

# **Green Development and Demonstration Programme (GUDP)**

Invitation of applications for  
The Organic Research,  
Development and Demonstration  
Programme (Organic RDD) 10

**Application deadline 6 May 2024 at 12.00**

## Colophon

### **Green Development and Demonstration Programme**

Invitation of applications for funding under The Organic Research, Development and Demonstration Programme (Organic RDD) 10

This invitation has been prepared by The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark, the GUDP-secretariat and ICROFS

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## Invitation of applications for The Organic Research, Development and Demonstration Programme (Organic RDD) 10

The board of the Green Development and Demonstration Programme (GUDP) invites, in collaboration with International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems (ICROFS), applications for funding of projects which carry out research and development and/or demonstration in relation to business-oriented innovation within the Danish organic food sector. The projects must support both green as well as financial sustainability, and GUDP and ICROFS place great emphasis on the news value, impact, and relevance of the projects.

The legal framework for grants under the Green Development and Demonstration Program (GUDP) can be found on the [Danish legislation information website](#) and GUDP's [website](#). The GUDP scheme is regulated through the GUDP Consolidation Act<sup>1</sup> and the GUDP Regulation<sup>2</sup> and is subject to the general rules of administrative law, including the Public Administration Act and the Public Records Act. Please, be aware that the GUDP Regulation which applies to this round is new. Subsidies under the GUDP scheme are granted in accordance with EU state aid rules, including the General Block Exemption Regulation<sup>3</sup> (hereinafter GBER) and/or the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation<sup>4</sup> (hereinafter ABER).

### **A total funding of up to approx. DKK 70 million for Organic RDD 10 is available in 2024.**

The funds available for this application round have been made available to the GUDP as part of the political agreement on the allocation of the research reserve funds for 2024<sup>5</sup>. The funds are earmarked for organic farming and food systems and are implemented in a collaboration between GUDP and ICROFS. Within the framework of GUDP - the legal basis, [the strategy 2023-2027](#) and [the action plan 2023](#) of the GUDP board as well as [ICROFS' Research and Development Strategy 2023](#) - this application round is targeted at selected challenges within organic food production, and the call and application material have been adapted accordingly.

This call covers applications for research projects including development and/or demonstration (NOT pure research projects). Projects may apply for a total grant of DKK 250,000 to DKK 10 million - projects applying for less than DKK 10 million are very welcome! The funding may be used for projects with a business plan (Type 1 – is described on page 9), and for projects focusing on the contribution of organic farming to public goods without a business plan (Type 2 – is described on page 9). The final distribution of funds will depend on the submitted applications.

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<sup>1</sup> Consolidation Act no. 23 of 4 January 2017 about the Green Development and Demonstration Programme (the GUDP Consolidation Act): <https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/ta/2017/23>

<sup>2</sup> Please, be aware that on 1 January 2024 there is a new Consolidation Act for GUDP that applies to Organic RDD. Consolidation Act no. 1433 of 28 November 2023 about the Green Development and Demonstration Programme (the GUDP Regulation): <https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/ta/2023/1433>

<sup>3</sup> The EU Commission's Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, Official Journal of the EU, L 187, p. 1 incl. later changes.

<sup>4</sup> The EU Commission's Regulation (EU) No 702/2014 of 25 June declaring certain categories of aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union incl. later changes.

<sup>5</sup> Agreement on allocation of the research reserve funds in 2022 <https://ufm.dk/lovstof/politiske-aftaler/endelig-aftale-et-gronnere-sundere-og-teknologisk-staerkere-danmark.pdf>

### **Deadline for applications is Monday 6 May 2024 at 12.00**

- Applications incl. annexes must be received by GUDP no later than 12.00 on the date of application - be aware that e-mails with a total file size over 25 MB cannot be handled by GUDP's servers.
- To be considered eligible for funding from the Organic RDD scheme, the application must comply with the application deadline and the formal requirements described in this call and in the accompanying guidelines.

### **Before you apply**

We kindly suggest that you carefully read through this call and the '[Guidelines for completing the application forms for the Organic Research, Development and Demonstration Programme \(Organic RDD\) 10](#)', and [ICROFS' Research and Development Strategy 2023](#) before preparing the application. Furthermore, we recommend that you look at [the instructions on payment of grants under GUDP \(only in Danish\)](#) at <https://lbt.dk/tilskudsguide/>. Under the grant scheme 'Organic Research, Development and Demonstration Programme (Organic RDD)' choose the tab "Sådan søger du" ("How to apply") and read more under "Søg om udbetaling" ("Apply for payment").

Also, be aware of other grant schemes for research, development, demonstration and market maturation in the food sector and consider which scheme is most relevant to your project before applying. Lists of grant schemes can be found among others at State Grant Schemes: <https://www.statens-tilskudspuljer.dk/> and in the Grant Guidelines of The Danish Agricultural Agency <https://lbt.dk/tilskudsguide/> as well as at <https://icrofs.dk/soeg-forskningsmidler/alternative-forskningsmidler>.

### Information meetings and individual feedback

Information meetings are held by the ICROFS-secretariat in connection with the call. At the information meetings you will be able to hear more about how to fill in the application forms. A virtual information meeting has been planned on Tuesday 30 January 2024, and a physical meeting has been planned on Wednesday 7 March 2024. Keep an eye on [www.icrofs.dk](http://www.icrofs.dk) for further information and registration.

If you are in doubt whether your project idea meets the criteria for receiving grants from Organic RDD under GUDP, you are welcome to send a project outline of maximum 2 pages to the ICROFS-secretariat. Based on the submitted project outline, the secretariat will provide you with individual feedback. You can find the template for the project outline in Danish here: [Can my projec idea become an Organic RDD projekt](#). It is also to be found at ICROFS' website [here](#). The project outline must be sent via e-mail to [icrofs@icrofs.org](mailto:icrofs@icrofs.org), and the secretariat strives to have a maximum processing time of one week.

## **Requirements for the application**

### **Application forms and guidelines**

The application forms and the guidelines for filling in the application forms can be found at [ICROFS' website](#) and under the grant scheme '[Organic Research, Development and Demonstration](#)

Programme (Organic RDD) in the Grant Guidelines of The Danish Agricultural Agency .Go to <https://gudp.lbst.dk/>. Choose the tab “Søg tilskud” (“Apply for grant”), then “Klik her for at tilgå tilskudsportalen” (“Click here to go to the grant portal”) and choose the tap “Sådan søger du” (“How to apply”). It is a requirement that GUDP's application forms, that are customized to the Organic RDD programme, are used and that they are submitted within the deadline. Please, note that you must not change the application material.

#### **An application consists of:**

- Form A: Main application form (including research-part)
- Form B: Budget form, Gantt diagram, lists of milestones and deliverables
- Form C: Participant form
- Form D: Additional business plan (if relevant)
- Form G: Business Model Canvas (not mandatory)
- CVs for project manager and relevant key persons
- Up to 4 pages of enclosures – e.g. references, illustrations, technical drawings or supplementary calculations of the project effects.

#### **Language**

The application must be written in English and all forms must be completed in English. However, a brief project description in Danish is required in Form A.

#### **Submission**

The application must be submitted by e-mail to [gudp@lbst.dk](mailto:gudp@lbst.dk). This includes:

- All relevant application forms, CVs and enclosures gathered in one PDF file. The total PDF file should be submitted in a non-scanned version without signatures as well as a scanned version with all signatures.
- Form B must be attached in a separate Excel file.
- Form G must be attached in a separate PDF file, if applied.

Submission of the application material must be in accordance with § 15 of the Public Records Acts, as GUDP, as a public authority, must record the submitted documents received as part of administrative case processing, to the extent that the documents are relevant to the case. Submission of documents that for example cannot be opened without a digital key, does not, in principle, meet § 15 of the Public Records Act.

#### **Acknowledgement letter confirming receipt of the application**

Within a few days from receiving your application, the GUDP-secretariat will send an acknowledgement letter confirming that the application has been received.

#### **When will approvals and rejections be announced?**

GUDP expects to announce approvals and rejections for grants by the end of 2024.



Applications may be rejected if they do not comply with the GUDP Act and the GUDP Regulation as well as the requirements stated in this call and the associated guidelines.

Please, be aware that a new Consolidation Act for GUDP has come into effect as of 1 January 2014. This new Consolidation Act will apply to this Organic RDD 10 application round. The Consolidation Act was open for public consultation from 11 October to 8 November on [the consultation portal](#) and has been published on [Retsinformation.dk](#)

New in this Organic RDD application round

The following content changes have been made to this Organic RDD 10 application round as a result of the GUDP Consolidation Act being updated as of 1 January 2024.

Private research- and knowledge dissemination institutions are equated with universities in terms of subsidies. This is reflected in the subsidy rates and overhead rates that private research- and knowledge dissemination institutions will be able to receive in the future:

- An updated table of the maximum subsidy rates can be found in the “Funding and Commercial issues” section
- The overhead rate can be calculated up to a maximum of 44 pct. of direct expenses.

Maximum salary rate for company owners who are not employed by the company. Costs for remuneration of company owners who are not employed by the company can be included but approved for a maximum of 350 DKK/hour.

Determination of annual standard. When calculating time consumption, a calculation technical annual standard of 1,642 hours must be used for calculations of hourly rate.

## Requirements for applicants and projects

### Who can apply for grants?

- Company registered persons
- Private companies
- Trade associations
- Associations/unions
- Self-governing institutions
- Research institutions

All applicants must be registered in the Danish Central Business Register (‘Det Centrale Virksomhedsregister – [CVR.dk](#)). In relation to grants, trade/industry associations as well as self-governing institutions are considered as private companies. Foreign research institutions or companies cannot participate in a project as project participants, but they may, however, act as external advisors.

### Grants are provided for?

GUDP can provide grants for applied research projects including development and/or demonstration activities. The project must at the same time promote both green and economic sustainability and thus have what GUDP calls "the double bottom line".

Green sustainability is about 'the credibility of organic farming', 'resilient systems' as well as 'the contribution of organic farming to public goods', including the environment, climate, nature and biodiversity, sustainable use of resources, gentle production methods, animal health and welfare, human health and nutrition as well as food security and food quality. You can read more about public goods on ICROFS' website here: <https://icrofs.dk/oekologiens-bidrag-til-samfundsgoder>.

Economic sustainability must be visible in the proceeds of the project and the further economic impact of the project's idea, method or technology becoming widespread in the organic food sector.

It could be new:

- Technologies
- Tools
- Production systems
- Analytical methods
- Processes
- Products
- Management and logistics solutions

### Grants are *not* provided for?

- Pure research projects
- Pure investment projects
- Development of innovation competences
- Educational and course activities and similar
- Marketing and test marketing
- Collective generic campaigns (e.g. joint trade organisation campaigns)
- Special innovation activities (borrowing staff)

### Organic principles and regulations

As a rule, grants are only given to projects if all the applied materials and methods are compatible with the organic principles<sup>6</sup> and regulations<sup>7</sup>. Project activities are thus expected to be accomplished in accordance with the existing regulations for organic farming and using experimental fields, plants, animals and other material of organic origin. **In case this is not possible, this fact must be clearly indicated and accounted for in the application.**

<sup>6</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02018R0848-20230221> (principles: pp. 12-16)  
<https://icrofs.dk/om-icofsf/hvad-er-oekologisk-jordbrug/de-oekologiske-principper/>;  
<http://www.ifoam.bio/principles-organic-agriculture-brochure>

<sup>7</sup> <http://lbtst.dk/tvaergaende/oekologi/lovstof/>



## **Project types eligible for grants**

### **Type 1** (with business plan):

Projects with applied research content including development and/or demonstrations activities (but NOT pure research projects). The project must improve both green and economic sustainability and thus have 'a double bottom line'. A business plan demonstrating the utilization of the project results must be prepared.

### **Type 2** (without a business plan):

Projects with applied research content including development and/or demonstrations activities (but NOT pure research projects). These projects are focusing solely on public goods and green sustainability effects as well as the further economic effects for stakeholders and society. The project results cannot be turned into a financial gain for the individual farmer or company and a business plan is NOT to be prepared for the project.

Both Type 1 and Type 2 projects are projects in which one or more participants accomplish a number of interdependent and supporting activities such as:

- Applied research activities that are related to planned research and critical studies to acquire new knowledge and skills that can be used to develop new products, processes or technologies. The results of the activities carried out are not expected to be commercialized in the short term. Research activities alone cannot constitute an Organic RDD project.
- Development activities, including demonstration activities that are related to developing new or improved products, processes or technologies based on the acquisition and use of existing scientific and other relevant knowledge and skills. The new products, processes or technologies are expected to be applicable and commercialized, in the short term. Development activities may include prototypes, demonstrations, production of pilots, testing and validation of new or improved products, processes or services in context that are representative of real operating conditions, with the primary purpose of technically developing products, processes or services that have not yet received a final form.
- Demonstration activities in relation to agricultural products with the purpose of disseminating knowledge on the application of research and/or development activities to a wide range of actors. Demonstration includes dissemination of scientific or technical knowledge etc. that is not distortive and does not market/resemble marketing of specific products or services.  
Meaning:
  - All stakeholders can get access to the demonstrated knowledge/practical solution.
  - Demonstration does not include products or services that must be bought, to make use of the demonstrated knowledge/practical solution.

## **ICROFS' purpose, strategy and focus areas of the call**

### **Purpose and strategy**

ICROFS' purpose is to coordinate, conduct, and disseminate strategic and application-based research of high, international quality. ICROFS coordinates, on behalf of GUDP and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark, the national organic research program Organic RDD. [ICROFS' Research- and development strategy 2023](#) thus constitutes the basis for Organic RDD 10. The Research- and development strategy is based on [IFOAM's principles of organic agriculture](#)

and the [EU council regulation on organic production](#) and sets the direction for ICROFS' allocation of research- and development funds. The goal is research-based knowledge and technologies, that support a continuous growth and development of the organic sector, and increases the credibility, sustainability, and contribution to public goods, of and from the organic sector. The strategy is devised by ICROFS with a wide involvement of businesses, industry, organizations, research environments, and the authorities.

### **Success criteria**

[ICROFS' Research- and development strategy 2023](#) aims for practice-oriented solutions and research, which is carried out in close collaboration between researchers and stakeholders throughout the value-chain (farmers, companies, authorities, consumers, organizations), in order to develop innovative and competitive solutions, as well as documenting and disseminating these to stakeholders and society. This is reflected in the following four key success criteria to be promoted in the research projects:

- Sustainability - the projects must contribute to an organic production and food system, which is sustainable in the broad sense of the term, including climate, biodiversity, environment, health and welfare as well as economically, and socially
- Innovation - the projects must contribute to innovative production- and food systems that meet consumer- and societal demands for organic products and public goods
- Growth - the projects must contribute to resilient, productive, and efficient production- and food systems, and support continuous sustainable growth in the organic production
- Credibility - the projects must contribute to the credibility of organic farming and food systems in relation to IFOAM's principles of organic farming

Based on the success criteria, the Organic RDD-projects are evaluated and prioritized from their quality and impact on five areas:

- Research-based quality (Forskningfaglig kvalitet)
- Green impacts
- Dissemination and consumer-involvement
- Economic impacts
- Relevancy and potential regarding the development of organic agriculture and food systems

### **Focus for the Organic RDD 10 programme**

The central development tracks for the Organic RDD 10 programme are to support the green transition through growth in the organic area (and thus in the nutrient supply) and growth in demand, consumption and export of organic products, including plant-based foods, for the benefit of climate, environment, drinking water and nature (Landbrugsaften – the Agricultural Agreement of October 4, 2021<sup>8</sup>)

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<sup>8</sup> [Agreement on the green transition of Danish agriculture of 4 October 2021](#) between the government, Venstre (the Liberal Party of Denmark), Dansk Folkeparti (Danish People's Party), Socialistisk Folkeparti (Green Left), Radikale Venstre (the Danish Social Liberal Party), Enhedslisten (the Red/Green Alliance), Det Konservative Folkeparti (The Conservative People's Party), Nye Borgerlige (the New Right), Liberal Alliance (Liberal Alliance) og Kristendemokraterne (the Christian Democrats).

The development of the organic sector must be made with a focus on creating an industry which is sustainable and robust for both the farmer and for society and meets expectations of the consumers and society.

Through six focus areas ICROFS' Research and development Strategy 2023 addresses the central challenges and potentials of organic farming and food systems.

- CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY
- CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT
- BIODIVERSITY
- HEALTH AND WELFARE
- THE ORGANIC CONSUMER OF THE FUTURE
- ORGANIC FARMING – AS A LIVING

Under the Organic RDD 10-programme, applications can be made for all six focus areas. The projects should conduct a farming and food system approach, be interdisciplinary and holistically oriented, and incorporate the value chain and users of the knowledge which is produced.

## Prioritisation and selection criteria

Organic RDD projects must contribute to six parameters as illustrated in ICROFS' "spider web" (see figure 1). The parameters correspond to the six prioritization criteria used for the evaluation of the projects. ICROFS would like to see projects with a holistic approach and with a focus on interdisciplinarity. Projects focusing on one of the green parameters are also welcome, however, it is important that what is investigated is looked upon as part of a larger whole. Thus, applicants must aim to ensure that improvements in one area do not have significant negative impact on others.

For the green parameters, regardless of whether the project has an effect on several parameters, as a rule only the most important effect is to be quantified, while any other green effects can be described in prose. However, if it is a holistic project that has several effects, the main effects should all be quantified. In addition to the effect of the projects on the parameters in the "spider web", GUDP and ICROFS place particular emphasis on the research quality, novelty value and relevance of the projects, as well as the professional quality and the anchoring of the project in the industry. The ICROFS-board prioritizes between the best project applications in relation to what the board estimates will have the greatest effect on organic production and development.

Regarding the prioritization criteria correspond to the parameters indicated in the ICROFS "spider web" (see Figure 1 page 13). It is important to note that a project does not need to have an effect on all the parameters in the spider web, however:

- **Type 1 projects** must have one green and one economic effect as well as effect on dissemination and stakeholder involvement.

- **Type 2 projects** must at least have an effect on the contribution of organic agriculture to public goods and effect on dissemination and stakeholder involvement. In addition, the further economic effects related to stakeholders and society must be estimated.

#### Project type 1:

The application will be evaluated according to the research quality and the 6 prioritization criteria in ICROFS' "spider web". Three criteria are concerned with green sustainability (including public goods), two criteria are concerned with economic sustainability and the last criterion is about dissemination and stakeholder involvement. An elaboration of the criteria is provided below. Each project will be evaluated as a whole, i.e. the total weighting of the various parameters relevant to the actual project is considered.

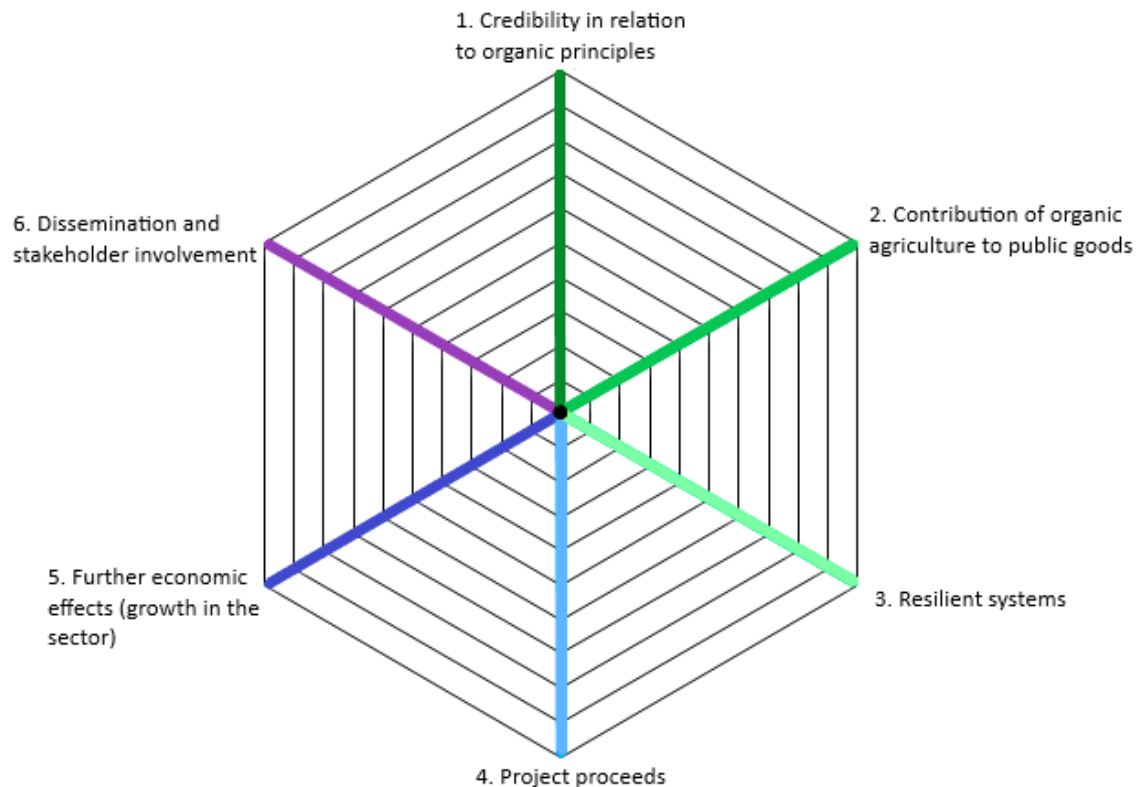
All type 1 project applications will be evaluated according to their effects on green sustainability (criteria 1, 2 and 3) and economic sustainability (criteria 4 and 5) as well as dissemination and stakeholder involvement (criterion 6).

#### Project type 2:

Projects under project type 2 are focusing on the effects on organic agriculture to public goods and green sustainability, and the results cannot be turned into a financial gain for the individual farmer or company. However, an estimation of the wider economic effects in relation to stakeholders and society is expected. The projects will be evaluated in relation to their perspectives and potential to encourage new development concerning the contribution of organic agriculture to public goods and green sustainability effects, including an elaboration of these contributions and the opportunities to increase these.

Applications under project type 2 will be evaluated according to their effects related to public goods (criterion 2), and their contribution in relation to further economic effects on stakeholders and society (criterion 5). In addition, their contribution to dissemination and end-user involvement (criterion 6) will be included in the assessment. In case the applicants consider that the projects may also contribute to the other criteria applying to project type 1 (with a business plan), they are free to quantify their contribution to the criteria 1, 3 and. If the project has effects on criteria 4 and 5, applicant should consider whether it should be applied for as a type 1 project.

**Figure 1: ICROFS’ “spider web”, the six prioritisation criteria that are included in the evaluation of the project applications in addition to research quality and relevance**



**The three green sustainability criteria** – the project must have at least one green effect. For type 2 projects it must include the contribution of organics to public goods. There is an overlap between the three green criteria, and it can be difficult to say unequivocally that an effect belongs to one or the other criterion – an effect must, however, only be described under the criterion you find most appropriate.

### 1 Credibility in relation to the organic principles<sup>9</sup>

The credibility of organic farming in relation to the organic values and principles is a prerequisite for consumers to maintain their confidence in organic products and thus for continued growth of the organic sector.

Contributions to an increased credibility in relation to the organic principles must be described and the applicants should aim to quantify the expected project contributions in the application. Some examples are given below, and the applicants may include more.

- Improved soil fertility – the project’s contribution to improved soil fertility, including texture, water, biological activity, nutrition, carbon sequestration etc.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ifoam.bio/principles-organic-agriculture-brochure>; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32018R0848&from=DA>

- Circular bioeconomy/recirculation – the project's contribution to increased recirculation both within the individual farm and in interaction with society.
- Optimization of the food system – the project's contribution to optimizing resource utilization and reducing the environmental and climate impact of the food system as a whole.
- Sustainable use of resources – the project's contribution to a sustainable use of resources and utilization of local resources, including energy consumption, optimization of nutrient cycles/recycling and an optimization of resources within food production indicated as added value per input<sup>10</sup>.
- Minimized nutrient surplus – the project's contribution to recirculation and reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus surplus per hectare or animal unit, provided that the results will be expanded subsequently.
- Careful processing – the project's contribution to the development of careful processing of raw materials, use of natural conservation methods and additives, etc.

## 2 The contribution of organic farming to public goods

The contribution of organic farming to public goods is also a prerequisite for consumer confidence, but many of the contributions to public goods may be more distant to the individual consumer. The EU Council Regulation's principles for organic farming<sup>11</sup> include the importance of working on soil fertility, biodiversity, animal welfare and sustainable production and processing in relation to the environment and climate. This focus contributes to making organic agriculture an important societal contributor.

It is assumed that the identification and development of organic agriculture's contributions to public goods will strengthen the entire sector.

Focusing on how organic farming increasingly meets these principles will ensure that organic farming and aquaculture will be among the most powerful opportunities for a future with more environmentally friendly primary production that can support the efforts in relation to climate plans, the Water Framework Directive, Natura2000 and a reduction of the pesticide consumption. Contributions to the identification or development of the contributions of organic farming to public goods must be described, and applicants should seek to quantify the contributions they expect from the project. Below is provided some examples of topics for which knowledge on or development of the contribution of organic farming to public goods could be included. The applicants may include more, but it is recommended to study the knowledge synthesis 'The Contribution of Organic Farming to Public Goods'<sup>12,13</sup>.

- Nature and biodiversity – e.g. increased biodiversity – the project's contribution to an increased biodiversity, including agricultural as well as wildlife biodiversity and at the levels of gene, species and landscape.

<sup>10</sup> Examples of effects based on sustainable utilization of resources:

- Same output produced with less input
- Same input produces a larger output (including utilization of waste products)
- Same output is refined with the same or less input

<sup>11</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/848/oj/eng>  
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02018R0848-20230221>

<sup>12</sup> [http://icrofs.dk/fileadmin/icrofs/Diverse\\_materialeer\\_til\\_download/Videnssynte\\_WEB\\_2015\\_\\_Fuld\\_laengde\\_400\\_sider.pdf](http://icrofs.dk/fileadmin/icrofs/Diverse_materialeer_til_download/Videnssynte_WEB_2015__Fuld_laengde_400_sider.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> [http://icrofs.dk/fileadmin/icrofs/Diverse\\_materialeer\\_til\\_download/web\\_OKvidenssyntesen\\_okt\\_2015.pdf](http://icrofs.dk/fileadmin/icrofs/Diverse_materialeer_til_download/web_OKvidenssyntesen_okt_2015.pdf)



- Environment – the project's contribution to an improved environment including water environment and ground water.
- Energy and climate – the project's contribution to a reduced emission of climate gases (CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents) including carbon sequestration in soil (provided that the results will be expanded subsequently)
- Human health and welfare – Improved human health and welfare – the project's contribution to human health and welfare, including food safety, nutritionally improved diets, energy intake, dietary supplements, but also to the quality of life and absence of pesticide residues, resistance to antibiotics, substances hazardous to health etc.
- Animal health and welfare – Improved animal welfare – the project's contribution to improved animal welfare, including health, nutrition, natural behaviour and the absence of pain, fear and stress, etc.
- Reduced use of antibiotics – the project's contribution to a reduction in standard treatments with antibiotics per animal unit, provided that the results will be expanded subsequently.
- Reduced use of pesticides – the project's contribution to increased conversion to organic production which will result in reduced use of pesticides.
- Industry and rural districts – the project's contribution to the development of the sector, focusing on knowledge on the future organic consumer and conditions that improve development opportunities and working conditions.

### 3 Resilient systems

To ensure a balanced growth of supplies, it is important to ensure efficient and resilient farming systems in a biological as well as economic sense. In the context of organic farming, higher productivity is based in particular on optimizing the way in which the individual biological components mutually contribute and support each other, the manager's abilities within resource management, cost optimization, observation and understanding of the biological factors included in the farm operations; whether it is knowledge of the ecosystem services linked to the soil's fertility and yield, functional biodiversity or regulation of animal diseases.

It is worth noticing that optimization and efficiency at this level requires both very specific knowledge of the individual components as well as knowledge on system level. At the same time, it is important to clarify the impact of processing on the quality of the products.

Resilient systems enable the farmer to produce under different conditions (e.g. variation in climate) with less fluctuations in yield.

Contributions to resilient systems must be described and the applicants should aim to quantify the expected project contributions. Some examples are given below, and the applicants may include more.

Ecosystem services – the project's contribution to augment ecosystem services such as soil fertility and yield, structure and water holding capacity, functional biodiversity and regulation of animal diseases while reducing the risks of long-term problems with e.g. pests, diseases and perennial weeds.

- Adequate access to nutrients – the project's contribution to ensure access to



- nutrients for the primary production e.g. through optimization of nutrient cycles/re-cycling.
- Resistance to external pressure and change – the project's contribution to the development of production systems in which the individual elements mutually support and compensate for each other in case of unexpected changes in the environment and to resist pressure in the form of diseases/pests, climate changes and market fluctuations.
  - Technology and knowledge – the project's contribution in the form of technology and knowledge that increase the capacity for observation/monitoring, prevention, decision support and control/management including the implementation of operational diversity in the form of multi-functionality, farm collaboration and/or integration of the value chain in order to ensure a natural foundation and financial profitability (social innovation).
  - Resource management and cost optimization – the project's contribution to e.g. increased recycling/reuse of resources on the farm/company, implementation of renewable energy, resource-saving technologies and systems, etc.

### **The two criteria concerned with economic sustainability**

#### **4 Project proceeds**

The financial revenue generated by the project results for the grant recipient s in year 1, 2, and 3 after the finalization of the project. Proceeds are only valid for the 3 years after project completion.

#### **5 Further economic effect**

Project potential for economic effects in relation to dissemination within the sector as well as the socio-economic impact. The effect only applies to companies / persons etc. outside the project participant group.

### **Criterion concerned with dissemination and stakeholder involvement**

#### **6 Dissemination and stakeholder involvement**

As part of the project description, the applicant must prepare a communication plan for dissemination as well as user and stakeholder involvement (Form A) and a list of milestones and deliverables in that regard (Form B). This plan must include a description of the parties with an interest in the project idea and results and must describe how the project results are communicated to the relevant target groups. The project's communication plan for dissemination and stakeholder involvement is included in the assessment of the project. See the '[Guidelines for completing application forms for Organic RDD 10](#)', item A29.

It is important that:

- Relevant target groups, users and stakeholders are identified.
- The project efforts, results and perspectives are made widely visible to others, and that the results are implemented with the users, stakeholders and in the sector.

- The project involves, communicates with and disseminates to relevant target groups and involves the users and the sector in an on-going dialogue about the project, preferably as project participants or as part of an advisory group.
- The project results and perspectives are disseminated in the form of peer-reviewed scientific publications.

During the project period, the project manager will, in collaboration with ICROFS, create communication and dissemination material in Danish and English via ICROFS' communication channels (e.g., ICROFS website or social media as well as via articles, press releases, videos or podcasts etc.). The project manager is also expected to contribute to dissemination about the project at the start of the project as well as of project results at the end of project and at the end of the entire programme. The project manager and 1-2 project participants should also participate in ICROFS annual Research- and Innovation workshop, and sufficient time and funds must be allocated to these meetings.

Read more about [ICROFS research and development strategy 2023](#).

### **The project's effects should be described in the application**

A prerequisite for obtaining grants from the Organic RDD-program is that the project creates concrete measurable results that can be quantified and is preferably documented in the application. When describing project effects in accordance with ICROFS spider web, the starting point must be indicated so that the project's contribution can be identified and quantified as far as possible. The Guidelines for Organic RDD 10 specifies how the quantification for the individual parameters should be indicated.

The applicant must explain how the project can contribute to improvements. The expected project effects are included in the concrete assessment of the applications, and it is therefore important that the specified effects are assessed realistically and that the calculations are substantiated.

### **Commercialization and business plan**

As funding from ICROFS and GUDP is granted with high priority to projects with commercial potential, business plan(s) are thus an important part of the project application. However, projects focusing on the contribution of organic farming to public goods (Type 2) are exempted from this requirement and do not have to prepare a business plan. (See detailed information in the section 'Funding and commercial issues').

### **Holistic and multidisciplinary approach**

Projects under the Organic RDD program should be based on an agricultural and food-systems approach, be interdisciplinary, holistic and involve the value chain and users of the knowledge produced.

### **Bridging the food sector**

The wishes are to support an interdisciplinary approach as well as bridging, cooperation and sharing of knowledge between researchers, companies, farmers, aquaculture activities as well as actors from other sectors with expertise that may benefit the entire organic food sector.

### **Research and justification of project knowledge**

Organic RDD projects must contribute to development and transformation of the Danish food industry through ambitious and business-oriented innovation. With the funds, ICROFS and GUDP will promote collaboration across industries, knowledge institutes and companies to ensure that experiences and results are documented and can be used in the future.

Research should be included in the projects as a relevant means of achieving specific development and demonstration goals that encourage a well-documented access to the market, and projects that receive public research funding must involve and engage the industry as an active partner.

### **International cooperation**

It is possible to use international cooperation partners in cases where this may provide added value to the project. However, they cannot be included as project participants but be used as external assistance.

### **High-risk projects**

Grants may be provided for projects that involve significant risks but have equivalently high potential if the project succeeds. Therefore, grant approvals can be conditional to supplementary investigations by the applicant on whether and how the project can be implemented. The investigations must identify the project's risks and highlight the potential benefits. If it is deemed necessary that such investigations are needed on the feasibility of the project, the applicant will be notified by the GUDP-secretariat, which will also provide details of the conditions.

## **Funding and commercial issues**

### **Active participation and co-financing**

ICROFS and GUDP intends to further cooperation between different actors across sectors and industries to create synergy and strengthen knowledge sharing. Therefore, it is important that the projects involve partners from trade and industry, and it is a requirement that research and knowledge institutions contribute with a co-financing of at least 10 percent.

### **Subsidy rates**

EU legislation on state subsidies sets the overall frame for the subsidy rates. It is important that the applicant provides accurate information on the activity type, project type and size of the companies involved. This is a prerequisite for GUDP to apply the correct subsidy rates (see Table 1). If too much subsidy has been granted it must be paid back with interest.

**Table 1. Maximum subsidy rates for Organic RDD projects**

Company size	Research and knowledge dissemination organizations*	Small companies		Medium-sized companies		Large companies	
		Individual	Cooperation	Individual	Cooperation	Individual	Cooperation
<b>Activity type</b>							
Basic research	100 pct.	100 pct.		100 pct.		100 pct.	
Applied research (Industrial research)	90 pct.	70 pct.	80 pct.	60 pct.	75 pct.	50 pct.	65 pct.
Development activities (Experimental development), including demonstration activities related to non-agricultural products**	90 pct.	45 pct.	60 pct.	35 pct.	50 pct.	25 pct.	40 pct.
Demonstration related to agricultural products***	70 pct.	70 pct.	70 pct.	70 pct.	70 pct.	70 pct.	70 pct.

\* Research and knowledge dissemination organizations can achieve a maximum subsidy of 100 pct. (however, maximum 90 pct. from GUDP) of the eligible costs for the implementation of non-commercial research and development activities, provided that the research results of the research institutions is subject to continuous publication, including education.

\*\* Demonstration activities related to non-agricultural products are limited to activities defined in the development provision of the General Block Exemption Regulation Article 25. In these cases, the support rate depends on the size of the enterprise and whether it involves collaboration.

\*\*\* Demonstration activities related to agricultural products are exempted under Article 21 of the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation, which covers the products listed in Annex I to the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#). In these cases, a 70% support rate for demonstration (knowledge-sharing) can be provided to companies. When providing support to large enterprises, the project must benefit small and medium-sized enterprises.

### Requirements for collaborative projects

In order to receive an increased subsidy for cooperation projects, it must be a collaboration between companies, of which at least one is an SME, and where no individual company has a budget of more than 70 pct. of the eligible costs. Or the collaboration must be between a company (regardless of size) and a research and knowledge dissemination institution, where the latter has a budget of at least 10 per cent of the eligible costs.

In collaborative projects with an increased subsidy rate, the project results must be widely disseminated via conferences, publications, open access archives, free software or open-source software. However, this does not apply to confidential information.

### **Eligible expenses and costs**

Expenditure items that are eligible for funding are described in the application guidelines under Form B.

### **Business plan**

The Organic RDD-program emphasizes the commercial perspectives of the projects and to ensure that the business part of the projects is thought through, all projects may complete a Business Model Canvas (Form G). However, this does not apply to projects that focus on the contribution of the organic sector to public goods (type 2 projects). The business plan and the Business Model Canvas, if applied, should together provide an overview of the business model, organization and economy of the intended product(s). The information should be based on facts with references to relevant sources. It is important to support the information with data describing e.g. market size and growth rates.

For more information about business plans, see 'Guideline for completing the application forms for The Organic Research, Development and Demonstration Programme (Organic RDD)10' (A30-A36) [here](#). Choose the tab "Sådan søger du" ("How to apply") and read more under "Søg om tilskud" ("Apply for grant"). The application material can also be found here at [ICROFS website](#).

## **Procedure for the processing of applications**

The processing of the applications received will be based on the submitted material and the ICROFS-secretariat and GUDP will review the projects in relation to the specified criteria. The scientific quality of the projects will be evaluated by an international panel of experts on the basis of the scientific part of Form A (A-19 including CVs and A-21) as well as Form B.

### **The role of the ICROFS-board**

The ICROFS-board plays a central role in the assessment of applications with due respect of the general rules of impartiality and confidentiality. The ICROFS board evaluates all applications and – based on the review by the ICROFS-secretariat as well as the evaluation made by the international panel of experts – the ICROFS board submits to the GUDP-board a substantiated proposal for program composition, and the GUDP-board decides which projects should receive approval of grants.

During the processing of applications, the ICROFS- and GUDP-secretariats may contact the project manager with clarifying questions. However, it will not be possible to provide new information that improves the application. In special cases, the secretariats may also seek professional advice from external experts. The ICROFS-secretariat ensure that external experts are impartial and impose on them confidentiality in the processing of the application material.

### **Scientific evaluation**

Innovation Fund Denmark (InnovationsFonden) has approved that the ICROFS-secretariat will be performing the scientific evaluation of the projects, based on input from an international panel of researchers, which has been approved by Innovation Fund Denmark, cf. the Fund's model 1 for scientific evaluation. The Innovation Fund Denmark (InnovationsFonden) make their final assessment of the scientific quality on the basis of the evaluation performed by the international expert panel. If the scientific quality is not considered eligible for support, the project cannot receive a grant. If the scientific quality is considered eligible for support, the ICROFS-board will use the other comments from the panel as part of the basis for their decision.

The international expert panel evaluates the application based on two main criteria: 1. The scientific quality (Form A: A21 and Form B), and 2. The project participants' research qualifications (Form A: A19-1 and CVs as well as A21-5).

1. The scientific evaluation of the application is based on three criteria:
  - Sound concept<sup>14</sup> and quality of objectives
  - Progress beyond the state-of-the-art
  - Quality and effectiveness of the scientific and technological methodology and associated work plan
2. The project participants' research qualifications are based on two criteria:
  - Quality and relevant experience of the individual participants
  - Quality of the consortium as a whole (including complementarity, balance)

The international expert panel assigns a score (0-5) for each criterion. A score of less than 3 for one of the two main criteria means that the project application does not proceed in the selection process.

The assessment of the scientific quality is based on Form A (A19-1 og A21) and the included CVs as well as on Form B including the Gantt chart as well as lists of milestones and deliverables. In the part of Form A, which is concerned with the scientific quality, the research content, problem description, hypothesis, theoretical background, research plan and methods, time schedule, expected results and risks must be accounted for, including a description of the new knowledge this research contributes to. In addition, the participating researchers' qualifications must be described.

### **Consultative procedure in relation to scientific evaluation and the ICROFS-board recommendation**

As external advice has been obtained from the ICROFS-board, scientific experts and from the Innovation Fund, the applicant has the right to comment on the external assessment during the consultative procedures. This is done in order to clarify whether the evaluation is based on misunderstandings in relation to the application. The applicant's comments may be presented to the persons responsible for the external scientific advice in order to clarify any misunderstandings.

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<sup>14</sup> Refers to the overall project description with an evident link between background, objectives, and the work performed as the basis for the expected project effects.

### **Confidentiality**

All applications will be handled with confidentiality within the framework of the Danish Act on Public Administration (Lov om offentlighed i forvaltningen).

### **Publication of applications**

For each application round, the GUDP-secretariat publishes a list of applications received. Once the GUDP-board has selected the projects that will receive grants, project titles, grant sums, names and contact information of project managers will be published on [www.gudp.dk](http://www.gudp.dk). The grant sums may appear in total and/or distributed on the individual participants. Corresponding information may be published for the projects that have received rejections. For all projects that receive grants the title, participants, total budget and grant agreements, start and end dates and the short project description from the application are also published in 'Grøn Projektbank' on <https://groenprojektbank.dk/>. 'Grøn Projektbank' is a project database initiated by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark in collaboration with Innovation Fund Denmark (Innovationsfonden).

GUDP reports the statutory information to the European Commission's state Aid Register<sup>15</sup>.

## **During and after the project**

The ICROFS-secretariat is organizing an annual Innovation and Research Workshop for all Organic RDD projects. The purpose of the annual workshops is to facilitate synergy between Organic RDD and CORE Organic projects as well as possible GUDP projects concerning organic agriculture, to provide guidance on dissemination of the project results and the completion of progress and final reports, and to advance research in organic agriculture or food systems.

During the project process, a scientific employee from the ICROFS- and GUDP-secretariats are associated with the project, who regularly are in dialogue with the project manager and follow the project. The scientific employee from ICROFS must be invited to all project meetings and strives to participate at least once a year. Employees from the GUDP-secretariat may also, in some cases, participate as observers in the project meetings or steering group meetings.

### **Progress and final reports**

With progress- and final reports, ICROFS and GUDP are able to follow the projects from start to finish, including processing and approval of the grant recipient's budget as well as feedback regarding finances and activities.

- Progress report: Every year around 1 April, all organic RDD projects must submit a progress report and a sub-statement on results and progress in the project. The first progress report must be submitted after the project has been running for at least eight months. If payment is requested before the first progress report is submitted, a smaller statement of the status of the project must be submitted.

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<sup>15</sup> More information on the EU state aid register's reporting system can be found on the Danish Business Authority's [website](#).



- Final report: When an Organic RDD project is completed, a final professional report and final accounts must be submitted no later than three months after the project has ended. The final report must describe the content of the project, including the activities of the project, challenges along the way, how these were handled, and the results achieved. ICROFS secretariat sends the templates for both the status report and the final report via email to the project managers.

As part of the final report, the project manager must ensure that all disseminated project material (that is e.g. scientific articles and other publications, conference papers, workshops, etc. as well as any press material and links to journalistic coverage of the project in the media) is uploaded to [Organic Eprints](#). Organic Eprints is an open online-archive for research in organic agriculture and food systems. Together with the final report, a list of the disseminated material is prepared with links to each in Organic Eprints.

The final report consists of an internal part for the secretariat, and a public part that will be published on Organic Eprints, [www.gudp.dk](http://www.gudp.dk) and in [Grøn Projektbank](#), it appears from the template for the final report which sections are to be published.

## Dissemination and reporting

The results of an Organic RDD project should be disseminated to the largest extent possible so that farmers, advisors, companies and researchers can use them and build on them. Furthermore, the good stories about green innovation in the food industry must be disseminated to a wider public audience when the results are of general public interest. Therefore, communication is an important part of all Organic RDD projects.

It must be clearly stated in connection with all forms of dissemination of a project that it is a part of the Organic RDD programme, which is coordinated in a joint collaboration between ICROFS and GUDP. For example, the following phrasing can be used: *“(Name of project) is a part of the Organic RDD 10 programme which is coordinated by ICROFS (International Center for Research in Organic Food Systems). The project has received grants from the Green Development and Demonstration Programme (GUDP) under the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Fisheries of Denmark.”*

### **Project dissemination via ICROFS’ communication channels**

The ICROFS-secretariat prepares, in collaboration with the project manager, a website for each of the projects that receive approval of grants. Previous Organic RDD project descriptions can be seen at ICROFS’ website: <http://icrofs.dk/forskning/dansk-forskning/>. In addition, the ICROFS-secretariat prepares an article or press release in dialogue with the project manager and/or the project partners. It will be published on ICROFS’, GUDP’s and the project’s websites and contains a description of the project, quotes for press releases, if possible, and photos provided by the project. It should also be possible for journalists or specialist medias to use the articles in whole or in part in connection with media coverage of the project. A Communications Officer from ICROFS’ communication team is assigned to the project to help ensure dissemination from the project.

All project publications must be uploaded to [Organic Eprints](#). If the project produces material relevant for practise (primary producers and consultants) it should be uploaded to [Organic Farm Knowledge](#) after further agreement with ICROFS.

During the project, the progress reports can also be used in GUDP's news dissemination in a collaboration between the secretariat and the project manager.

No confidential information from the projects will be published<sup>16</sup>, please see below under publication.

Based on the Final report, the ICROFS-secretariat, in collaboration with the project manager and possibly project participants, will prepare relevant final communication products about the results of the project, how the end-users can apply this knowledge in practice, and what further research is needed within the project's subject area. The ICROFS-secretariat will disseminate the end-results and recommendations of the project via ICROFS communication channels and external media.

### **Publication of final reports**

As a general rule, the report's non-confidential conclusions will be published digitally in [Organic Eprints](#), '[Grøn Projektbank](#)' and on [www.gudp.dk](http://www.gudp.dk). By agreement, the results, as mentioned, will also be conveyed as news items on [www.lcrofs.dk](http://www.lcrofs.dk) as well as [www.gudp.dk](http://www.gudp.dk), as press releases and targeted inquiries to relevant media.

## **ABER and GBER**

Subsidies under the GUDP scheme, which is a national government grant scheme for initiatives within the Danish food cluster, constitute government grants and are therefore covered by the EU's rules on state aid.

Subsequently, grants under the GUDP scheme are granted pursuant to the GUDP Act and the GUDP Regulation, as well as chapters I and II of ABER, including articles 21 and 38, and also chapters I and II of GBER, including articles 25, 27, 30 and 31.

In order to obtain support under the GUDP scheme, it is a prerequisite:

- a) That the grant recipient is not affected by crisis as defined in article 2, No. 59 in Regulation No. 2022/2472 of 14 December and article 2, No. 18 of Regulation No. 651/2014, and
- b) That the grant recipient has complied with any repayment orders issued by the European Commission in relation to one or more decisions in which state aid granted by the Danish authorities has been found to be against the law and incompatible with the internal market, and

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<sup>16</sup> The assessment of whether the information is confidential or not is carried out in accordance with the applicable rules of the Danish administrative law.

- c) That the grant recipient at any time immediately informs the GUDP secretariat thereof, in case the grant recipient receives public funding for the same costs from other sources, including payments received under other national or EU initiatives.

<p><i>GBER (General block exemption Regulation)</i></p> <p>The European Commission's Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 on certain support categories and their compatibility with the internal market in accordance with articles 107 and 108 of the Official Journal of the European Union 2014, No. L 187, p. 1, and subsequent amendments.</p>	<p><i>ABER (Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation)</i></p> <p>Commission Regulation (EU) No 702/2014. of 25 June 2014 on the compatibility with the internal market pursuant to articles 107 and 108 in the Treaty of the European Union and its application of certain support categories within the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas, including subsequent changes.</p>
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When applying for a GUDP grant, you also commit yourself to ensure that the project in relation to which you apply for funding, will comply with the requirements prescribed by GBER and ABER. If you are approved for a GUDP grant, you must once again ensure and guarantee that the project meets these requirements. It is essential that you thoroughly examine whether or not the project complies with these requirements, as failure to comply with these requirements may result in you having to repay any funding in full or in part.

## Processing of personal data, GDPR

GUDP applications are treated confidentially within the GUDP- and ICROFS-secretariats and are, as a rule, not handed out to outside parties. However, it is possible to apply for access to documents in accordance with the Act on Access to Information Held by Administrative Organs. But confidential information cannot be disclosed beyond the stipulated cases pursuant to the applicable rules.

Based on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which came into force in May 2018, we must make you aware of the following on GUDP's handling of personal data: Applicants for GUDP grants submit personal data in connection with the application and possibly in connection with the subsequent processing of applications. Failure to submit information means that the GUDP application cannot be processed, cf. The GUDP Consolidation Act. of the Green Development and Demonstration Programme (the GUDP Act).

The GUDP- and ICROFS-secretariats and their boards deal with information in connection with the processing of applications and the project selection. Submitted material can be passed on to external experts outside the secretariats and to Innovation Fund Denmark (InnovationsFonden) in order to obtain scientific advice and assessment. Read about how Innovation Fund Denmark deals with personal data in connection to scientific counselling and assessment here: <https://innovationsfonden.dk/da/privatlivspolitik-innovationsfonden>. In addition, personal data can be exchanged with experts in and outside the GUDP- and ICROFS-secretariats in connection with follow-ups on the processing of the Organic RDD projects.

When checking Organic RDD-projects, personal data can be exchanged with other authorities in accordance with § 18 of the GUDP Act.

In addition to the submitted material, the GUDP-secretariat collects and stores personal data from publicly available sources in connection with information activities. The information is stored in the secretariat's archiving systems until the information is passed on to the Danish National Archives in accordance with Consolidation Act No. 1201 of 28 September, 2016 of the Archives Act. The information cannot be deleted. As stated above, parts of the project applications are published and GUDP passes on the above-mentioned personal information to the the EU Commission's State Aid Register.

The GUDP-secretariat will keep the information for one year after submission in closed file systems, after which they will be deleted. The information is also stored in the Danish Agricultural Agency's case processing system until the information is passed on to the Danish National Archives in accordance with the Archives Act. The information cannot be deleted.

Requests for access to or rectification of personal data can be directed to the GUDP-secretariat's data controller, who is the secretariat's team leader. The GUDP-secretariat's lawyer is the associate data processor for the above-mentioned personal data stored by the Danish Agricultural Agency. The data controllers and data processors can be contacted via the GUDP-secretariat's e-mail [GUDP@lbst.dk](mailto:GUDP@lbst.dk).