AgrifoodTEF: deploying the digital transformation in agri-food.

AgrifoodTEF answers the call of the [DIGITAL-2022-CLOUD-AI-02-TEF-AGRIFOOD](#) initiative and operates under the Digital Europe framework. Launched in January 2023, the project is set to run until December 2027, spanning a total of 60 months.

AgrifoodTEF is a network of world-class testing and experimentation facilities in the agri-food sector, with a singular goal: to test state-of-the-art data, AI, and robotics solutions in real-world environments at scale, accelerating their market introduction. By providing access to cutting-edge infrastructure, expertise, and real-life conditions, AgrifoodTEF aims to lower barriers for technology adoption, reduce time-to-market for innovative solutions, and promote sustainable, efficient, and competitive food production systems. With an ambitious overall budget of €60 million, AgrifoodTEF encompasses eight nodes located in Italy, France, Spain, Poland, Austria, Sweden, Netherland, and Belgium (Flanders) and aims to achieve important key performance indicators: we aim to help more than 10 000 customers over Europe with offering more 500 services to bring more than 1 000 solutions to market readiness.

The Flemish node and its services

Led by [ILVO](#), the Flemish node of AgrifoodTEF had a remarkable start in 2023, becoming fully operational by the end of its first year. Leveraging its existing test infrastructures, experience in living labs like the Food Pilot Factory, and its role as a digital innovation hub, the Flemish node quickly deployed its initial services. These services support the entire agri-food business sector, covering a broad spectrum from field to fork, including technologies for precision crop and livestock farming, horticulture, forestry, environmental and energy technologies, food processing, food waste reduction, and even personalized nutrition solutions. The services target companies that have developed innovative solutions but need further assistance to test and refine their products before market launch.

What Does This Mean in Practice?

Our engagement begins with understanding the unique needs of each client. Once a service is selected from our catalog, we start the onboarding process, which includes a customized service agreement with integrated data management plan and non-disclosure agreement, to ensure transparency and trust. We provide continuous support throughout the entire customer journey, rather than just a one-off service, encompassing service execution, client advocacy, and ensuring customer satisfaction and above all valuable test results. Additionally, the Flemish site is responsible for establishing regulatory sandboxes for AI, drone, and robotics technologies.

AgrifoodTEF in the European Innovation Ecosystem

AgrifoodTEF benefits significantly from the synergies and added value of European cooperation within the TEF project network. The various nodes collaborate closely, sharing common approaches in areas such as quality management, customer relationship management (CRM) systems, testing protocols, service catalogs, governance, and business models, while also developing a common language for effective communication. This cooperation extends beyond agri-food to other Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEFs) in sectors such as healthcare ("TEF-Health"), manufacturing ("AI-MATTERS"), and smart cities and communities ("Citcom.AI").

More importantly, AgrifoodTEF plays a critical role in the innovation ecosystem of Flanders by creating significant synergies between the Digital Europe Programme and Horizon Europe. In Horizon Europe, foundational research is conducted, while the Digital Europe Programme focuses on bringing these innovations to market. AgrifoodTEF works in collaboration with other agricultural initiatives, such as the AgriData Space, and upcoming projects like EDICAgriFood, as well as digital initiatives like large-scale pilots for the deployment of the EU Digital Identity Wallet.

Through these synergies, AgrifoodTEF not only enhances Flanders' position in the European innovation landscape but also ensures that research and innovation in digital and agricultural technologies translate into practical, real-world applications.

More information: https://www.agrifoodtef.eu/ and agrifoodtefvlaanderen

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