles-organic-agriculture-brochure>; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32018R0848&from=DA>

- Circular bioeconomy/recirculation/use of by-products – the project's contribution to increased recirculation both within the individual farm/company and in interaction with society.
- Optimization of the food system – the project's contribution to optimizing resource utilization and nutrient flows, including utilization of local resources and energy consumption. Additionally, reducing the environmental and climate impact of the food system as a whole¹⁰.
- Gentle processing methods – the project's contribution to the development of gentle processing of raw materials, use of natural processing methods and additives, etc.
- Locally produced – the project's contribution to locally produced feed and use of local raw materials.
- Naturalness in relation to farm animals - the project's contribution to the use of combination breeds and the animals' access to an environment as well as feed and forage in accordance with their physiological and behavioral needs.

2 The contribution of organic farming to public goods

The contribution of organic farming to public goods is also a prerequisite for consumer confidence. The EU Council Regulation's principles for organic farming¹¹ include the importance of working on soil fertility, biodiversity, animal welfare and sustainable production and processing in relation to the environment, nature and climate. This focus contributes to making organic farming an important societal contributor.

It is assumed that the identification and development of organic farming's contributions to public goods will strengthen the entire sector.

Focusing on the contribution of organic farming to public goods will ensure that organic farming and aquaculture are among the most powerful opportunities for a future with more environmentally friendly primary production that can support the efforts in relation to climate, nature and biodiversity plans, animal welfare and the Water Framework Directive and a reduction of the pesticide consumption.

Contributions to the identification of or development of the contributions of organic farming to public goods must be described, and the applicant must quantify the contributions expected from the project within a specified timeframe. Below examples of contributions of organic farming to public goods is provided.

The list is not exhaustive, and it is recommended to study the knowledge synthesis 'The Contribution of Organic Farming to Public Goods'^{1,12,13}.

¹⁰ Examples of effects based on sustainable utilization of resources:

- Same output produced with less input
- Same input produces a larger output (including utilization of waste products)
- Same output is refined with the same or less input

¹¹ Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02018R0848-20241201>
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DA/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02018R0848-20241201>

¹² http://icrofs.dk/fileadmin/icrofs/Diverse_materialer_til_download/Vidensynte_WEB_2015_Fuld_laengde_400_sider.pdf

¹³ http://icrofs.dk/fileadmin/icrofs/Diverse_materialer_til_download/web_OKvidensyntesen_okt_2015.pdf

- Nature and biodiversity – e.g. increased biodiversity – the project's contribution to an increased biodiversity, including agricultural as well as wildlife biodiversity and at the levels of gene, species and landscape.
- Environment – the project's contribution to an improved environment including water environment and ground water.
- Climate impact – the project's contribution to a reduced emission of greenhouse gases including carbon sequestration in soil and wood pulp, provided that the results will be expanded subsequently. Additionally, processes or measures that help mitigate the effects of climate change, such as specific cultivation strategies (e.g., intercropping) or the cultivation of crops and varieties that are robust to a changing climate.
- Human health and welfare – the project's contribution to human health and welfare, including food safety, nutritionally improved diets, energy intake, dietary supplements, but also to the quality of life and absence of pesticide residues, resistance to antibiotics, substances hazardous to health etc.
- Soil health and fertility - The project's contribution to living soil that contains essential nutrients, which are passed on to crops and to animals and humans, thereby also affecting their health.
- Animal health and welfare –the project's contribution to improved animal welfare and health (including immunity and resilience), nutrition, natural and species-specific behaviour considering animals as emotional individuals capable of having positive and negative experiences. Additionally, the absence of pain, fear and stress, as well as indicators of positive experiences for the animals.
- Industry and employment in rural districts – the project's contribution to the development of the sector, focusing on knowledge on the future organic consumer and conditions that improve development opportunities and working conditions.

3 Resilient systems

Effects on 'Resilient Systems' is typically seen from a producer's perspective. Resilient systems enable the producer to produce under various conditions (e.g. for a farmer variation in climate) with less fluctuation in yield, which is why efficient and resilient farming systems are important in a biological as well as economic sense.

In the context of organic farming, higher productivity is based in particular on optimizing the way in which the individual biological components mutually contribute and support each other, the manager's abilities within resource management, cost optimization, observation and understanding of the biological factors included in the farm operations; whether it is knowledge of the ecosystem services linked to the soil's fertility and yield, functional biodiversity or regulation of animal diseases. At the same time, it is important to clarify the impact of processing on the quality of the products.

It is worth noticing that optimization and efficiency at this level requires both very specific knowledge of the individual components as well as knowledge on system level.

Contributions to resilient systems must be described and the applicant must quantify the expected project contributions within a specified timeframe. Some examples of what is considered contributions to resilient systems are given below.

The list is not exhaustive.

- Ecosystem services – the project’s contribution (through agroecological methods or, e.g. by using regenerative methods) to augment ecosystem services such as soil fertility and yield, structure and water holding capacity, functional biodiversity and regulation of plant and animal diseases while reducing the risks of long-term problems with e.g. root weeds, pests and diseases.
- Adequate access to nutrients – the project's contribution to ensuring access to nutrients for the primary production e.g. through optimization of nutrient cycles/recycling.
- Resistance to external pressure and change – the project’s contribution to the development of production systems (e.g. agroforestry) in which the individual elements mutually support and compensate for each other in case of unexpected changes in the environment and resist pressure in the form of diseases/pests, climate changes and market fluctuations.
- Species, varieties, and breeds - the project's contribution to the use of robust plant species and varieties as well as robust livestock species and breeds that are suited to local conditions and the organic production system.
- Climate - the project's contribution to greater resilience in addressing the consequences of climate change, such as drought periods, large amounts of rain over a short period, rising groundwater, etc.
- Technology and knowledge – the project’s contribution in the form of technology and knowledge that increase the capacity for observation/monitoring, processing, prevention, decision support and control/management including the implementation of operational diversity in the form of multi-functionality, farm collaboration and/or integration of the value chain to ensure a natural foundation and financial profitability (social innovation).
- Resource management and cost optimization – the project’s contribution to e.g. increased recycling/reuse of resources on the farm/company, conversion and implementation of renewable energy, resource-saving technologies and systems, etc.
- Marketing - the project's contribution to strengthening the marketing of organic products and services, including focusing on marketing channels as well as local and regional opportunities and barriers.

The two criteria concerned with economic sustainability

4 The proceeds of the project participant (Criterion 4 in ICROFS’ “spider web”)

The financial revenue generated by the project results for the grant recipients in year 1, 2, and 3 after the finalization of the project. Proceeds are only valid for the 3 years after project completion.

5 Further economic effect (Criterion 5 in ICROFS' "spider web")

Project potential for economic effects in relation to dissemination within the sector as well as the socio-economic impact. The effect only applies to companies / persons etc. outside the project participant group.

Criterion concerned with dissemination and stakeholder involvement

6 Dissemination and stakeholder involvement (Criterion 6 in ICROFS' "spider web")

As part of the project description, the applicant must prepare a communication plan for dissemination as well as user and stakeholder involvement (Form A) and a list of milestones and deliverables in that regard (tabs in Form B). This plan must include a description of the parties with an interest in the project idea and results and must describe how the project results are communicated to the relevant target groups. The project's communication plan for dissemination and stakeholder involvement is included in the assessment of the project. See the ['Guidelines for completing application forms for Organic RDD 11'](#), item A31.

It is important that:

- Relevant target groups, users and stakeholders are identified.
- The project efforts, results and perspectives are made widely visible to others, and that the results are implemented with the users, stakeholders and in the sector.
- The project involves, communicates with and disseminates to relevant target groups and involves the users and the sector in an on-going dialogue about the project, preferably as project participants or as part of an advisory group.
- The project results and perspectives are disseminated in the form of peer-reviewed scientific publications.

In dialog with ICROFS, the project manager must deliver at least one communication product per year which is disseminated via ICROFS' communication channels. This could be a press release, news article, column, podcast, video, or another communication product relevant to the message and target audience. The project manager is also expected to contribute to dissemination about the project at the start of the project as well as of project results at the end of project and at the end of the entire programme.

The project manager, and if possible 1-2 project participants, must participate in ICROFS annual Research- and Innovation workshop, and sufficient time and funds must thus be allocated to these meetings. The purpose of the workshop is to promote synergy between Organic RDD projects and other organic projects, as well as to advance research in organic farming and food production.

Read more about [ICROFS' Research and Development Strategy 2023](#)

The project's effects should be described in the application

A prerequisite for obtaining grants from the Organic RDD-program is that the project creates concrete measurable results that can be quantified and is preferably documented in the application.

When describing project effects in accordance with ICROFS “spider web”, the starting point must be indicated so that the project's contribution can be identified and quantified as far as possible.

The Guidelines for Organic RDD 11 specifies how the quantification for the individual criteria should be indicated.

The applicant must explain how the project can contribute to improvements. The expected project effects are included in the concrete assessment of the applications, and it is therefore important that the specified effects are assessed realistically and that the calculations are substantiated.

Commercialization and business plan

As funding from ICROFS and GUDP is granted with high priority to projects with commercial potential, business plan(s) are thus an important part of the project application for Type 1 projects. However, projects focusing on the contribution of organic farming to public goods (Type 2 projects) are exempted from this requirement and do not have to prepare a business plan. (See detailed information in the section ‘Funding and commercial issues’).

Holistic and multidisciplinary approach

Projects under the Organic RDD-programme should be based on an agricultural and food-systems approach, be interdisciplinary, holistic and involve the value chain and users of the knowledge produced.

Bridging the food sector

The wishes are to support an interdisciplinary approach as well as bridging, cooperation and sharing of knowledge between researchers, companies, farmers, aquaculture activities as well as actors from other sectors with expertise that may benefit the entire organic food sector.

Research and justification of project knowledge

Organic RDD projects must contribute to development and transformation of the Danish food industry through ambitious and business-oriented innovation. With the funds, ICROFS and GUDP will promote collaboration across industries, knowledge institutes and companies to ensure that experiences and results are documented and can be used in the future.

Research should be included in the projects as a relevant means of achieving specific development and demonstration goals that encourage a well-documented access to the market, and projects that receive public research funding must involve and engage the industry as an active partner.

International cooperation

It is possible to use international cooperation partners in cases where this may provide added value to the project. However, they cannot be included as project participants but be used as external assistance.

Risks

Grants may be provided for projects that involve significant risks but have equivalently high potential if the project succeeds. Therefore, grant approvals can be conditional to supplementary

investigations by the applicant on whether and how the project can be implemented. The investigations must identify the project's risks and highlight the potential benefits. If it is deemed necessary that such investigations are needed on the feasibility of the project, the applicant will be notified by the ICROS-secretariat and the GUDP-secretariat.

Funding and commercial issues

Active participation and co-financing

ICROFS and GUDP intends to further cooperation between different actors across sectors and industries to create synergy and strengthen knowledge sharing. Therefore, it is important that the projects involve partners from the industry, and it is a requirement that research and knowledge institutions contribute with a co-financing of at least 10 percent.

Subsidy rates

EU legislation on state subsidies sets the overall frame for the subsidy rates. It is important that the applicant provides accurate information on the activity type, project type and size of the companies involved. This is a prerequisite for GUDP to apply the correct subsidy rates (see Table 1). If too much subsidy has been granted it must be paid back with interest.

Table 1. Maximum subsidy rates for Organic RDD projects

Company size	Research and knowledge dissemination organizations*	Small companies		Medium-sized companies		Large companies	
		Individual	Cooperation	Individual	Cooperation	Individual	Cooperation
Activity type							
Applied research	90 pct.	70 pct.	80 pct.	60 pct.	75 pct.	50 pct.	65 pct.
Development activities (Experimental development), including demonstration activities related to non-agricultural products**	90 pct.	45 pct.	60 pct.	35 pct.	50 pct.	25 pct.	40 pct.
Demonstration related to agricultural products***	70 pct.	70 pct.	70 pct.	70 pct.	70 pct.	70 pct.	70 pct.

* Research and knowledge dissemination organizations can achieve a maximum subsidy of 100 pct. (however, maximum 90 pct. from GUDP) of the eligible costs for the implementation of non-commercial research and development activities, provided that the research results of the research institutions are subject to continuous publication, including education. Private research and knowledge dissemination institutions are equated with universities in terms of subsidies. This is

reflected in the subsidy rates and overhead rates that private research and knowledge dissemination institutions will be able to receive.

** Demonstration activities related to non-agricultural products are limited to activities defined in the development provision of the General Block Exemption Regulation Article 25. In these cases, the support rate depends on the size of the enterprise and whether it involves collaboration.

*** Demonstration activities related to agricultural products are exempted under Article 21 of the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation, which covers the products listed in Annex I to the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#). In these cases, a 70% support rate for demonstration (knowledge-sharing) can be provided to companies. When providing support to large enterprises, the project must benefit small and medium-sized enterprises.

Requirements for collaborative projects

In order to receive an increased subsidy for cooperation projects, it must be a collaboration between companies, of which at least one is an SME, and where no individual company has a budget of more than 70 pct. of the eligible costs. Or the collaboration must be between a company (regardless of size) and a research and knowledge dissemination institution, where the latter has a budget of at least 10 per cent of the eligible costs.

In collaborative projects with an increased subsidy rate, the project results must be widely disseminated via conferences, publications, open access archives, free software or open-source software. However, this does not apply to confidential information.

Eligible expenses and costs

Expenditure items that are eligible for funding are described in the application guidelines under Form B.

Business plan

The Organic RDD-program emphasizes the commercial perspectives of the projects. However, this does not apply to projects that focus on the contribution of the organic sector to public goods (type 2 projects). The business plan should provide an overview of the business model, organization and economy of the intended product(s). The information should be based on facts with references to relevant sources. It is important to support the information with data describing e.g. market size and growth rates.

For more information about business plans, see 'Guidelines for completing the application forms for The Organic Research, Development and Demonstration Programme (Organic RDD 11) (A32-A38) which is available on the Agricultural and Fisheries Agency's grant guide. Go to [Tilskudsguide - Landbrugs- og Fiskeristyrelsen](#) and choose the tab "[Økologisk Forsknings-, Udviklings- og Demonstrationsprogram \(Organic RDD\)](#)" ("The Organic Research, Development and Demonstration Programme (Organic RDD)"). The application material can also be found at [ICROFS' website](#).

Procedure for the processing of applications

The processing of the applications received will be based on the submitted material and the ICROFS-secretariat and GUDP will review the projects in relation to the specified criteria. The scientific quality of the projects will be evaluated by an international panel of experts.

The role of the ICROFS-board

The ICROFS-board plays a central role in the assessment of applications with due respect of the general rules of impartiality and confidentiality. The ICROFS board evaluates all applications and – based on the review by the ICROFS-secretariat as well as the evaluation made by the international panel of experts – the ICROFS board submits to the GUDP-board a substantiated proposal for program composition, and the GUDP-board decides which projects should receive approval of grants.

During the processing of applications, the ICROFS- and GUDP-secretariats may contact the project manager with clarifying questions. However, it will not be possible to provide new information that improves the application. In special cases, the secretariats may also seek professional advice from external experts. The ICROFS-secretariat ensure that external experts are impartial and impose on them confidentiality in the processing of the application material.

Scientific evaluation

Innovation Fund Denmark (Innovationsfonden) has approved that the ICROFS-secretariat will be performing the scientific evaluation of the projects, based on input from an international panel of researchers, which has been approved by Innovation Fund Denmark, cf. the Fund's model 1 for scientific evaluation. The Innovation Fund Denmark (Innovationsfonden) make their final assessment of the scientific quality on the basis of the evaluation performed by the international expert panel. If the scientific quality is not considered eligible for support, the project cannot receive a grant. If the scientific quality is considered eligible for support, the ICROFS-board will use the other comments from the panel as part of the basis for their decision.

The international expert panel evaluates the application based on two main criteria: 1. The scientific quality (Form A: A22-1 to A22-6 and Form B incl. Gantt diagram), and 2. The project participants' research qualifications (Form A: A20-1 and CVs as well as A22-5).

1. The scientific evaluation of the application is based on three criteria:
 - Sound concept¹⁴ and quality of objectives
 - Progress beyond the state-of-the-art
 - Quality and effectiveness of the scientific and technological methodology and associated work plan
2. The project participants' research qualifications are based on two criteria:
 - Quality and relevant experience of the individual participants
 - Quality of the consortium as a whole (including complementarity, balance)

¹⁴ Refers to the overall project description with an evident link between background, objectives, and the work performed as the basis for the expected project effects.

The international expert panel assigns a score (0-5) for each criterion. A score of less than 3 for one of the two main criteria means that the project application does not proceed in the selection process. In the part of Form A, which is concerned with the scientific quality, the research content, problem description, hypothesis, theoretical background, research plan and methods, time schedule, expected results and risks must be accounted for, including a description of the new knowledge this research contributes to. In addition, the participating researchers' qualifications must be described.

Consultative procedure in relation to scientific evaluation and the ICROFS-board recommendation

As external advice has been obtained from the ICROFS-board, scientific experts and from the Innovation Fund, the applicant has the right to comment on the external assessment during the consultative procedures. This is done in order to clarify whether the evaluation is based on misunderstandings in relation to the application. The applicant's comments may be presented to the persons responsible for the external scientific advice in order to clarify any misunderstandings.

Confidentiality

All applications will be handled with confidentiality within the framework of the Danish Act on Public Administration (Lov om offentlighed i forvaltningen).

Publication of applications

For each application round, the GUDP-secretariat publishes a list of applications received. Once the GUDP-board has selected the projects that will receive grants, project titles, grant sums, names and contact information of project managers will be published on www.gudp.dk. The grant sums may appear in total and/or distributed on the individual participants. Corresponding information may be published for the projects that have received rejections. For all projects that receive grants the title, participants, total budget and grant agreements, start and end dates and the short project description from the application are also published in 'Grøn Projektbank' on <https://groenprojektbank.dk/>. 'Grøn Projektbank' is a project database initiated by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark in collaboration with Innovation Fund Denmark (Innovationsfonden).

GUDP reports the statutory information to the European Commission's state Aid Register¹⁵.

During and after the project

ICROFS' annual Research and Innovation Workshop

The ICROFS-secretariat is organizing an annual Research and Innovation Workshop for all Organic RDD projects. The purpose of the annual workshops is to facilitate synergy between Organic RDD and CORE Organic projects as well as possible GUDP projects concerning organic agriculture, and to advance research in organic agriculture or food systems.

¹⁵ More information on the EU state aid register's reporting system can be found on the Danish Business Authority's [website](#).

Each project is assigned a contact person in the ICROFS-secretariate, who regularly is in dialogue with the project manager and follows the project. The contact person from ICROFS must be invited to all project meetings and strives to participate at least once a year. Employees from the GUDP-secretariat may also, in some cases, participate as observers in the project meetings or steering group meetings.

Progress and final reports

With progress- and final reports, ICROFS and GUDP are able to follow the projects from start to finish, including processing and approval of the grant recipient's budget as well as feedback regarding finances and activities.

- Progress report: Every year around 1 April, all organic RDD projects must submit a progress report and a sub-statement on results and progress in the project. The first progress report must be submitted after the project has been running for at least eight months. If payment is requested before the first progress report is submitted, a smaller statement of the status of the project must be submitted.
- Final report: When an Organic RDD project is completed, a final professional report and final accounts must be submitted no later than three months after the project has ended. The final report must describe the content of the project, including the activities of the project, challenges along the way, how these were handled, and the results achieved.

As part of the progress report as well as the final report, the project manager must ensure that all disseminated project material (that is e.g. scientific articles and other publications, conference papers, workshops, etc. as well as any press material and links to journalistic coverage of the project in the media) is uploaded to [Organic Eprints](#). Organic Eprints is an open online-archive for research in organic agriculture and food systems. Together with the final report, a list of the disseminated material is prepared with links to each publication in Organic Eprints.

The final report consists of an internal part for the secretariat, and a public part that will be published on Organic Eprints, www.gudp.dk and in [Grøn Projektbank](#), it appears from the template for the final report which sections are to be published.

Dissemination and reporting

The results of an Organic RDD project should be disseminated to the largest extent possible so that farmers, advisors, companies and researchers can use them and build on them. Furthermore, knowledge about green innovation in the food industry must be disseminated to a wider public audience when the results are of general public interest. Therefore, communication is an important part of all Organic RDD projects.

It must be clearly stated in connection with all forms of dissemination of a project that it is a part of the Organic RDD programme, which is coordinated in a joint collaboration between ICROFS and GUDP. For example, the following phrasing can be used: *“(Name of project) is a part of the Organic RDD 11 programme which is coordinated by ICROFS (International Center for Research in Organic*

Food Systems). The project has received grants from the Green Development and Demonstration Programme (GUDP) under the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Fisheries of Denmark.”

Project dissemination via ICROFS' communication channels

The ICROFS-secretariat prepares, in collaboration with the project manager, a website for each of the projects that receive approval of grants. Previous Organic RDD project descriptions can be seen at ICROFS' website: <http://icrofs.dk/forskning/dansk-forskning/>. In addition, the ICROFS-secretariat prepares an article or press release in dialogue with the project manager and/or the project partners. It will be published on ICROFS', GUDP's and the project's websites and contains a description of the project, quotes for press releases, if possible, and photos provided by the project. It should also be possible for journalists or specialist medias to use the articles in whole or in part in connection with media coverage of the project. A Communications Officer from ICROFS' communication team is assigned to the project to help ensure dissemination from the project.

All project publications must be uploaded to [Organic Eprints](#). If the project produces material relevant for practise (primary producers and consultants) it should be uploaded to [Organic Farm Knowledge](#) via Organic Eprints. ICROFS helps identify relevant material.

During the project, the progress reports can also be used in GUDP's news dissemination in a collaboration between the secretariat and the project manager.

No confidential information from the projects will be published¹⁶, please see below under publication.

Based on the Final report, the ICROFS-secretariat, in collaboration with the project manager and possibly project participants, will prepare relevant final communication products about the results of the project, how the end-users can apply this knowledge in practice, and what further research is needed within the project's subject area. The ICROFS-secretariat will disseminate the end-results and recommendations of the project via ICROFS communication channels and external media.

Publication of final reports

As a general rule, the report's non-confidential conclusions will be published digitally in [Organic Eprints](#), '[Grøn Projektbank](#)' and on www.gudp.dk. By agreement, the results, as mentioned, will also be conveyed as news items on www.icrofs.dk as well as www.gudp.dk, as press releases and targeted inquiries to relevant media.

ABER and GBER

Subsidies under the GUDP scheme, which is a national government grant scheme for initiatives within the Danish food cluster, constitute government grants and are therefore covered by the EU's rules on state aid.

¹⁶ The assessment of whether the information is confidential or not is carried out in accordance with the applicable rules of the Danish administrative law.

Subsequently, grants under the GUDP scheme are granted pursuant to the GUDP Act and the GUDP Regulation, as well as chapters I and II of ABER, including articles 21 and 38, and also chapters I and II of GBER, including articles 25, 27, 30 and 31.

In order to obtain support under the GUDP scheme, it is a prerequisite:

- a) That the grant recipient is not affected by crisis as defined in article 2, No. 59 in Regulation No. 2022/2472 of 14 December and article 2, No. 18 of Regulation No. 651/2014, and
- b) That the grant recipient has complied with any repayment orders issued by the European Commission in relation to one or more decisions in which state aid granted by the Danish authorities has been found to be against the law and incompatible with the internal market, and
- c) That the grant recipient at any time immediately informs the GUDP secretariat thereof, in case the grant recipient receives public funding for the same costs from other sources, including payments received under other national or EU initiatives.

<p><i>GBER (General block exemption Regulation)</i></p> <p>The European Commission's Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 on certain support categories and their compatibility with the internal market in accordance with articles 107 and 108 of the Official Journal of the European Union 2014, No. L 187, p. 1, and subsequent amendments.</p>	<p><i>ABER (Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation)</i></p> <p>Commission Regulation (EU) No 702/2014. of 25 June 2014 on the compatibility with the internal market pursuant to articles 107 and 108 in the Treaty of the European Union and its application of certain support categories within the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas, including subsequent changes.</p>
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When applying for a GUDP grant, you also commit yourself to ensure that the project in relation to which you apply for funding, will comply with the requirements prescribed by GBER and ABER. If you are approved for a GUDP grant, you must once again ensure and guarantee that the project meets these requirements. It is essential that you thoroughly examine whether or not the project complies with these requirements, as failure to comply with these requirements may result in you having to repay any funding in full or in part.

Processing of personal data, GDPR

GUDP applications are treated confidentially within the GUDP- and ICROFS-secretariats and are, as a rule, not handed out to outside parties. However, it is possible to apply for access to documents in accordance with the Act on Access to Information Held by Administrative Organs. But confidential information cannot be disclosed beyond the stipulated cases pursuant to the applicable rules.

Based on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which came into force in May 2018, we must make you aware of the following on GUDP's handling of personal data: Applicants for GUDP grants submit personal data in connection with the application and possibly in connection with the

subsequent processing of applications. Failure to submit information means that the GUDP application cannot be processed, cf. The GUDP Consolidation Act. of the Green Development and Demonstration Programme (the GUDP Act).

The ICROFS- and GUDP-secretariats and their boards deal with information in connection with the processing of applications and the project selection. Submitted material can be passed on to external experts outside the secretariats and to Innovation Fund Denmark (Innovationsfonden) in order to obtain scientific advice and assessment. Read about how Innovation Fund Denmark deals with personal data in connection to scientific counselling and assessment here: <https://innovationsfonden.dk/da/privatlivspolitik-innovationsfonden>. In addition, personal data can be exchanged with experts in and outside the GUDP- and ICROFS-secretariats in connection with follow-ups on the processing of the Organic RDD projects.

When checking Organic RDD-projects, personal data can be exchanged with other authorities in accordance with § 18 of the GUDP Act.

In addition to the submitted material, the GUDP-secretariat collects and stores personal data from publicly available sources in connection with information activities. The information is stored in the secretariat's archiving systems until the information is passed on to the Danish National Archives in accordance with Consolidation Act No. 1201 of 28 September, 2016 of the Archives Act. The information cannot be deleted. As stated above, parts of the project applications are published and GUDP passes on the above-mentioned personal information to the the EU Commission's State Aid Register.

The GUDP-secretariat will keep the information for one year after submission in closed file systems, after which they will be deleted. The information is also stored in the Danish Agricultural and Fisheries Agency's case processing system until the information is passed on to the Danish National Archives in accordance with the Archives Act. The information cannot be deleted.

Requests for access to or rectification of personal data can be directed to the GUDP-secretariat's data controller, who is the secretariat's team leader. The GUDP-secretariat's lawyer is the associate data processor for the above-mentioned personal data stored by the Danish Agricultural and Fisheries Agency. The data controllers and data processors can be contacted via the GUDP-secretariat's e-mail GUDP@lbtst.dk.