



Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes

CIHEAM BARI

press release

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## **Launch of the Sustainable Regeneration Call4Application for #InnovationPartners in the agri-tech sector**

CIHEAM Bari announces the official launch of the Call4Application for the Open Innovation - Design Thinking Labs to be set up in the framework of the ‘Sustainable Regeneration’ research project, in cooperation with Almacube (an incubator, accelerator and innovation centre of the University of Bologna and *Confindustria Emilia Centro*). An outstanding opportunity for innovators, start-ups, spin-offs, innovative companies, project ideas and research groups to join the movement for sustainable agriculture. The programme aims to develop innovative solutions to overcome the main challenges facing the agricultural sector.

The ‘*Sustainable Regeneration of Agriculture in the Areas Affected by Xylella fastidiosa*’ research and development project seeks to address the root causes of one of the world's most serious plant health emergencies that not only impacts the farmers but also the wider communities. The aim is to work hand in hand with innovators to develop solutions that can enhance agricultural and environmental sustainability, including through Venture Clienting, a new model of collaboration between start-ups and companies that is an alternative to venture capital.

Instead of buying an equity stake in a start-up, the easiest way to develop innovative solutions is to become a customer and use the product directly. The company can identify, pilot and validate innovative solutions in a fast and low-risk way, while enabling the start-up to scale its technology. The selected candidates will be able to respond to the innovation challenges submitted by the companies active in the open innovation community created by CIHEAM Bari through the ‘Sustainable Regeneration’ project, helping to meet some pressing needs and promote sustainability in the agricultural sector.

The selection process includes scouting, field acceleration and co-design in collaboration with CIHEAM Bari’s innovation partner Almacube.

The 5 most promising innovation partners will have the opportunity to bring their project to life through a proof of concept in close collaboration with one or more selected

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companies. A position as an independent contractor may be offered later to further develop the innovative solutions.

The application deadline is 24 November 2023 (11:59 pm CET). For more information and to apply: <https://www.f6s.com/sustainable-regeneration-program/apply>

The ‘*Sustainable Regeneration of Agriculture in the Areas Affected by Xylella fastidiosa*’ R&D project is coordinated by Puglia Region’s *Distretto Agroalimentare di qualità Jonico Salentino* (DAJS) and implemented by the University of Salento, the University of Bari Aldo Moro, the Polytechnic University of Bari, the CNR Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection, the Centre for Climate Change Studies and CIHEAM Bari. The Open Innovation Labs will be led by CIHEAM Bari as part of Task 5.3 - Open Innovation - Development of a Social Innovation Infrastructure.

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