

## Questions and Answers

### NTN Innovation booster – Swiss Food Ecosystems

Question	Answer
How will you create value for the Swiss SME landscape?	Value is only generated if companies and research groups actively participate and manage to develop ideas further leading to projects and products. We provide the platform and support this process at our best opening access to multiple competences within the Swiss Agro Food Ecosystem and beyond.
Who do you imagine being part of the teams? Are you also considering university students?	This depends on the phases. In the ideation phase with web based challenges and Hackathons, students are a key group of stakeholders to bring in new and out of the box ideas. When it come to the exploration phase and working in teams to develop solutions, students are very welcome to complement the team of companies and research institutes
What is meant by dedicated support vouchers?	Ideas and prototyped solutions will be awarded in two directions. One is price money which will be used by the teams to carry the idea / prototyped solution further. The other is support through experts who we have in our organization. This support covers individual consultancy on certain aspects such as financing through grants, research aspects, matchmaking with required experts, IP related questions, business planning etc.
What happens if I want to bring in my own business idea for phase 2 or 3 is this possible?	Basically this is possible. If you think Open Innovation can add value to your idea, to what extend are you open to share with other partners? How can open innovation and co creation still be applied? A common framework will be elaborated. Otherwise, it is perfectly possible to join directly in phase 2, there is no obligation to start with phase 1 to reach phase 2.
Will Swiss Food Research still exist or will it be now only this Swiss Agro Food Leadinghouse?	The Suisse Agro Food Leadinghouse is an association founded by Cluster Food & Nutrition <u>and</u> Swiss Food Research. Both organizations are collaborating to run the NTN Innovation Booster. Being associations, the interest of the members is giving the directions for the future.
Who is this project for? Students, Researchers, SME ?	The innobooster aims to bring a diverse group of people together in order to work on complex challenges that require a wide range of competences. Thus it is addressed to all parties such as students, research institutes, companies (Start-ups, SME's, corporates, ...)
Who are the experts?	The experts will be 2 persons from industry, 2 persons from academia and the two co-managers of the Leading House. The experts from industry and academia are elected for one year. Every year a new group of 4 experts will be elected. They are appointed by the board of the Leading House and the members assembly.
Can innovations be of all sorts ? (technological, Organization, social/financial) Are there some eligibility criteria foreseen?	Yes, all types of innovation are welcome. Eligibility criteria: The teams going through the workshops (exploration phase) have to be members of one of the networks – Cluster Food & Nutrition or Swiss Food Research.
How can we use the platform along with Innosuisse funding (new/old)?	That is independent and actually complementary. You can apply for a Innosuisse grant (Innocheque or Innoproject) on one subject and at the same time be active on another subject in the NTN Innovation

	Booster. Actually the NTN Innovation Booster serves as a seed funding to help developing ideas further so that the team can apply for a Innoproject grant in a next step.
How can we protect the IP (SME) while participating in the platform?	This is a question that we all have to work on. The basic concept behind the approach pursued in the NTN Innovation booster is a culture of Open Innovation and co creation. We have the unique chance to define in a collaborative manner how we might, want to be active in the area of innovation, and how we might like to handle this question. We will set up an open challenge to find common solutions early 2021.
I believe you mentioned a participation fee for the exploration phase, does that mean people going through the Design Thinking process have to pay?	<p>The workshop offers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to Design Thinking and a guided workshop by experienced trainers.</li> <li>• The possibility to win up to 22'500 CHF.</li> <li>• The possibility to win 8h of consultancy by our experts.</li> </ul> <p>The Design Thinking process provides not only a way to come to unexpected solutions. The workshop is also a training for each participating party in a development method and builds an attitude for collaboration.</p> <p>The above mentioned benefits and the experienced commitment through the whole process provide a distinct and unique value for each participants. Each team thus collectively pays a fee of 5'000 CHF. It is up to the team to split the costs internally.</p>
There seem to be roughly 250'000 CHF available in the two first phases. Will there also be calls for projects funded through this Innobooster in the third phase?	The third phase aims at developing the prototyped solutions further in order to lift them to the next level. This could be for example an Innosuisse project. It could also be a direct collaboration with research partners. The price money won in phase 2 can be used to cover the costs for the activities performed in the third phase.
How will the teams be put together in step one? Do we have to apply as a team?	There will be a matchmaking phase where the different parties can find their preferred partners and needed competences. We will provide digital tools to support this process.
Do we need to sign up as a team to participate in phase 1?	No, phase 1 (ideation) is open to everyone
What are the fees to be a member of this new association- Swiss Agro Food Leading House?	Both networks, Cluster Food & Nutrition or Swiss Food Research are the members of the Leading House. Members of Cluster Food & Nutrition or Swiss Food Research are also member of the Leading House and through this membership become eligible to participate in the NTN Innovationbooster.
Will you send us the slides and the results of our work groups by mail?	Yes