



**Addressing food safety challenges in the African
informal sector through innovative strategies & use
cases**

**Open Call 2 (OC2) addressed to to
innovation hubs**

**Annex 1
Call for Evaluators**



**Funded by
the European Union**

foodsafety4africa.eu

1. Introduction

1.1. About FS4Africa

The FS4Africa project addresses the urgent call to improve food safety systems in the informal sector across the African continent. It focuses on strengthening policy, enforcement, food safety culture, trade and market access, innovation, research, and international collaboration. It aims to reduce health and economic costs to society and unlock trade opportunities for informal small and medium-sized entrepreneurs along the food value chain, including local processors and street vendors.

There is currently limited empirical evidence on policy measures and interventions that effectively support informal groups, networks, and associations. In response, FS4Africa promotes innovative approaches based on digital and microbiome solutions, driven by private sector actors. These are implemented through four use cases within an enabling environment. The project also aims to generate additional benefits, including financial inclusion, support for innovation and start-ups, reduction of the digital divide, and increased market opportunities.

In addition, FS4Africa promotes microbiome-based alternatives to chemical and physical treatments, building on practices already adopted in the informal sector. These approaches contribute to safer food production while preserving soil and plant microbial diversity. The project also supports the use of fermentation as a practical and widely used method for food preservation in African contexts. Four use cases underpin the development of food safety approaches for the informal sector:

No	Title	Countries	Challenges addressed
1	Sustainable Aflatoxin Management through a Breeding and Food Convergence Innovation approach	Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya	Mycotoxin contamination in multiple food crops including food and feed
2	Reduction in the use and misuse of pesticides	Benin, Ghana, Nigeria	Pesticide residues in grains and vegetables
3	Safe and healthy vegetable and fish production through online platform and mobile communication	Nigeria, Cameroon	Food safety issues associated with weak channels for value chain organisation, traceability & authentication of safe food
4	Microbiological quality of tomatoes and leafy greens from farm to fork	South Africa	Microbial contamination particularly contamination from coliforms (e.g. <i>Escherichia coli</i>)

1.2. The FS4Africa Open Call

FS4Africa will launch an **Open Call 2 (OC2)** addressed to innovation hubs to provide online training to the use cases and projects from the first open call. They will provide mentoring and accelerating innovative business concepts, including social innovation and upscaling in view of African or European food business entrepreneurs and start-ups.

Selected sub-projects will be launched in February 2027 having an implementation timeframe of 8 months (until September 2027). The implementation period will be divided into 3 phases:

- Phase 1 - Design (1 month / February 2027: Payment of 20% of the total grant [Deliverable: Training Activity plan];
- Phase 2 - Development (5 months / March 2027 – July 2027): Payment of 50% of the total grant [Deliverable: Training Delivery Report];
- Phase 3 - Validation (2 months / August 2027 – September 2027): Payment of the final 30% of the total grant [Deliverable: Final Report of the training activities].

FS4Africa will only accept applications from **a single applicant per proposal (no Consortia allowed)**.

Key numbers and date of the Open Call

Open Calls	Total Amount	Sub - project Size	No of sub - projects
OC2	200 000 Euro	up to 40 000 Euro	5

The submission timeline of the Open Call 2 for the proposals is from May 18th, 2026 to August 31st, 2026.

1.3. Opencalls.fund platform

The opencalls.fund platform is a digital platform for the management of the applications for financial support to third parties and accelerator programs, developed and maintained by reframe.food. The FS4Africa Open Call 2 for Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) will be published through the opencalls.fund platform.

We are looking for evaluators!

➤ Evaluators profile

We are looking for independent evaluators, who will be able to assess the quality of applications received within the FS4Africa Open Call 2, shortly after its closure.

Evaluators must be:

- European - EU nationals Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their outermost regions, as well as Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to an EU Member as well as nationals of Horizon Europe associated countries, at the time of adoption of the Work Programme 2023-2025, full list [here](#)).
- Experienced evaluators with demonstrated technical and/or business expertise relevant to the topics of the call, including strong knowledge of food safety systems. Familiarity with innovation, capacity-building, and entrepreneurship support in the context of the African informal sector will be considered a strong asset.
- Experienced in evaluating EC proposals or similar experience.

An evaluator should not work for an organisation that aims to apply for the FS4Africa Open Call, nor in an organisation participating in the FS4Africa consortium.

All evaluators must declare beforehand any known conflicts of interest and must immediately inform the FS4Africa Open Call team if they detect a conflict of interest during the evaluation. The evaluator’s contract also requires evaluators to maintain strict confidentiality with respect to the whole evaluation process.

They must follow any instruction given by the FS4Africa Open Call team to ensure this. Under no circumstance may an evaluator attempt to contact an applicant on his/her own account, during the evaluation process. Confidentiality rules must be adhered to at all times before, during and after the evaluation. All external evaluators will sign a confidentiality declaration.

All evaluators must adhere to the guiding principles for independent experts set out by the EC including independence, impartiality, objectivity, accuracy and consistency.

The evaluators will be in charge of providing a neutral yet technical/scientific review of the received applications on the following aspects:

- Concept and feasibility
- Technology readiness and innovation development
- Impact & Exploitation
- Organisational capacity and sufficiency in the team's background.

The full evaluation criteria of the FS4Africa Open Call 2 are specified in the respective open call kit documents. In addition, the kit will be part of the evaluators' manual. The evaluation process per application as well as specific reimbursement of evaluators' efforts will be listed.

The number of applications assigned per evaluator will depend on several factors, including the evaluators' availability, the total number of submitted applications, and the number of evaluators engaged for the FS4Africa Open Call 2.

➤ **Financial Benefits**

The evaluators daily rate amounts to 450€ and is based upon the EC rules. Two evaluators will be assigned to each proposal, with a projected capacity of three (3) proposal evaluations per day.

Payment will be done in Euros by bank transfer on the personal account of the evaluators, up to 60 days after submission of the evaluations and reception of an invoice from the evaluator.

The minimum and maximum number of days per evaluator will depend on the number of applications received, and other factors such as availability of the evaluator throughout the process etc.

➤ **Evaluation procedure**

The entire evaluation process will take place remotely on the opencalls.fund platform; no physical meetings are planned. The evaluation process will start with a short briefing meeting (online), about the evaluation procedure with a special focus on the evaluation criteria. An Evaluator's manual will also be shared at this time.

Each proposal will be assigned to two (2) evaluators. Each evaluator is expected to individually score each evaluation criterion and provide comments that justify their score. Evaluators are expected to work within their expertise for each criterion and ensure that any comments made align with the score they give. After completing their evaluation, each pair of evaluators will have to consolidate their evaluations into one report, ensuring that they reach a mutual agreement on the proposal's merits. The process will be monitored and facilitated by the OC manager/treasurer. This collaborative process ensures consistency in judgement and guards

against bias, ultimately leading to the selection of the most deserving proposals. The effort of consolidation is included in the overall fee and is not reimbursed separately.

In case the difference in total scores between evaluators is significant (>5), a consensus meeting between the two evaluators will be held to seek adjustments. If consensus cannot be reached, a third independent evaluator will be appointed to assess the proposal. The evaluation will be based exclusively on the submitted proposal and will be evaluated against the defined award criteria.

➤ **Evaluators selection process**

Evaluators will be selected by the FS4Africa OC Advisory Board based on their competences and needs of the Open Call. Only the selected evaluators will be communicated via email.

➤ **Expression of interest**

If you are interested in being an evaluator, first you need to register as a user to the opencalls.fund platform. Then you can proceed and apply as an evaluator, by filling in all necessary fields and uploading your CV (as .pdf) - the application shouldn't take you more than 5 minutes!

For Evaluators

Joining our platform as an evaluator comes with a multitude of benefits tailored specifically for those engaged in assessing innovative projects under Horizon Europe open calls. As an evaluator in our open calls, you gain the opportunity to contribute your expertise to the advancement of groundbreaking EU funded projects while enhancing your professional profile in the industry.

Apply now

Apply [here](#):

By applying to FS4Africa Call for Evaluators, applicants automatically accept all the rules and conditions described below.

➤ **Tentative timeline of activities for Open Call***

FS4Africa Open Call duration for evaluators: May 2026 – August 2026

Eligibility check of the received evaluators' applications: September 2026.

Contracting with selected evaluators: October 2026.

Evaluation of Open Call proposals by the external evaluators: November 2026

*Dates may be revised/ amended, subject to approval by EC services.

➤ **Evaluators' liability**

All evaluators will be required to sign a declaration of no conflict of interest and non-disclosure agreement with the FS4Africa Coordinator and the Open Call Treasurer / Manager prior to the evaluation start.

By applying to the FS4Africa Call for evaluators and registration to the opencalls.fund, the expert:

- understands that submitting an application (registration) does not guarantee his/her selection as an evaluator for any of the open calls.
 - understands that he/she will have to provide a signed Code of Conduct and Declaration of Honor (DoH) along with any other requested documents if he/she is selected to serve as an evaluator for a specific open call published on the OCF platform.
 - confirms that the team in charge for each Open Call will ask him/her on an open call basis about time availability to accomplish the evaluation within the specified time frame for the given open call, to attend a briefing session (if required) and a debriefing session after the selection (if required). Timing will be provided for every open call.
 - confirms the interest to be informed about the future opportunities to act as an evaluator on ongoing and upcoming open calls that will be conducted on OCF.
 - assures that he/she will only evaluate the applications of applicants for whom she/he does not have a Conflict of Interest (Col).
- **Admissibility**
- The applicant must be a European (EU nationals (Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their outermost regions, as well as Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to EU Member) as well as nationals of Horizon Europe associated countries, at the time of adoption of the Work Programme 2023) (Note: if you are not a citizen of these countries, but a resident/taxpayer in one of these countries, you are still eligible to become an evaluator).
 - Applications can be submitted at any time starting from May 18th, 2026, and they should be submitted before August 31st, 2026.

Applications must be submitted electronically via the opencalls.fund platform electronic submission system as indicated in this call, using the form provided inside opencalls.fund platform, and a CV (in English), as .pdf, must be attached as part of the application. Paper or email submissions will NOT be accepted.

Applications must be complete for all parts, and CV should be readable, accessible and printable. English is the official language for the FS4Africa Open Call.

If the admissibility criteria are respected, then the evaluation of the expert will be performed by the Advisory Board or expert team of each project whose Open Call is conducted via opencalls.fund platform. To formalise the collaboration, if not specified differently, a service contract will be signed between **reframe.food** and the evaluators.

All selected evaluators will be required to sign a declaration of no conflict of interest and nondisclosure agreement prior to the evaluation start.

By applying for evaluators, interested applicants automatically accept the Guidelines in this Call for Evaluators and all the guidelines and requirements emerging from documentation included in the Open Call kit.

➤ **Conflict of interest**

Evaluators must not have a conflict of interest at the time of their appointment and must sign a contract with a declaration that no such conflict exists. They also must inform the Open Call team should such a conflict arise in any of the applications they have been assigned. When a potential conflict of interest is reported by the evaluator or brought to the attention of the Open Call team by any means, the Open Call team will analyse the circumstances and any objective elements of information available. If the Open Call team concludes that there is conflict of interest, the evaluator will be excluded from the evaluation of that application. All potential conflicts of interest will be assessed carefully. Please see more info [here](#).

➤ **Confidentiality**

Evaluators are bound by confidentiality, as all information relating to the assessment process is strictly confidential. They are not allowed to disclose any information about the applications submitted and results of the assessment and selection to anyone. They are also not allowed to use the ideas of the application for their own purposes.

Good luck and thank you for your interest.

We are looking forward to collaborating with you!

The FS4Africa OC Team