EIT Food

Co-funded by the European Union

EIT Food Post-Harvest School

Travelling and Visits

The partners

Building Global Innovators (BGI) is a deep tech accelerator, spin out of MIT Portugal, with more than 10 years of experience and that aims to boost the planet by ensuring that the most promising deep tech solutions in the agrifood reach the market. The main mission is to create a connected generation of builders, through training, financing and unique opportunities, and thus helping people to become successful entrepreneurs.

Food4Sustainability is a Portuguese collaborative laboratory with a focus on sustainable intensification food production for more health and wellbeing. F4S is at the forefront of the shift from linear agri-food production processes to circular processes. The objective of F4S is to test and implement new approaches in food production systems that have a positive impact: the mitigation of CO2, no use of chemicals inputs, sustainable intensification of production, conservation/preservation of water bodies and environmental impact, and increasing efficiency in the chainvalue of the food sector

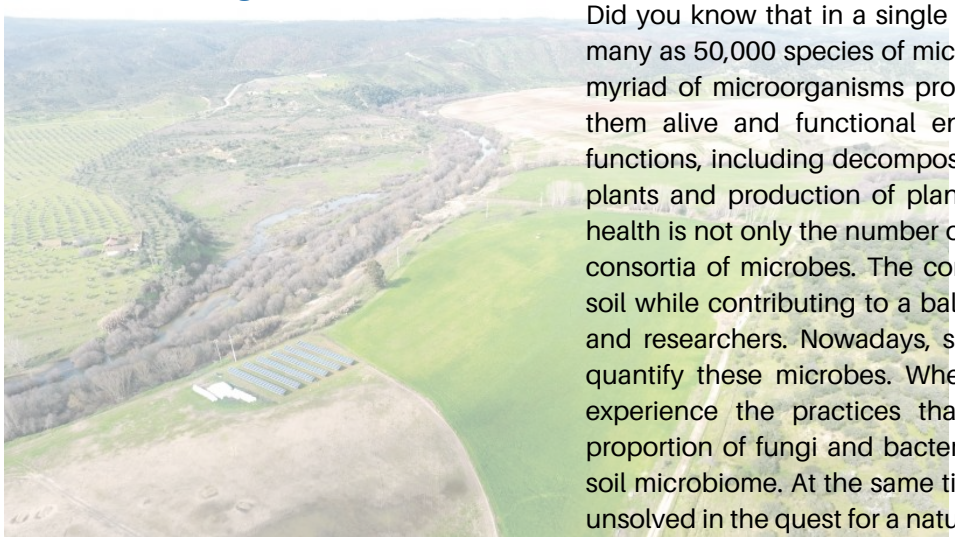
Farm visit offered

BGI and Food4Sustainability will offer the first 35 participants the opportunity to attend the i-Danha Food Lab Annual Event, which brings together agri-food stakeholders, all united in the willingness to accelerate the revolution in food systems, making it more sustainable to sustain our societies and the planet. During the weekend, the participants will participate in a field visit to Monte da Silveira Bio, a lighthouse of regenerative farming in Portugal.

Location	Idanha-a-Nova, Portugal
Dates	4th Nov (1pm) - 6th Nov (7pm)
What we offer	Train Lisbon-Idanha-a-Nova and back; entrance at i-Danha Food Lab; 1 on-site visit; food and accommodation organized by the partners; transportation during the full weekend.
NOT included	International travelling. The cost of travelling from locations other than Lisbon are subjected to analysis by the organization.
Max capacity	35 participants

Monte da Silveira Bio has been a certified organic farm since 1999, led by João Valente, who has implemented regenerative agriculture and holistic livestock management. With a background in Agronomy, João is an enthusiastic farmer and strong proponent of soil health, involved in international R&D projects. João promotes and disseminates knowledge to the local community and wishes to broaden dissemination activities so others can practice sustainable agriculture.

The challenge



Did you know that in a single gram of soil it is estimated there could be as many as 50,000 species of microscopic organisms or microorganisms? Such myriad of microorganisms provides an invaluable role to the soils, making them alive and functional entities. Soil microbes perform a vast list of functions, including decomposition of organic matter, release of nutrients to plants and production of plant growth-promoting compounds. Key to soil health is not only the number of species but also the balance between these consortia of microbes. The correct equilibrium that characterizes a healthy soil while contributing to a balanced ecosystem is much sought by farmers and researchers. Nowadays, several technologies allow us to identify and quantify these microbes. When choosing Monte da Silveira Bio, you will experience the practices that seek to identify the best consortia and proportion of fungi and bacteria, through innovative solutions to foster the soil microbiome. At the same time, you will be faced with the challenges left unsolved in the quest for a natural microbial equilibrium.

Travelling and Visits

The partner

Lund University was founded in 1666 and is repeatedly ranked among the world's top 100 universities. The University has around 46 000 students and more than 8 400 staff based in Lund, Helsingborg and Malmö. We are united in our efforts to understand, explain and improve our world and the human condition

The visit

Lund University if offering the participants a full day workshop at the "Food Valley of Bjuv". The morning will include presentations by keynote speakers and round-table discussions focusing on the EU Mission for soils, the importance of soil health, and carbon sequestration all in the context of the Swedish agricultural soils.

Location	Food Valley of Bjuv & Ly-ros Farm
Dates	4th Nov (9am - 5 pm)
What we offer	This partner will offer the visits, transportation and catering along the day.
NOT included	International travelling.
Max capacity	50 participants

During the afternoon, the participants will be transferred to a neighbouring farm, Ly-Ros Farm, which is almost 2000 ha and practices conservation agriculture. In this location, the participants will be introduced to the challenges faced by the farmers and food processors in this region.

The challenge

Participants selecting this location will be asked to select one of the following chalenges:
1) how to scale up regenerative agricultural practices
2) how to utilise agricultural waste/side streams in developing more value added novel products (i.e. alternative protein, bio-fertilizer, biodegradabel packagaing material, bioenergy from sugar beet leaves)

Travelling and Visits

The partners

ART21 is an AgriFood Tech innovation house from Lithuania, solely focused on applying breakthrough technologies and providing novel solutions for the agriculture, food and associated sectors in the Baltic states and beyond. The R&D&I activities, products and services developed by the company encompass precision agriculture, predictive and decision support systems, sustainable farm management, supply chain management, food integrity and authenticity, etc.

The company team is composed of over 50 scientists, engineers, software developers and project/business managers with diverse competencies. Combined expertise of the ART21 team covers such areas as: agronomy and plant physiology, remote sensing and EO, spectroscopy and chemometrics, AI and advanced applications of ML, ERP and digitalisation solutions, ICT, IoT and Robotics, as well as time proofed project development and risk management skills. ART21 is participating in large-scale EU innovation projects and various national R&D&I programmes and initiatives. The company is also a core silver member of EIT Food and a founding member of the Digital Innovation Hub AgriFood Lithuania.

Farm visit offered

Vilnius University of Applied Sciences is the biggest university in Vilnius that has a separate faculty for sciences related to agriculture. The location that we have chosen for the field visit is a special outdoor/indoor area in university's territory where various tests are performed.

Location	Univ of Applied Sciences, Buivydiškės, Lithuania
Dates	Nov 4th (12 - 3pm , local time)
What we offer	3 hours visit to the department of land management and agribusiness technology. The participants will be able to visit several field areas, dedicated to ornamental plant and food crops, and a very exquiste collection of protected plants from the Lithuanian flora. The participants will also be able to learn about the most up-to-date technologies used in greenhouse nurseries. The visit includes catering.
NOT included	Travelling.
Max capacity	40 participants

The challenge

The benefits of short food supply chains are undeniable. First of all, they allow end users to get higher product quality. From the environmental point of view, they enable more sustainable production and commercial practices. What is more, they create the conditions to reduce food losses and offer more sustainable packaging. Finally, short food supply chains allow farmers to obtain higher financial returns. By supplying products directly to consumers, food producers can reduce their dependence on intermediaries and develop independent marketing strategies. Also, they provide an opportunity to preserve the value created in such chains in local communities and to contribute to local economic and social development. However, such practices are rare in reality due to the lack of knowledge, confidence and expertise and the often higher final prices offered for a product.

During this challenge, you are expected to find solutions that will enable farmers – primary food producers – to implement commercially viable short food supply chains in practice. This can be a marketing strategy, a mobile app or a platform for farmers' competence development. The choice is yours! The most important thing is to encourage the development of short food supply chains!

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Travelling and Visits

The partners

Kislépték is an association that represents the interests of small-scale farmers, assisting in the formalization of civil and professional partnerships. One of the major goals is to ameliorate the legal and economic conditions for small-scale, local initiatives that can strengthen the local economy. The union assumes the promotion of food production and processing with low burden on the environment, handicraft production, as well as their markets' access, through its advocacy of protection of the environment, and its international relations.

Farm visit offered

Kislépték will offer the first 35 participants the opportunity to visit the Csoroszlya Farm, an organic farm aligned with the farm to fork strategy. This visit will showcase an example of how a farmer can directly access the consumers.

Csoroszlya Farm strives to ensure that the food produced reaches the consumer at the highest possible level of processing, preferably directly. In this way, it can guarantee the best quality. This farm considers it important to get products out of the economy whose added value is not only organic production, excellent taste and high quality, but also complete transparency through food.

Location	Csoroszlya Farm, Hungary
Dates	5th Nov
What we offer	A 2-hours visit with catering to an organic farm aligned with the farm to fork strategy applying post-harvest technologies (mills, spirit production).
Max capacity	Up to 45 participants

Extra visit offered

Kislépték will offer an online guided tour to the Short Food Supply Chain EXPO of 45 minutes. This unique event gathers service providers of the local food system (mobile paying machines, small-scales miles, fruit, vegetable processing technology, small-scale logistic technologies, online platforms for community supported agricultuire, green packaking for farmers and farm restaurants etc). The visit inlcudes interviews with post harvest technology providers. English translation will be ensured by the organisers.

The challenge

Small farmers must find new solutions to be competitive on the market. It can be a new access of market, new products, new labeling, new ways of collaborating. The task is to build up a new strategy based on the alternative food system's criteria. Students (as future experts in the field) must acquire knowledge how to foster these processes and how to boost the innovation in this field by implementing best practices at local level. They must identify the knowldge gaps, needs and opportunities provided by a new processing technology, logostic tool or other post harvest method.

This challenge will help the studenst how to build a new innovative project in the short food supply chan using the Business Model Canvas methodology.

Travelling and Visits

Partner & Visit

GRAND FARM

Grand Farm, led by Emerging Prairie, (whose mission is connecting and celebrating the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem) aims to capitalize on the region's potential in the agriculture and technology industries.

The Grand Farm Test Site will create the farm of the future by 2025 as the global example in solving challenges to farming worldwide, while unleashing vast new potential for technology for the greater good. It will do so by growing and inspiring regional businesses, organizations and entrepreneurs to collaborate globally in developing technological and human solutions for farming in a new era.

Location	Grand Farm, Absdorf, Austria
Dates	4th Nov (9 am - 5 pm)
What we offer	Transportation from Vienna to the Grand Farm and back, by train; catering at the venue; guided visit to the Grand Farm; round-table discussion with Alfred Grand.
Max capacity	35 participants

The challenge

Participants visiting this farm will work on one of these challenges:

1) Market gardening has been growing in interest from consumers who demand more local products from more sustainable production practices. Market gardeners play an important role in public awareness raising, in a movement that some coined as "Locavorism". Locavores are people who actively seek vegetables, fruits, dairy products, eggs and meats that are produced locally. Nonetheless the challenge remains, how can consumers be aware of these farms? What strategies can market gardening farmers use to ensure consumers support their business during the coming decades? Should partnerships and collaboration strategies with bigger companies be considered (e.g. Food importers)? Grand Farm offers an unique insight to products are produced in strict adherence to sustainable principles but still needs to find a broader community. What solutions can you propose to Grand Farm?

2) Plastics are established as an environmental problem. But sustainability-minded shoppers might not be aware that many organic farmers — like their conventional farming neighbours — also rely on plastic. It's spread over the ground as a form of mulch to suppress weeds, conserve water and aid plant growth. Many sustainable farmers would love to find an alternative to plastic, but lack solutions. One conceivable solution, biodegradable plastic, isn't allowed under organic rules in its current form, though some think those rules should be changed. Others worry about the long-term effects of biodegradable plastic on soil health and the environment. What are your ideas for coming up with the use of plastic in organic farms? After experience the presence and functions that plastic allows in Grand Farm what option can you suggest?

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The partners

RuralHack is a research/action project investigating both the cultural and technological aspects of the relationship between Open Hardware and agriculture. The aim is to facilitate access to cutting-edge technologies and precision agriculture at low costs, in order to enable farmers and others to create infrastructures and products themselves, acquiring skills and abilities, to become autonomous and self-determined makers.

Farm visit offered

Azienda Agricola San Salvatore is an open-air lab for conscious and eco-sustainable production. This farm aims to work for a new vision of Cilento, a land where past and future merge

Location	Azienda Agricola San Salvatore, Italy
Dates	5th Nov
What we offer	3-hours visit to Azienda Agricola San Salvatore with catering included.
Max capacity	35 participants

San Salvatore 1988 is a group agricultural projects with two key players: Peppe Pagano and his father Salvatore to whom it is dedicated. It all started in Boscoreale, in the mid-twentieth century, then moving to the flourishing Cilento of the 1980s and becoming a large farm in 2004. Founded with love, vision and determination.

The challenge

An aspect that arrests innovation in Italian agriculture, especially in southern Italy, is the lack of basic infrastructures, farm size, and poor generational turnover. This undermines the development of a new business culture and keeps its traditions firm. Despite the presence of resources (economic and technological) there is in fact still a strong socio-cultural resistance linked to the entrepreneurial mentality that undermines the adoption of new technologies and the transition to value-added forms of production.

When choosing this location, the participants will form groups to ideate in one of the following questions:

- How to help farmers recover agricultural by-products and reuse them into the production cycle, turning them into a value instead of a cost?
- How to foster cooperation among various actors in rural areas?
- How to overcome small farmers's mistrust of new technologies and innovation and thus facilitate the digital transformation of the agribusiness sector?