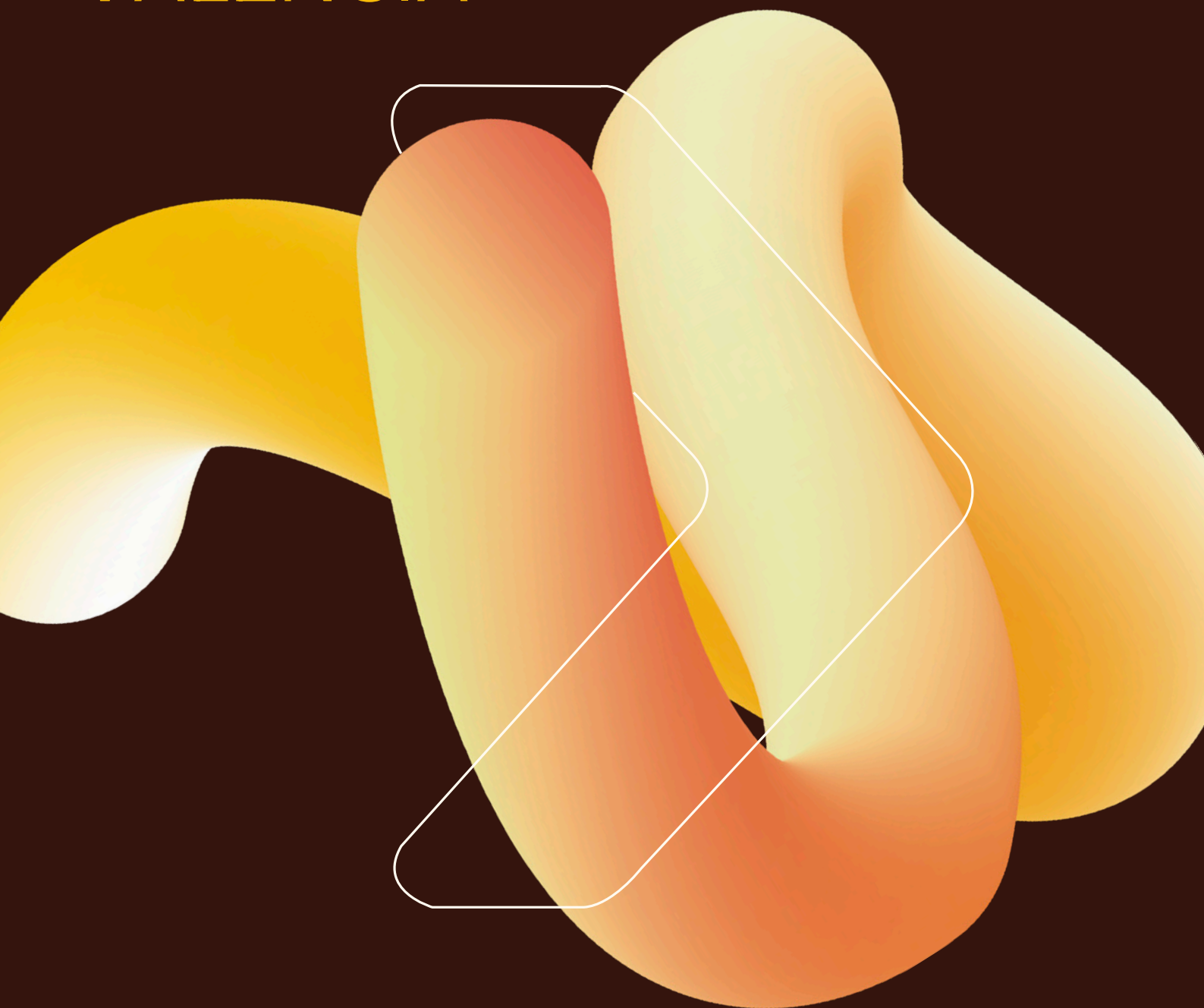


FEBIO 2026 FUTURE EATS BIOTECH VALENCIA

FOOD BIOTECH
CHALLENGE

TERMS AND
CONDITIONS



FEBIO

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FOOD BIOTECH Startup CHALLENGE

FEBIO — Future Eats Biotech Valencia 2026

Terms and Conditions of the Call

The most promising food biotechnology startups, in front of those who can help them grow.

Direct access to industry and experts from the food biotech ecosystem.

1. ORGANIZERS

The Food Biotech Startup Challenge forms part of FEBIO – Future Eats Biotech Valencia 2026, an industrial strategy-focused conference where biotechnology applied to food becomes an opportunity for connection and development, bringing together startups, industry and science to advance solutions with practical applicability and scale-up potential.

The competition is jointly promoted by:

AINIA

FEDACOVA

BIOVAL

2. PURPOSE OF THE CALL

The purpose of the Food Biotech Startup Challenge is to identify, showcase and connect the most promising startups worldwide in food biotechnology, facilitating their market access through direct contact with industry and international experts.

The specific objectives of the Call are:

- To identify and recognize high-impact projects in biotechnology applied to food.
- To facilitate concrete opportunities for collaboration, technological validation and business development.
- To connect startups with key ecosystem stakeholders: corporates, sector experts and institutions.
- To position innovative talent on the international food biotechnology stage.

3. THEMATIC SCOPE

Startups with innovative solutions in the following areas, aligned with FEBIO's strategic pillars, may participate:

	AREA	EXAMPLES OF APPLICATION
01	New ingredients and products through biotechnology	<i>Design and development of a new generation of ingredients and foods through biotechnology: novel proteins, fats and functional biomolecules, microorganisms, bioprocesses, and new nutritional and sensory functionalities.</i>

02	Food fermentation and biomanufacturing	<i>Biomass and precision fermentation to produce proteins, fats, functional ingredients and other biomolecules. New microorganisms and biofactories, bioprocess optimization, scale-up and development of industrial capabilities for competitive food biomanufacturing.</i>
03	New bioproduction platforms	<i>Cell culture, plant cell culture and plant molecular farming as new platforms for producing food, ingredients and high-value biomolecules, from biological engineering through to scale-up and industrial application.</i>
04	Biotechnology, nutrition and health	<i>The convergence of biotechnology, AI, omics and nutrition science is opening up new opportunities to discover bioactives and develop solutions targeting specific health needs. The microbiome, personalized nutrition, healthy aging, metabolic health and new nutritional needs associated with GLP-1.</i>

4. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Mandatory criteria

Applicant startups must meet the following requirements:

- Be a legally incorporated company in any country, no more than seven years old as at the closing date of the Call. As a general rule, age will be calculated from the date of incorporation. Where actual trading began later, the date of registration of the activity may be used as the reference, provided that, if requested by the Organizers, this is evidenced by official documentation issued by the competent authority in the relevant country. Innovative startups and spin-offs are eligible.
- Develop science- or technology-based solutions applied to the food sector.
- At the closing date of the Call, have a solution with a minimum Technology Readiness Level of TRL 4, understood as validation of its main components or processes in a laboratory environment.
- Have a founding team actively involved in developing the solution, including at least one person responsible for representing the startup during the Selection Process and, if selected as a finalist, at the Food Biotech Startup Challenge final.

The Organizers may request at any time any documentation required to verify compliance with the Participation Requirements. Failure to provide the requested documentation, submission of false or inaccurate information, or subsequent failure to meet any requirement may result in exclusion of the application or, where applicable, loss of finalist or winner status.

4.2 Positively assessed factors

The following factors will be viewed favorably:

- Existing pilots, proofs of concept or validation agreements with companies in the sector.
- A Technology Readiness Level of TRL 5 or above.
- Demonstrable commercial traction, such as initial customers, recurring revenue, letters of interest or collaboration agreements.
- Scale-up potential and international growth prospects.
- A multidisciplinary founding team with complementary skills.

5. SELECTION PROCESS

The Selection Process will comprise two successive stages:

The application and final-stage pitch may be submitted in Spanish or English.

STAGE 1 — Open call and evaluation

Interested startups must submit their application through the official form available at febio.es and provide the information requested in that form. A committee of experts will assess the applications received using the Evaluation Criteria set out in section 8 of these Terms and Conditions of the Call. Following this stage, the Organizers will select the finalist startups that will proceed to the final stage of the competition and notify each of them of their finalist status on the scheduled date. Selected startups must confirm their participation within the deadline stated in the notification. If a startup withdraws, fails to confirm by the deadline or is unable to participate, the Organizers may offer finalist status to the next highest-scoring application, in accordance with the ranking resulting from the evaluation process.

STAGE 2 — Food Biotech Startup Challenge Final (FEBIO, November 2026)

The finalist startups will attend the Food Biotech Startup Challenge final in person as part of FEBIO, presenting their proposal to the Jury in a five-minute pitch followed by a question-and-answer session. The final assessment will be conducted in accordance with the Evaluation Criteria set out in section 8 of these Terms and Conditions of the Call.

6. BENEFITS FOR FINALIST STARTUPS

Being a finalist startup in the Food Biotech Startup Challenge provides an opportunity for visibility, connections and learning within FEBIO. All finalists will have access to the following benefits:

- One full admission pass per finalist startup to attend the entire FEBIO conference
- Inclusion in the “Top Startups Food Biotech Startup Challenge FEBIO 2026” selection
- Promotion through AINIA, FEDACOVA and BIOVAL communication channels

Finalist startups may also use the designation “Food Biotech Startup Challenge FEBIO 2026 Finalist” on their own channels, be included in promotional content for the Call and the event, and take part in connection and networking opportunities arising during FEBIO.

7. JURY COMPOSITION

The Food Biotech Startup Challenge will have a high-level, independent and diverse Jury comprising representatives from the following profiles:

- Agri-food companies with industrial collaboration capabilities.
- Strategic partners, investors and other ecosystem stakeholders with connection and collaboration capabilities.
- Experts in biotechnology, agri-food innovation and technology transfer.

The Jury Composition supports an assessment focused on industrial applicability, market potential and the identification of potential opportunities for participating startups. The Organizers will publish the final Jury Composition before the final stage.

8. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed independently by each member of the Jury according to the following Evaluation Criteria, for a maximum score of 100 points:

CRITERION	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Innovation and technological differentiation	Degree of novelty of the solution and differentiation from other existing proposals in the market or Food Biotech ecosystem.	20 points
Application to the food sector and alignment with FEBIO	Relevance of the solution to the food sector and alignment with the areas defined in the Thematic Scope of the Call.	20 points
Solution maturity and development	Level of development achieved by the startup and its solution, considering the declared Technology Readiness Level and any existing validations, pilots or proofs of concept.	20 points
Market potential and growth prospects	The proposal's ability to address a genuine market need, its adoption potential and growth prospects.	20 points
Team capability and track record	Profile, complementarity and experience of the founding team.	20 points

The final score for each application will be the arithmetic mean of the scores awarded by the Jury members. In the event of a tie, the tie-break criterion will be the score obtained for market potential and growth prospects.

9. AWARDS AND PRIZES

The Food Biotech Startup Challenge will include the following Awards and Prizes:

WINNING STARTUP — Food Biotech Startup Challenge FEBIO 2026

The startup with the highest aggregate Jury score will be recognized as the winner of the Food Biotech Startup Challenge FEBIO 2026. In addition to the visibility and promotional activities associated with the award, after the conference the Organizers will facilitate introductions to selected entities in the AINIA, FEDACOVA and BIOVAL networks based on fit and stated interests, with the aim of exploring potential avenues for industrial collaboration, technological development or market access.

AUDIENCE AWARD — Food Biotech Startup Challenge FEBIO 2026

An award determined by a direct vote of event attendees. It recognizes the startup's ability to communicate and connect with the ecosystem present at FEBIO.

The above awards may be received concurrently. The Organizers reserve the right to add further special prizes, which will be announced before the final.

10. CALL TIMELINE

The indicative Call Timeline for the Food Biotech Startup Challenge is as follows:

MILESTONE	DATE
Call opens	To be confirmed
Application deadline	31 October 2026
Finalist startups announced	9 November 2026
Food Biotech Startup Challenge Final	During FEBIO (24–25 November 2026)

Exact dates will be published at febio.es and communicated through the Organizers' official channels. The Organizers reserve the right to amend the Call Timeline for justified reasons, with due notice to participants.

11. PARTICIPATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY CONDITIONS

- Submission of an application implies the participating startup's full acceptance of these Terms and Conditions of the Call.
- Information provided by applicant startups will be treated as confidential by the Organizers and Jury members, except where it must be made public in connection with the Call itself or the participating startup has expressly authorized its disclosure.
- Participation in the Call does not entail any assignment to the Organizers of intellectual or industrial property rights associated with submitted projects.
- The Organizers reserve the right to amend the Call for organizational, technical or force majeure reasons and undertake to give due notice of any material change.
- The Organizers will resolve any matters not covered by these Terms and Conditions of the Call, and their decision will be final.

For any inquiries relating to the Call, interested parties may use the contact details provided at febio.es.

FOOD BIOTECH Startup CHALLENGE

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Participation Application

Startups wishing to participate in the Food Biotech Startup Challenge must complete the official application form and provide at least the following information for assessment.

1. GENERAL STARTUP INFORMATION

- Startup name
- Year of incorporation
- Website
- City and country
- Contact person's full name
- Job title
- Email address
- Telephone

2. ABOUT THE STARTUP AND ITS VALUE PROPOSITION

- Brief description of the startup (max. 500 characters)
- Brief description of the startup's value proposition (max. 700 characters)
- Market need or sector challenge addressed by the startup (max. 500 characters)
- Relevant area within the Thematic Scope of the Call

3. DEVELOPMENT STATUS

- Current TRL
- Current stage of development of the startup and its main activity (max. 500 characters)
- Existing pilots, proofs of concept or relevant validations linked to the startup's activity (yes/no + brief details)
- Existing commercial traction, such as initial customers, agreements or letters of interest (yes/no + brief details)

4. FOUNDING TEAM

- Number of team members
- Brief description of the founding team and its key profiles (max. 500 characters)

5. DECLARATIONS

- The startup declares that the information provided in the application is true and accurate.
- The startup declares that it meets the Participation Requirements established in the Terms and Conditions of the Call.
- Submission of the application implies full acceptance of the Terms and Conditions of the Food Biotech Startup Challenge FEBIO 2026.



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