

Green Development and Demonstration Programme (GUDP)

Invitation of applications for
The Organic Research,
Development and Demonstration
Programme (Organic RDD) 12

Application deadline 6 May 2026 at 12.00

Colophon

Green Development and Demonstration Programme

Invitation of applications for funding under The Organic Research, Development and Demonstration Programme (Organic RDD) 12

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

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Invitation of applications for The Organic Research, Development and Demonstration Programme (Organic RDD) 12

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 the Organic Research, Development and Demonstration Programme (Organic RDD) 12.

The Organic RDD 12 projects must 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.

Grants for Organic RDD are provided on the basis of the legal framework for grants under the Green Development and Demonstration Program (GUDP) and can be found on the [Danish legislation information website](#) and under [Lovstof](#) ("Legal matters") in the Grant Guidelines that can be found on [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. 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 50.5 million for Organic RDD 12 is available in 2026.

The funds available for this application round have been made available to the Organic RDD Programme as part of the political agreement on the allocation of the research reserve funds for 2026⁵. 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 2026](#) 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

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 2022/2472 of 14 December 2022 on 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, as amended.

⁵ Agreement on allocation of the research reserve funds in 2026: <https://ufm.dk/media/o2qfwvqh/aftaler-om-forskning-og-innovation-2026-2029.pdf>

than DKK 10 million are very welcome! As a starting point, 70 per cent of the funding for this application round may be used for projects with a business plan (Type 1 – is described on page 11), 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 11). The final distribution of funds will depend on the submitted applications.

Deadline for applications is Tuesday, 6 May 2026 at 12.00

The application procedure has been partially digitalised in 2026

The application material for the Organic RDD 12 call has been changed. This means that the entire application must be submitted via an online platform, where parts of the application are completed directly in the digital application module and other parts are uploaded through the platform.

Access to the digital application module

Access to the digital application module can be found in the same place as the application materials, i.e., on [ICROFS website](#) as well as in the [Grant Guidelines of The Danish Food, Agricultural and Fisheries Agency](#).

As a general rule, applications submitted by e-mail will not be accepted.

However, the new procedures may mean that you, as an applicant, will have some questions, and that the staff receiving the applications may be extra busy providing guidance and support. Therefore, it is important to start your application well in advance. This will give you the opportunity to get help from the ICROFS-secretariat and the GUDP-secretariat in good time before the application deadline on 6 May at 12:00.

The digital application module closes at 12:00, and it will not be possible to submit applications after this time.

For questions regarding the application process, you can contact ICROFS' Secretariat at +45 87 15 77 71 or by e-mail at icrofs@icrofs.org, and GUDP's Secretariat at +45 72 18 56 00 or by e-mail at gudp@lfst.dk.

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

Before preparing the application, we kindly suggest that you carefully read through this call and:

- 'Guidelines for completing the application forms for the Organic Research, Development and Demonstration Programme (Organic RDD) 12'
- ICROFS' Research and Development Strategy 2023.

Furthermore, we recommend that you look at the “[Guidelines on the reimbursement of eligible costs under GUDP, January 2025](#)”.

In the application material it is described how parts of the application are to be completed in the digital application module as well as in a number of application forms, documents, and enclosures that must be uploaded via the online platform.

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 Food, 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 5 February you can learn more about the Organic RDD 12 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 Food, Agricultural and Fisheries Agency. 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 (Projektets omkostninger ("Project costs"), Samlet budgetoversigt ("Total budget")), Gantt diagram, lists of milestones and deliverables
- 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.
- Applicant's confirmation
- Declaration for Research- and knowledge dissemination institutions

Overview of elements that the applicant must complete in the digital application module

Parts of the elements in Form A (A1 – A11) must be completed in the electronic application module. These elements are listed in Table 1 below. The elements that were previously completed in Form C (participant form) must now be completed in the digital application module. It will also be indicated in Form A and the accompanying guidelines which elements must be completed in the electronic application module.

Table 1. Overview of elements that must be completed in the digital application module

Headings in the digital application module	Elements to Complete
Project Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project title • Project acronym • Project type and contents • Activities beyond research • ICROFS' focus areas • Project type (individual or collaboration) • Start date • End date • Municipality for project activities
Project Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief project description (in Danish)
Project Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVR number • Production unit / P number • Contact person name • Contact person title • Contact person phone • Contact person email • Municipality for participant's main activities

Overview of forms, documents, and enclosures that the applicant must attach in the electronic application module

Within the electronic application module, there is a tab called “Application forms and documents to be submitted.” This is where you, as the applicant, upload the completed forms, documents, and enclosures. Table 2 provides an overview of the forms, documents, and enclosures that you must upload in the digital application module.

Table 2. Overview of forms, documents, and enclosures that the applicant must attach in the electronic application module

Elements to be attached	Elements
One PDF file, including:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form A: the entire Form A, completed from A12-1 til A33 • CVs for all key persons (including participants involved in research) • Form D (additional business plans if the project has more than one) • Up to 4 pages of enclosures (optional)
Signatures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signatures from all individual project participants
Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration for Research- and knowledge dissemination
Form B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form B: excel sheet with budget, Gantt chart and list of milestones and deliverables

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, which, as indicated above, must be completed in the digital application module.

Submission

The application can be submitted once all relevant questions have been answered in the application module and the required application forms have been completed and uploaded within the application module. This includes:

- Form A, if relevant Form D, CVs and up to 4 pages of enclosures gathered in one PDF file, that must be uploaded in the digital application module
- Form B must be uploaded to the digital application module as 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 of receipt of the application

Once the application has been submitted in the digital application module, a confirmation screen will appear indicating that the application process has been successfully completed. After the application deadline, a confirmation letter will be sent to the email address specified in the application

When will approvals and rejections be announced?

GUDP expects to announce approvals and rejections for grants by the end of 2026.

Applications will, as a general rule, 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.

Requirements for applicants and projects

Who can apply for grants?

The Organic RDD programme primarily supports projects carried out in collaboration between the following actors:

- Private companies
- Company registered persons (including owners, tenant farmers and operators of agricultural holdings, commercial fishing vessels, and aquaculture)
- Associations, trade organizations, and similar entities
- Self-governing institutions
- Public and private research institutions

All applicants must be registered in the Danish Central Business Register ('Det Centrale Virksomhedsregister – [CVR.dk](https://cvr.dk)). It is possible to involve international partners when their involvement adds value to the project. Foreign research institutions or companies cannot participate in a project as project participants, but they may, however, act as external advisors.

Activities eligible for funding under the Organic RDD programme

Funding for Organic RDD projects is provided based on the EU block exemption regulations ABER and GBER. Each of these two block exemption regulations allows support for specific types of activities and also provides guidelines for the subsidy rates. See the section "Subsidy Rates" and Table 3.

Block Exemption Regulations ABER and GBER

The EU block exemption regulations provide guidelines for the types of projects that may receive support and under which terms and conditions, including the subsidy rate.

ABER is the block exemption regulation for the agricultural sector, while GBER is a general block exemption regulation that primarily applies to areas other than agriculture. However, there are certain exceptions where agriculture may still fall under GBER. Links to [ABER](#) and [GBER](#).

Within the framework of EU rules and the legal basis of GUDP, the ICROFS Board has, based on the 2023 strategy, decided that under the Organic RDD 12 call grants are provided for applied research projects including development and/or demonstration activities.

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

What is *not* eligible for funding under the Organic RDD programme?

- 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 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 demonstration activities (but NOT pure research projects).
- The project must improve both green and economic sustainability
- A business plan demonstrating the utilisation 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 demonstration 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 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.
- Development activities, including demonstration activities 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 commercialised, 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

⁶ 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/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02018R0848-20230221> (Chapter II Objectives and principles, pp. 12-16) <https://icrfs.dk/om-icrfs/hvad-er-oekologisk-jordbrug/de-oekologiske-principper/>; <http://www.ifoam.bio/principles-organic-agriculture-brochure>

⁷ 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/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02018R0848-20230221> (Chapter III, Production rules, pp. 16).

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 related to agricultural products involve the dissemination 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

ICROFS' purpose and strategy

ICROFS coordinates, on behalf of GUDP and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark, the national organic research program Organic RDD. ICROFS' purpose is to coordinate, conduct, and disseminate strategic and application-based research of high international quality. The research must support continued growth and development of the organic sector in a way that is sustainable and robust for both farmers and society, while meeting the expectations of consumers and society. The research must thus strengthen the credibility and sustainability of organic production and its contribution to public goods. On this basis, the Organic RDD programme is to support the green transition through growth in the organic area, as well as growth in the production, consumption, and export of organic products, including plant-based foods, for the benefit of public goods such as climate, environment, biodiversity, health, animal welfare, drinking water, and nature.

[ICROFS' Research- and development strategy 2023](#) constitutes the basis for the Organic RDD 12 call. The Research- and development strategy is based on [IFOAM's principles of organic agriculture](#) and the [EU council regulation on organic production](#), which specifies the objectives and principles of organic production. The strategy is devised by ICROFS with a wide involvement of businesses, industry, organizations, research environments, and the authorities.

Focus of the Organic RDD 12 programme

Under the Organic RDD 12-programme, applications may be submitted with all six focus areas of [ICROFS' Research and Development Strategy 2023](#):

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

It should be noted that 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.

Success and evaluation criteria for the Organic RDD programme

Research projects under the Organic RDD programme must aim 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, organisations). The projects should develop innovative and competitive solutions that can be implemented, as well as documented and disseminated to stakeholders and society. This is reflected in the following success criteria to be promoted in the research projects:

- Food System Approach – the projects must be interdisciplinary and holistically oriented, and incorporate the value chain and users of the knowledge produced
- Sustainability - the projects must contribute to an organic production and food system, which is sustainable in the broad sense of the term, that is sustainable in relation to public goods such as 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 strengthen the credibility of organic farming and food systems in relation to the principles and rules of organic farming as set out in the EU Organic Regulation.

Based on the success criteria, the Organic RDD projects are evaluated and prioritized based on the five following areas:

- Research-based quality (Forskningsfaglig kvalitet)
- Green impact
- Dissemination and end-user involvement
- Economic impact
- Relevance and potential regarding the development of organic agriculture and food systems

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.

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 an 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.

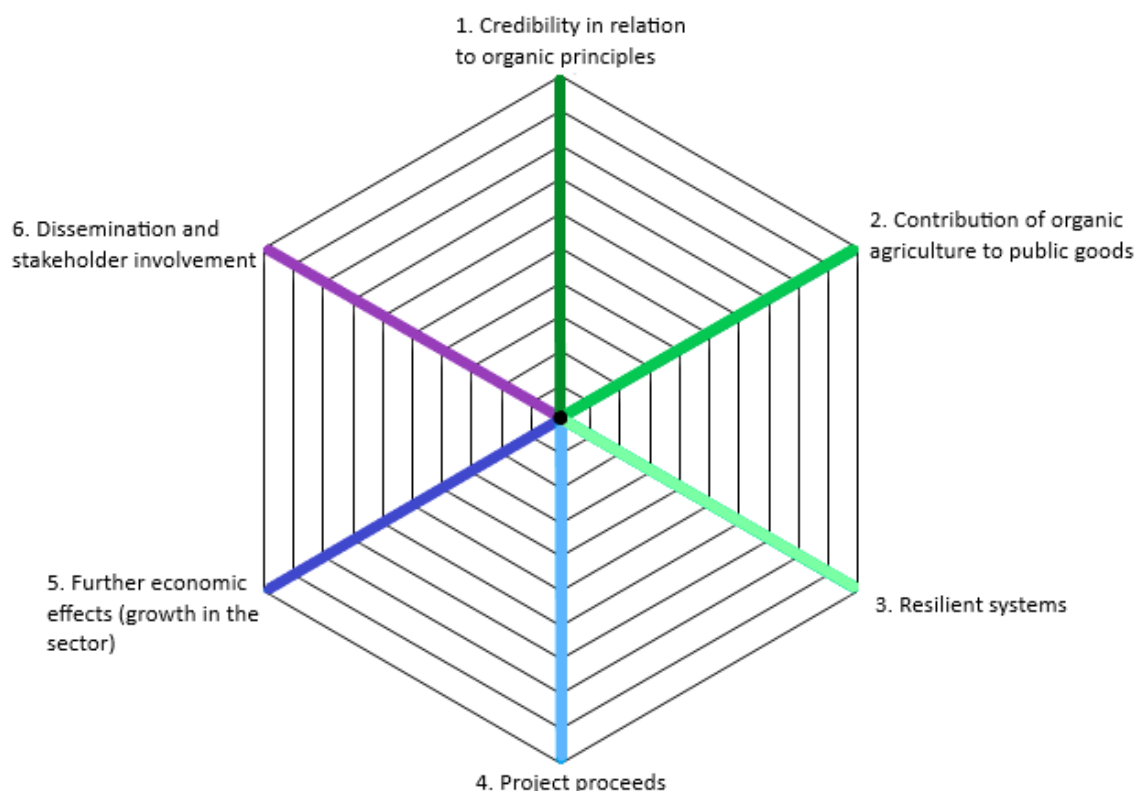


Figure 1. ICROFS' "spider web". The six criteria that are included in the evaluation of the project applications

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.

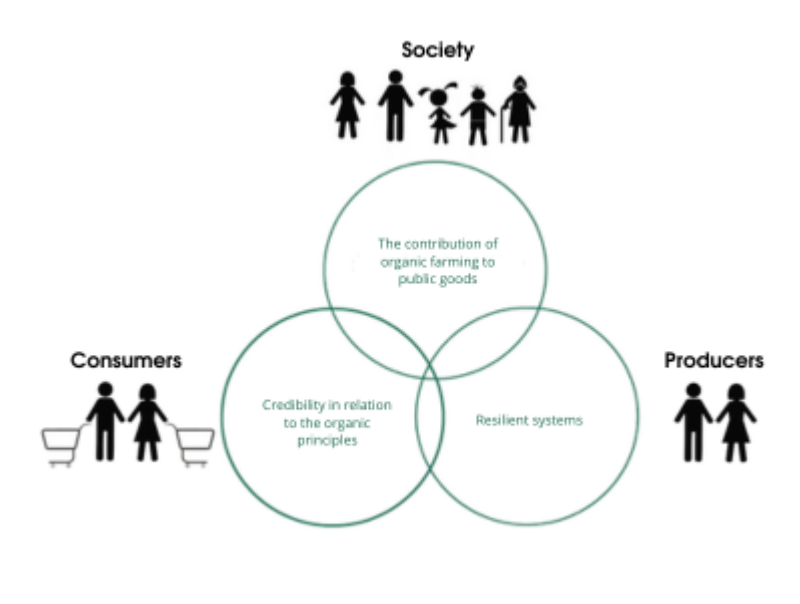


Figure 2. ICROFS' three green sustainability criteria

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 the principles and rules for organic farming as set out in the EU Organic Regulation⁸ 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 the organic principles as set out in the EU Organic Regulation 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.
- 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 whole⁹.
- 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 farming¹⁰ 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.

⁸ 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/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02018R0848-20230221> To be found in 'Chapter II: Objectives and principles of organic production' (p.12-16).⁹ Examples of effects based on sustainable utilization of resources:

⁹ 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

¹⁰ 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>

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'^{11,12}.

- 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.

¹¹ http://icrofs.dk/fileadmin/icrofs/Diverse_materialer_til_download/Vidensynte_WEB_2015_Fuld_laengde_400_sider.pdf

¹² http://icrofs.dk/fileadmin/icrofs/Diverse_materialer_til_download/web_OKvidensyntesen_okt_2015.pdf

3 Resilient systems

Effects on 'Resilient Systems' are 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.

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 12 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' board 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 as stipulated by EU's legislation on state subsidies

EU legislation on state subsidies sets the overall frame for the subsidy rates. It is important that the applicant provides accurate information regarding activity type, project type and size of the companies involved. This is a prerequisite for applying the correct subsidy rates (see Table 3).

When determining a subsidy rate as stipulated by EU's legislation on state subsidies, all of the following applicants are considered 'companies':

- Private companies
- Company registered persons (including owners, tenant farmers and operators of agricultural holdings, commercial fishing vessels, and aquaculture)
- Associations, trade organizations, and similar entities
- Self-governing institutions
- Public and private research institutions

As shown in Table 3, research institutions (research and knowledge dissemination institutions) have their own category in this context. If the project participant carrying out the research activities can confirm that they meet the requirements for being a research and knowledge dissemination institution, an increased support rate (up to 90%) may be granted in some cases. This may not apply if there is economic activity in the project.

To ensure that the correct subsidy rate is allocated, it is important that applicants provide accurate information about the type of activity, project type, and the size of the participating entities.

Although the project as a whole is research-based, there may be parts of the project that do not meet the research requirements. These parts must be specified with their own budget and a different support rate. In other words, an applicant may very well have two sub-budgets – depending on the type of activity.

The responsibility for ensuring that the recipient receives the correct subsidy rate lies with the project participants themselves. Any unjustified subsidy paid will be reclaimed with interest.

Table 3 shows the maximum subsidy rates granted for the types of activities that the ICROFS board has decided the Organic RDD program supports – within the framework of EU rules and the GUDP Act.

The description of which cost items are eligible for subsidy can be found in the guidelines for Form B under the section “Allowable expenses eligible for funding.”

Table 3. Maximum subsidy rates for Organic RDD projects

Company size	Research and knowledge dissemination institutions*	Small companies		Medium-sized companies		Large companies	
Project type		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.

* According to EU State aid rules, research and knowledge dissemination institutions, cf. § 2, no. 10, may receive up to 100% of project costs in public funding for carrying out non-commercial research and development activities. GUDP can provide a maximum of 90% of the eligible costs, and this is subject to the condition that research results are continuously made publicly available, possibly as part of teaching.

** Demonstration activities related to non-agricultural products are limited to activities defined in the development provision of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) Article 25. In these cases, the subsidy rate depends on the size of the enterprise and whether it involves collaboration. See further details on collaborative projects below.

*** Demonstration activities related to agricultural products are exempted under Article 21 of the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation (ABER), which covers the products listed in Annex I to the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#). For projects involving demonstration activities related to agricultural products, funding may be provided for up to

70% of the eligible costs. When providing funding to large enterprises, it is a prerequisite that the project results must benefit small and medium-sized enterprises.

Collaborative projects

As it appears from Table 3 above, in some cases an increased subsidy rate is granted if the project qualifies as a 'collaborative project'.

For collaborative projects to be eligible for increased funding, the following conditions must be met:

- At least one partner in the collaboration is categorized as a *small* or *medium-sized* enterprise (SME, see box below), and no individual partner may cover more than 70% 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 bears at least 10% of the eligible costs.

In both cases, it is a requirement that the project results are widely disseminated to benefit others in the sector. This can be achieved through conferences, publications, open-access repositories, or open-source software.

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)

Small and medium-sized enterprises are defined in accordance with § 2, no. 3 of the GUDP Regulation. SMEs include businesses that employ fewer than 250 people and have an annual turnover of no more than EUR 50 million and/or a total annual balance sheet of no more than EUR 43 million. Please refer to the [User Guide for the EU definition of SMEs](#).

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.

Procedure for the processing of applications

The processing of the applications received will be based on the submitted material and the ICROFS-secretariat and the GUDP-secretariat 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 ensures that external experts are impartial and imposes confidentiality on them 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. 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: A16-1 to A16-7 and Form B, incl. the Gantt diagram), and 2. The project participants' research qualifications (Form A: A14-1 and CVs, as well as A14-6).

1. The scientific evaluation of the application is based on three criteria:
 - Sound concept¹³ 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)

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 or research question, 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. References supporting the research part and the background of the

¹³ 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.

project may be included in the detailed project description in Form A or in the permitted maximum four pages of enclosures.

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 to clarify whether the evaluation is based on misunderstandings in the application. The applicant's comments may be presented to external scientific experts 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 Organic RDD 12, the ICROFS-secretariat and the GUDP-secretariat publishes a list of applications received. Once the two boards have selected the projects that will receive grants, the project title, project purposes, expected grant sums, and name of the main applicant's institution/company for each project will be published on www.icrofs.dk/en and 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 receive rejections. For all projects that receive grants, the title, participants, grant sum, as well as the short project description from the application are also published in 'Grøn Projektbank' on <https://groenprojektbank.dk/>. 'Grøn Projektbank' is an intergovernmental project database that consolidates projects from multiple funding schemes.

GUDP reports the statutory information to the European Commission's State Aid Register¹⁴.

Requirements for the applicant during and after the project

ICROFS' annual Research and Innovation Workshop

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

Each project is assigned a contact person in the ICROFS Secretariat, 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.

¹⁴ More information on the EU state aid register's reporting system can be found on the Danish Business Authority's [website](#).

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 submission of the first progress report, a brief statement of the status of the project must be submitted. ICROFS reviews the progress report and recommends approval to GUDP. No payment can be made without an approved progress report for the period in question.
- Progress reports are not published in full; however, during the project, they may be used for news dissemination by ICROFS' Secretariat and GUDP's Secretariat. If information from a progress report is used for public communication about a project, this will be done in collaboration between the project manager and the two secretariats.
- Final report: When an Organic RDD project is completed, a final professional report and final accounts. Both must be submitted no later than three months after the project has ended. The final report must be approved by ICROFS' Secretariat and GUDP's Secretariat. The report must include, among other things, an account of whether the project achieved its specific objectives, any challenges encountered during the project and how these were addressed. It must also assess whether the expected short- or long-term potential for green impact and the economic potential described at the project's start remain valid.

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 12 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.

No confidential information from the projects will be published¹⁵, 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.

Registration and processing of personal data

In accordance with § 15 of the Danish Public Records Act, all material submitted for case processing will be registered. Applications will be handled with confidentiality within the framework of the Danish Act on Public Administration (Lov om offentliggørelse i forvaltningen).

¹⁵ The assessment of whether the information is confidential or not is carried out in accordance with the applicable rules of the Danish administrative law.

For further information on how the GUDP-secretariat processes personal data and how to make requests for access to or rectification of personal data, please refer to the Grant Guidelines to be accessed via GUDP's website.