



START
CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE
AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS

GUIDELINES on START research HUBs

START research HUBs are curiosity driven and engage in fundamental and applied research related to the systemic transition of the Agrifood systems. That in terms of climate, environment, biodiversity, food, health, energy, land use, inclusive society and resource sufficiency.

Activities in START research HUBs address the following themes:

- Integrative Land Use
- Connecting Sea and Land
- Circular Resource Valorisation
- Novel Food and Feed
- Health, Food Safety and Diet Change
- Food Systems 2050
- Shared Integrated Research Facilities.

The unique asset of START favours a setting for co-creating where researchers can generate realistic future solutions, together.

Triple-I

A START Research HUB is characterised by having an integrative, inclusive, and interdisciplinary profile. This, by working through an **integrative** approach of technical innovation and societal transformation for the various interlinked green challenges related to climate, environment, biodiversity, food, health, society, biobased economy etc. By working with an **inclusive** approach with all stakeholders and actors in science, society and businesses by means of novel methodologies such as living labs and citizen sciences. And, by using a true **interdisciplinary** approach enhancing the cooperation of scientific researchers from a wider diversity of disciplines from natural, technical and digital sciences to social sciences, humanities and arts.

Definition

A START research HUB represent a comprehensive research theme with focus on concrete solutions for the green transition that includes cross-disciplinary research. The HUB must be inclusive for new participants and have an open all-inclusive network structure.

START expects the research HUBs span three universities and several disciplines to facilitate the cross-university and cross-discipline dialogue. Ideally, all HUBs should gather both STEM and SSH originated researchers. A START research HUB is to enable key players to work together and exchange insights leading to better research.

The goals of a START research HUB are:

- Become large networks across the Danish universities that bring together key researchers to develop solutions and identify pathways for systemic transition of the agrifood system
- Support collaborative research projects between universities that involve cutting-edge research on the agrifood sector and new technologies
- Leverage national and international investment in targeting the transition of the agrifood system, both from industry and other research end-users
- Being an attractive lead partner in international research consortia's.

A START research HUB works to:

- Ensure mission driven research activities with focus on long-term solutions to benefit climate, environment, biodiversity, food, health, energy, land use, inclusive society and resource sufficiency
- Facilitate bottom-up thematic discussions on societal challenges and research needs
- Support network activities and reaching out to international research communities
- Identify funding opportunities – both EU & national funds
- Enable access to research infrastructure, e.g., living labs and data collection
- Attract PhD students and young researchers to the agrifood area.

The role of the academic HUB coordinator:

- Set up an interdisciplinary team of at least three academic HUB coordinators working at different universities.
- Initiate interdisciplinary research and interdisciplinary cooperation
- Act as a contact person for other interested researchers or research groups and help position the START initiative
- Make the “Triple- I” Approach operational in research and innovation
- Plan and organize scientific content of HUB meetings and workshops
- Survey and analysis of potential funding sources
- Forming consortia and funding applications.

Two administrative supporters will be appointed from the START administrative team

The role of the administrative HUB support:

- Support the development and operation of HUB activities
- Plain secretarial service, i.e. sending invites, announcing activities on the START homepage
- Arrange and organize webinarer, guest lecturers, workshops, matchmaking, network meetings, seminars, site-visits, jam sessions etc.
- Guidance on contact to fundraisers.