



## European agritech companies harness the power of artificial intelligence in the farming business

### EU funds a new cutting-edge project

#### PRESS RELEASE

The EU-funded agrifoodTEF project empowers European agritech companies to access advanced AI and robotics Testing and Experimental Facilities (TEFs) across nine countries. Launched in 2023 with a €60 million investment, this initiative supports small to medium agritech enterprises in testing and validating in real environments cutting-edge technologies for more efficient, sustainable food production. Through a comprehensive service catalogue featuring over 200 opportunities for testing AI solutions, agrifoodTEF is bridging the gap between research and commercial application, driving innovation forward in Europe's agrifood sector.

#### Background

For some time now, European agritech companies and communities have had access to support from the European Commission for their AI, robotics and other technological services. Companies have been able to test these new technologies across Europe, and there are test centres in 9 different countries. The project goes under the name agrifoodTEF.

The main goal of agrifoodTEF is to help agritech companies to access the full benefit of AI and AI-powered robotics technologies. This leads to more efficient and sustainable food production within the EU. More broadly, it is a multi-sector, €60 million project funded by the European Commission and the Member States of the European Union. This project will allow companies and communities to test new technologies in the European AI and robotics Testing and Experimental Facilities, more commonly known as TEFs.

According to Raffaele Giaffreda, Chief IoT Scientist at Fondazione Bruno Kessler and the agrifoodTEF project coordinator, these services will be consolidated while the project is being executed, with the aim to help sector innovators close the gap between research and products for efficient and sustainable agriculture.



*“These services will have a strong impact that will accelerate how research solutions reach the market, leveraging the strong AI and Robotics skills and competences that the consortium’s partners have .”*  
Giaffreda says.

The services of TEF’s can be customised for each individual agritech company. The main goal is to attract small and medium size companies (SMEs) that can access available solutions in the Catalogue of Services, a large database containing more than 200 AI services, for the companies to choose from.

AgrifoodTEF is a good example of the direction in which Mario Draghi, former Italian ex-minister and former president of the European Central Bank, wants the Union to develop. In a report published in September 2024, Draghi calls for better cooperation in the agricultural sector between government, industry and academia, and for barriers to commercialisation to be removed.

## Read about the project in a nutshell

- The European AI and robotics Testing and Experimental Facilities, TEF’s, help companies to test new technologies.
- The agritech centers TEF’s, exist in 9 European countries: Italy, France, Denmark, Austria, Belgium, Poland, Sweden, The Netherlands, Spain.
- For agritech companies there is a catalogue containing more than 200 AI services. Already 50 have been delivered by its partners to small and medium sized companies, SMEs.
- The 5 year long project was launched in 2023.
- The total funding for the project is €60 million. The EU Commission is providing €30 million, with the remaining €30 million coming from the participating EU Member States.

## For further information

The agrifoodTEF project invites all interested parties to join its commitment to promoting AI and robotics solutions in the agrifood sector. To stay updated on agrifoodTEF progress and achievements, follow us on social media and our [official website](#). For any inquiries, feel free to contact us at [agrifoodtef@trust-itservices.eu](mailto:agrifoodtef@trust-itservices.eu) and follow us on our social media channels:

- X: @ AgrifoodTEF
- YouTube: agrifoodTEF
- LinkedIn: agrifoodTEF
- Instagram: agrifood\_tef
- Facebook: Agrifoodtef
- Zenodo: agrifoodTEF