

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

FEED the knowledge community

'Tell us about legumes'

1. Foreword

FEED – The knowledge community is an online platform that identifies and shares – *inter alia* - good practices, development and cooperation projects, programs, research applied to communities' development (<http://feedcommunity.net/>).

FEED is part of the MEDIET project, funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

FEED provides an opportunity to share and enhance good practices that focus on the *development of sustainable food systems*, consistent with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. The platform deals with:

- the enhancement of the most valuable good practices, through the creation of communication products (videos, infographics, articles) and dedicated events, designed to ensure the widest possible exploitation and dissemination.
- the creation of partnerships to transfer knowledge, to replicate good practices in different contexts and areas, and make successful experiences scalable.

2. Objective

The 'Tell us about legumes' call collects good practices and experiences on the development of *Sustainable Food Systems* that have brought about change for a community.

The good practice should demonstrate how at least one step of the supply chain (cultivation, processing, cooking, storage) preserves or improves the nutritional value of legumes (e.g. proteins, fibres, and other essential nutrients), whether they are commercial varieties, species or varieties typical of a region, or neglected species.

At the same time the good practice should highlight how it has contributed to:

- maintaining or improving soil productivity and quality
- maintaining or enhancing biodiversity
- conserving the environment by reducing the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilisers
- improving the carbon footprint
- implementing innovations that make the process more sustainable
- implementing innovations that - by making legumes more palatable - promote a change in consumers' diets by reducing the consumption of animal proteins,

and how this practice can bring about change in the lives of local communities.

A **good practice** is defined not only as “a practice that is good, but a practice that has been proven to work well and produce good results, and is therefore, recommended as a model. It is a successful experience which has been tested and validated in the broad sense, which has been repeated and deserves to be shared so that a greater number of people can adopt it” (source: FAO).

Good practices under development and implementation or completed within the last 5 years must comply with the following characteristics:

- Effective and successful
- Technically feasible
- Replicable and adaptable.

After evaluation and assessment, the good practices collected will be published on the FEED platform and networked through its community channels. In addition, good practices will be promoted with ad-hoc communication products, as detailed in Chapter 6.

3. Beneficiaries

The call is open to Operators whether they are natural persons or legal representatives of legal entities or wish to discuss good practice.

Who Can Participate?

Farmers: Whether you grow legumes on a small scale or manage a larger farm, your experiences and insights are invaluable. Share your firsthand knowledge of the challenges and successes in producing and processing legumes to inspire others and contribute to the collective learning of the community.

Farming Cooperatives: Collaborative efforts within farming cooperatives often lead to innovative approaches and scalable solutions. If your cooperative has implemented practices related to legume production, processing, or sustainability, share your story and showcase the collective impact of your efforts.

Researchers: Academic and applied researchers play a crucial role in advancing knowledge and developing evidence-based solutions. If you have conducted research on pulses, including research on production techniques, nutritional value, environmental impacts and social implications, your findings can inform and inspire others in the community.

Practitioners: Agricultural extension workers, agronomists, and food system practitioners have valuable insights gained from hands-on experience. If you have implemented or facilitated the adoption of innovative practices in legume production, processing, or marketing, we invite you to share your practical wisdom and lessons learned.

Non-profit Organizations: NGOs, civil society organizations, and other non-profit entities often play a pivotal role in supporting farmers and communities in adopting sustainable practices. If your organization has been

involved in initiatives related to legumes, such as promoting biodiversity, enhancing food security, or fostering social inclusion, we encourage you to showcase your impactful interventions and collaboration models.

4. How to join the call

To apply for the call, simply log in and register on the FEED platform at www.feedcommunity.net/call from 8 March 2024 until 15 May 2024 at 23.59. Please enter the following information:

- Title of the good practice.
- If you are not directly involved in the initiative, please include a testimony from someone who has developed the initiative first hand (e.g. an already edited, written, radio or video interview, or a short mobile phone interview, based on the three-minute video message pattern, etc.).
- Contact details for the editor and the testimonial.
- Documents (e.g., reports, publications, articles, etc.), videos and photos describing the initiative carried out.
- Short text in English about the story you are telling us.
- Short two-minute video message (optional):
 - o Introduce yourself and the Good Practice you want to discuss
 - o Describe:
 - the problems and challenges to overcome within your country/region/community.
 - the action you have carried out
 - the positive effects this action has produced (concrete examples and figures are appreciated, if available)
 - the change this action has brought to your life.
- Sample video messages and how-to guidelines are available on the FEED platform.

Submission

Once you've completed the application form and uploaded all necessary documents, submit your application before the deadline.

5. Eligibility criteria

Good Practices will be excluded from this call if they

- are not related to legumes
- are submitted after the call deadline
- are submitted other than by uploading to the platform.

6. Evaluation criteria

If eligibility criteria are met, in accordance with paragraph 5 of this call, the committee starts the evaluation process.

The FEED evaluation committee will assess the applications according to the criteria listed in the procedure annexed to this call.

A bonus of 10 points may be awarded if the good practice is pitched:

- Clearly: The presentation of the initiative should be concise, coherent, and easy to understand.
- Through a Direct Testimony: Including a firsthand account or testimonial enhances the authenticity and credibility of the submission.
- Visual Material Availability: Providing visual materials such as photos or videos demonstrating the action adds depth and clarity to the presentation.

Without prejudice to compliance with the regulations in force, the evaluation by the Committee shall be considered final and shall not be subject to complaint.

The Committee reserves the right to contact the applicant to check and request additional information to clarify any doubts that may have arisen during the evaluation pursuant to Article 71 of Italian Presidential Decree no. 445/00 and subsequent amendments and additions.

At the end of the evaluation, the FEED Enhancement Committee will identify the good practices that are worthy of enhancement. The ranking list will be published on the platform.

The top-performing applicant will be designated as the winner and will receive special recognition. They will have the opportunity to participate in a public event, where they can showcase their initiative to a wider audience. The audience comes from the world of research, international cooperation, industry and international networks that promote local production systems.

Additionally, the winner will be invited to attend a short training course at the CIHEAM Bari campus to further develop their skills in implementing and disseminating good practices.

7. Awards

The successful candidate will receive an invitation to an upcoming international event where he or she will have the opportunity to present on stage the results of his/her work and discuss prospects and needs before an audience of international importance.

8. Timeline

| Activity | Dates |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Opening of the call for proposal | 8 March 2024 |
| Consultation period | 9 March – 30 April 2024 |
| Closing online application | 15 May 2024-30 May 2024 |
| Evaluation process | Until 30 June 2024 |
| Announcement of results | 31 June 2024 |
| Awards | Participation in the event during 2024 |

9. Content compliance, confidentiality and personal data processing

Submission of the application implies full acceptance of the terms of this expression of interest and the implementing procedures.

All documents submitted by applicants for participation in this expression of interest will be processed in full respect of the protection of confidentiality of information and personal data which, as such, will not be disclosed or transferred to third parties.

By submitting their application, applicants explicitly and fully accept the "Information on the collection, storage and processing of personal data" provided by CIHEAM Bari when registering on the platform and expressly and fully consent to the use of their personal data by CIHEAM Bari for the purposes set out in this expression of interest.

Applicants also hereby declare, under their own responsibility, that the content provided, including annexes and communication products (such as documents, videos, photos, etc.), have been legitimately acquired in compliance with current copyright legislation. Accordingly, they authorise CIHEAM Bari to use and disseminate what has been uploaded on its institutional channels, with the right to modify it if necessary.

CIHEAM Bari disclaims all liability in the event of incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete, damaged, lost, delayed, misdirected applications, or of applications submitted or received incorrectly, unreadable, damaged, lost, delayed, misdirected. Furthermore, CIHEAM Bari will not be held responsible for applications that, for any reason, are not received, or for electronic or other communications that are delayed, or for other technical problems related to the submission and uploading of content under this initiative.

ANNEX 1 - Good Practices Evaluation Framework

ANNEX 1 - GOOD PRACTICES EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

The definition of “**Good Practice**” and of “**Promising Practice**” that FEED adopts is as identified by the *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*:

*“A **good practice** is not only a practice that is good, but a practice that has been proven to work well and produce good results, and is therefore, recommended as a model. It is a successful experience which has been tested and validated in the broad sense, which has been repeated and deserves to be shared so that a greater number of people can adopt it.”*

*“A **promising practice** has demonstrated a high degree of success in its single setting and the possibility of replication in the same setting is guaranteed. It has generated some quantitative data showing positive outcomes over a period of time. It has the potential to become a good practice but it doesn’t yet have enough research or replication to support wider adoption or upscaling. A such, a promising practice incorporates a process of continuous learning and improvement”.*

Source: adapted from FAO.

The general criteria developed by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations can be used to screen whether a practice is a genuine “good practice”.

1. **Effective and successful:** The practice must work and achieve results that are measurable. It has been successfully adopted and has had a positive impact on individuals and/or communities.
2. **Technically feasible:** It is easy to learn and to implement.
3. **Environmentally, economically and socially sustainable:** It meets current needs without compromising the ability to address future needs.
4. **Inherently participatory:** This approach supports a joint sense of ownership of decisions and actions.
5. **Gender sensitive:** a description of the practice must show how men and women, involved in the process, able to improve their livelihoods.
6. **Replicable and adaptable.** It has the potential of replication and should therefore be adaptable to similar objectives in varying situations.
7. **Reducing disaster/crisis risks, if applicable:** A good practice contributes to disaster/crisis risk reduction for resilience.

Source: adapted from FAO (2014)

FEED METHODOLOGY

Definition of parameters per criterion

To evaluate a Good Practice as such, a Boolean method of measurement is applied where each criterion is assigned two or more parameters that are either marked as YES or NO. These parameters help the content auditor assess and measure the extent to which a Good Practice meets the required standards. The Boolean method of measurement is an effective way to measure the effectiveness of a Good Practice, as it provides a clear and objective evaluation of the practice.

For a hands-on evaluation of the practice, the following templates shall be filled.

Requirements as reported in the table below are designed to back up the auditor to evaluate how complete the form filled online is. Table 2 gives account of the parameters for each criterion.

Table 1. Requirements

| REQUIREMENTS | YES | NO | REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS |
|--|-----|----|-----------------------------|
| Is the form filled in on the platform comprehensive? | | | |
| Has the initiative described as good practice ended? | | | |
| Is the local context where the need was expressed, and the good practice applied clearly defined? | | | |
| Does the title of the good practice allow for a clear understanding of the change that is described in the form? | | | |
| Are there any documents attached proving the implementation of good practice? | | | |
| Is there an impact assessment? | | | |
| Are data on the change addressed by the good practice included? | | | |

Table 2. Parameters per criteria

| PARAMETERS TO BE EVALUATED | COMPLIANCE WITH FAO CRITERIA | QUESTIONS | YES/NO |
|---|---|--|--------|
| Detected need | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the needs of the community/territory clearly expressed? • Are data entered as a baseline? • Does it meet current needs without compromising the ability to address future needs? | |
| Change in Stakeholders | Inherently participatory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the main stakeholders involved identified? • Is it clear how stakeholders were mobilised? • Does the good practice fully support joint ownership of decisions and actions? | |
| | Gender sensitive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the practice gender sensitive? • Does it show how both men and women were able to improve their livelihoods? • Were women empowered? | |
| Change triggered | Effective and successful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the practice highly effective and has it achieved concrete and measurable results? • Are factors that produced the success and the outcomes of this practice clearly described? • Are “unique” or “alternative” steps to follow identified to consider the practice successful? | |
| | Reducing disaster/crisis risks (If applicable) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the practice contribute to the resilience of the communities involved? • Does the practice contribute to reducing disaster/crisis risks in the territories where it is applied? | |
| | Environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the practice environmentally sustainable? • Is the practice economically sustainable? • Is the practice socially sustainable? | |
| Brief description of the process that induced change in local society and the tools adopted | Technically feasible | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the practice technically feasible? • Is the practice easy to learn and implement? • Are methods and tools used to implement the good practice described? | |
| | Replicable and adaptable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this practice transferable in the conditions described? • Is this practice replicable and adaptable to different contexts and objectives? • Are potential constraints, that might be faced in the case of duplication of this practice, mentioned? | |

Final evaluation and scoring

To evaluate and score a Good Practice, the content auditor assigns a score of 1 to 3 (low, medium, high) to each criterion based on the values assigned to the different parameters. This quantifies the quality of the Good Practice and allows for an objective assessment of its effectiveness.

This process supports the content auditor in selecting the Good Practices that will be published on the FEED platform. The procedure generates two final outcomes: the designation of Good Practice

if the score of at least 4 criteria (out of which effectiveness, replicability and sustainability are mandatory) is positive, or the designation of Promising Practice if the score of the exclusion criteria (effectiveness and replicability) is negative. Remember that the criterion on Reducing disaster/crisis risk is not always applicable.

This process ensures that only the Good Practices that meet the required standards are published on the platform, while also providing recognition for promising practices that may still have room for improvement. The scoring and final evaluation of a Good Practice is a crucial step in the process of promoting and sharing effective practices with the wider community.