



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

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

**Annex 3
Open Call Hand out Summary**



**Funded by
the European Union**

foodsafety4africa.eu

1 Introduction

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.

2 FS4Africa Open Call 2

FS4Africa Open Call 2 (OC2) aims to provide financial support to third parties (innovation hubs) to train use case partners and Open Call 1 beneficiaries by providing mentoring and accelerating innovative business concepts, including social innovation and upscaling in view of African or European food business entrepreneurs and start-ups.

FS4Africa Open Call 2 will select five (5) sub - projects in total providing Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP), as a mechanism to maximise FS4Africa's impact and accelerate network expansion.

FS4Africa will only accept applications from **one entity per proposal (no consortia allowed)**.

Applicants (single entities) are expected to provide mentoring and accelerating innovative business concepts, including social innovation and upscaling.

The FS4Africa Open Call 2 and Call for evaluators will be launched on Monday, May 18th, 2026. Before assigning external evaluators, each proposal will be checked by the FS4Africa OC Advisory Board (AB), against the eligibility criteria set in the OC. The proposal evaluation and sub-grant agreement preparation will take place between September 2026 and January 2027. Selected 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].

The FS4Africa Open Call 2 will result in five (5) sub - projects (up to 200 000 euro - up to 40 000 euro for each third party).