

# The Good Farmer Award 2026

DAVINES GROUP

 **davines**  
FOR A GOOD LIFE



[comfort zone]  
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PER LO SVILUPPO  
SOSTENIBILE

Sustainable Development Foundation



## FULL REGULATION

*Initiative carried out in application of the simplifications in promotional operations as per Art. 6 DPR 430/2001 point 1 paragraph a), in Exclusion from Prize Events.*

The Company Davines S.p.A. with registered office in Via Don Angelo Calzolari 55a – Parma – tax code and VAT no. 00692360340 (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Organizer’), intends to launch – for the third consecutive year – an initiative, aimed at young farmers under 35 who work in the field of regenerative organic farming and called “**THE GOOD FARMER AWARD**” 2026, in order to contribute to the dissemination of a new culture of food production, which supports the ecological transition of the agri-food supply chains; the initiative is related to the activity of EROC (European Regenerative Organic Center): a hub of the company Davines S.p.A. for research on regenerative organic farming linked to the food, textile and medicinal plant production chains.

The 2026 edition of “The Good Farmer Award” is in collaboration with the **Sustainable Development Foundation**, a leading study center on the green economy. The Foundation focuses on continuous updating, on conducting and disseminating studies and research, information and discussion meetings, involvement of institutions and stakeholders, and on networks to promote the strategic issues of ecological transition. In the area of natural capital and agroecology, the Foundation promotes activities aimed at the environmental redevelopment of regions, the recognition and evaluation of ecosystem services, the involvement of businesses in initiatives to protect and enhance natural capital, and the dissemination of environmental innovation models and practices in agriculture.

# INITIATIVE NAMED: “THE GOOD FARMER AWARD” 2026

## **PURPOSE**

The initiative aims to contribute to the dissemination of a new culture of agricultural and livestock production. To this end, it aims to select and reward virtuous initiatives that represent more ecologically sound forms of agriculture, can support biodiversity, and are resilient, sustainable, and socially just. In short, initiatives that fine-tune the principles of agroecology and regenerative organic agriculture, understood as a set of environmentally sound agricultural management practices that strongly differ from industrial agriculture.

## **INITIATIVE PERIOD**

Submission of applications: **from March 10 to May 15, 2026**

Stage 1 – requirements verification: **June to September 2026**

Stage 2 – Jury meeting: **October 2026**

Stage 3 – award ceremony : **November 27, 2026**

## **INITIATIVE AREA**

Italy.





## INITIATIVE TARGETS

The Award is aimed at young farmers who are 35 years of age or younger as of July 31, 2026 who have implemented business projects inspired by the basic principles of agroecology and regenerative organic farming, which may also include projects to increase livestock sustainability and animal welfare. Please note that in order to support more farmers, winners of the 2024 and 2025 editions will not be eligible to participate in this initiative.

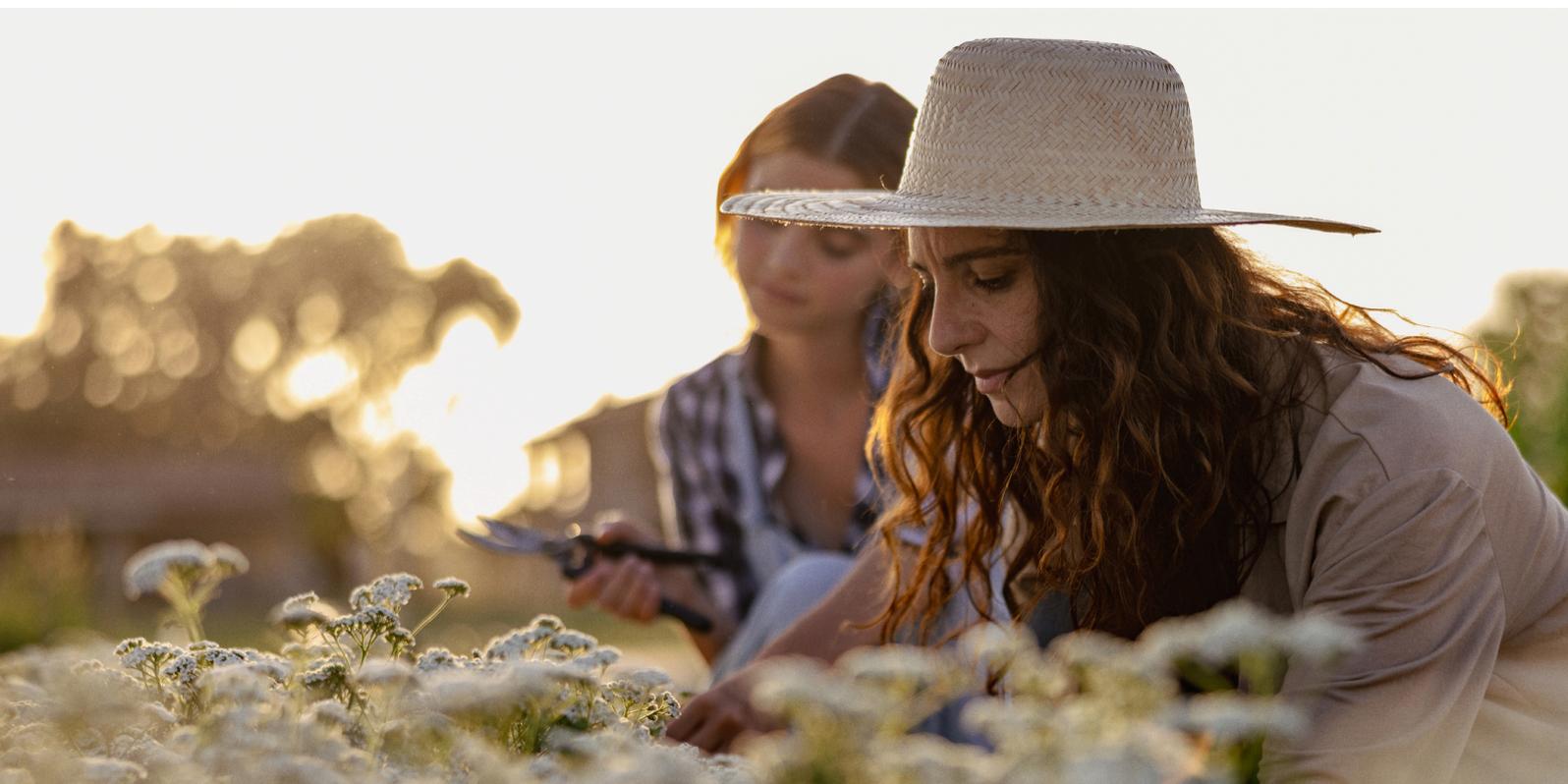
With reference to the basic principles of agroecology and regenerative organic farming, the following is specified:

- improve biomass recycling, with the goal of optimizing organic matter decomposition and the nutrient cycle over time;
- strengthen the “immune system” of agricultural systems through the restoration and enhancement of functional biodiversity;
- improve animal welfare and health through pasture-based farming within agro-silvo-pastoral systems;
- ensure the most favorable soil conditions for plant growth and development by managing organic matter and increasing biological activity in the soil;
- provide farmed animals with a diet derived predominantly from local resources and that, for herbivorous animals, it consists primarily of grass, hay, and tree foliage;
- minimize losses of energy, water, nutrients and genetic resources;
- diversify species and genetic resources found in the agroecosystem over time and space, at the field and landscape level, in livestock farming through multispecies grazing and the presence of hardy, dual-purpose animal populations;
- improve biological interactions and synergies that benefit agro-biodiversity;
- reduce the impacts of livestock activities, if any, by optimizing the metabolic functioning of agricultural systems through the enhancement of local resources and minimization of inputs;
- limit the use of antibiotics and veterinary antiparasitic treatments by implementing integrated animal parasite management practices;

- adopt livestock management practices aimed at increasing biodiversity, such as rotational grazing and mixed systems;
- adopt livestock practices that enhance genuine animal welfare, such as access to diversified forage systems, natural suckling, and the expression of species-specific social behaviors;
- promote the presence of ecological infrastructures such as hedgerows and tree lines, and prioritize permanent forage crops (e.g. permanent grasslands) and perennial crops (e.g. alfalfa).

Farms/farmers who can demonstrate that they are applying at least 3 of the production strategies consistent with regenerative organic farming (see “Participation Requirements” section) and who hold a valid organic farming certificate will be considered eligible to apply.

It should be noted that the young applicant must be the owner, legal representative or partner of the agricultural enterprise; as a partial exception, applications will also be accepted from farmers who do not meet the ownership requirements but are children of owners, legal representatives or partners of agricultural enterprises.





# HOW TO PARTICIPATE

## PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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For an application to be considered valid for participation in the initiative, it must be submitted by candidates who meet the following requirements:

- *a) farmers who are 35 years of age or younger as of July 31, 2026;*
  - *b) owners, partners (or children thereof) of the agricultural enterprise, and have the necessary powers to represent the enterprise within this initiative;*
  - *c) be already in possession of the organic production certification (farms still in the conversion phase are excluded) and demonstrate that they apply at least 3 of the following production and farm management strategies consistent with regenerative organic farming.*
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- **Crop rotation:** temporal diversity in the alternation of depleting crops (generally grasses) and improving crops (legumes, renewal crops), resulting in several benefits related to the following aspects: (i) reduction of pressure from specific pathogens and pests, limitation of chemical plant protection products and consequent reduction of the environmental impact associated with their use; (ii) increased fertility, improved soil structure and increased nutrient availability, allowing reduced fertilizer use and associated costs on subsequent crops; (iii) maintenance and/or increased profits at the rotation level related to reduced input dependence and/or introduction of high value-added crops; and (iv) diversification of farmers' income sources.
  - **Minimal soil disturbance:** use of techniques involving tillage at depths no greater than about 15 cm and with minimal inversion of layers. Typically, field operations are carried out with disc harrows and may include banded work to avoid disturbing larger areas, or machinery equipped with vertical discs that do not lift or stir the soil may be used.
  - **Reduction and abandonment of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides:** use of alternative organic strategies to reduce and control pests and weeds.



- **Polyculture:** cropping systems in which two or more crops are grown in different spatial configurations, falling into the following main types:
  - Cultivation of different crop species in different plots (polycultural systems – multiple cropping);
  - Mixing in the same plot (intercropping)
  - Polycultural systems
  - Intercropping
- **Introduction of agroecological service crops (ASCs):** crops sown in addition to the main crop, for agronomic and/or environmental purposes (e.g. to manage erosion, soil fertility and quality, weeds, pests, diseases, biodiversity). The associated plant, whether permanent or not, may also not be harvested.
- **Agroforestry systems:** trees grow together with annual crops, modifying the microclimate, preserving and improving soil fertility as certain tree species contribute to nitrogen fixation and the recovery of nutrients from deeper layers .
- **Cover crops and mulching:** the use of leguminous or mixed grasses, such as under fruit trees, can reduce erosion, provide soil nutrients, and improve biological control of weeds and diseases. Using (with appropriate tools such as roller crimpers) cover crops on the soil surface is a conservative farming technique that reduces erosion, improves production performance, and supports the conservation of edaphic microfauna (e.g., earthworms).
- **Crop-livestock combinations:** high biomass production and optimal nutrient recycling can be achieved by integrating plant and animal production. Livestock production that integrates high-density shrub forage planting with high-productivity pastures or timber arboriculture combined with direct grazing systems are practices that improve overall system productivity without requiring external inputs.



- **Use of organic fertilizers:** supplying the soil with mature organic material such as manure, compost (including self-grown) or other forms of organic soil conditioners (e.g., vermicompost), which are useful for improving soil structure and microbiological quality.
- **Support for local agribusiness culture:** use of local seeds and breeds and measures to support the promotion of traditional foods and products.
- **Social policies:** the company must demonstrate that it implements active policies aimed at ensuring fair wages, adequate levels of social protection, and gender equality. Participation in networks or organizations that follow the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) approach will be valued as a rewarding element.
- **Economic resilience:** the company applies useful strategies to ensure a good level of autonomy from certain elements of volatility in the agribusiness market, such as diversification of production and activities, use of short chains to market its products, reduced dependence on CAP subsidies and commercial inputs.
- **Increasing livestock sustainability and animal welfare:** use of extensive livestock systems and adoption of animal husbandry practices that are functional both in increasing the quality of agroecosystems (through increased efficiency in plant biomass management and nutrient reuse) and in improving animal health and welfare (elimination or reduction of at least 50% of the use of antimicrobial drugs, decreased use of feed, increased lactation period, increased time devoted to care, adequate organization of the livestock housing structures, use of tools and technologies aimed at improving the conditions of the resting environments). Farms that demonstrate how animals have permanent access to open-air spaces, preferably pastures (evidence of rotational grazing is an added value), will be positively evaluated. The animals are raised on certified organic land, and the feed is 100% certified organic.
- **Not having won the previous editions of The Good Farmer Award (2024 and 2025).**



# APPLICATION SUBMISSION

To apply, you will need to fill out the application form available at the following link (<https://form.fondazionevilupposostenibile.org/the-good-farmer-award-2026/>) **starting at 9:00 a.m. on March 10, 2026 and ending at 6:00 p.m. on May 15, 2026.**

The application form requires the following fields to be filled in, each of which determines the score assigned by the Jury:

- **Section 1** – Brief description of the farm business activity and description of the agroecological practices and tools applied and also selected in Section 3 of the form.
- **Section 2** - Loading of a recent photograph (photo taken during the opening of the call for applications of “The Good Farmer Award”) containing metadata (date, time, and geographic coordinates) demonstrating the application of representative agroecological practices.
- **Section 3** - Indication of what techniques and tools are applied and used consistent with regenerative organic farming.
- **Section 4** - Summary description of future agroecological improvement programs using the Award’s resources.

The application form should be completed in Italian and is open to farmers who meet the requirements in Section 3 of this call to application. A valid copy of the organic growing certificate will also need to be attached for the purpose of completing the application.

It should be noted that applications will only be considered if they are complete with all the data and contents required and referred to above.

Please also note that once the form is submitted, **no changes can be made.**



# AWARD STAGES AND AWARDING

The selection process, to identify the two winners, is carried out at the sole discretion of the Jury and consists of three stages:

## **STAGE 1**

### **Verification of participation requirements and eligibility criteria**

At the closure of the terms for the submission of applications, (by 6:00 p.m. on May 15, 2026), the team of Davines S.p.A. and the Sustainable Development Foundation will proceed to check the applications received for compliance with the participation requirements and eligibility criteria set out in paragraph 3 of these Regulations. Applications deemed eligible will then move on to the second stage of evaluation.

## **STAGE 2**

### **Jury meeting and ranking composition, description of awards**

Applications will be evaluated on their merits by the Jury of the Award (see “JURY COMPOSITION” section of this call for applications) composed of experts and high-level figures in the field of agriculture, biodiversity protection and agroecology who, taking into account the requirements, will evaluate their production strategies on the basis of innovation, or the degree of application of the practices.

To this end, production strategies will be presented to the Jury, and each juror will rate each contribution from 1 to 10, in their sole discretion, based on the above criteria.

This voting system will make it possible to draw up a ranking list, which will be verbalized by reporting all entries up to the 4th position in the ranking and will determine the awarding of prizes.

The production strategies ranked 1st and 2nd will be considered winners, while those ranked 3rd and 4th will be considered reserves and the relevant farmers will be contacted, in order of ranking, if the winner(s) do not accept the prize as stated under NOTICE AND CONFIRMATION OF WIN.



The farms/farmers who submitted the best production strategies placed first (1st) and second (2nd) in the Jury's vote will be equal winners and will each be awarded an expense contribution of € 10,000 (plus any statutory VAT) that Davines S.p.A. will individually award to the winners to cover the costs and expenses for the purchase of materials and equipment closely related to the candidate project and aimed at improving existing agroecological activities.

The amount of the contribution will be charged to Davines S.p.A. through the issuance of a regular invoice issued by the individual applicants in the amount of € 10,000 (plus any statutory VAT), which Davines S.p.A. will pay within 7 days from the date of receipt. Applicants, no later than six months after receiving the aforementioned contribution, must proceed to send Davines S.p.A. the documentation proving the actual use of the same to support costs and expenses.

The winners will also be given wide visibility through Davines S.p.A. and Sustainable Development Foundation communication channels, through a dedicated campaign and for media relations activities, including: news on the website, publications on social media accounts, and dissemination through the Sustainable Development Foundation newsletters. The participants, therefore, declare and acknowledge as of now that the winners will be photographed, filmed, and interviewed solely for the purposes of communication and dissemination of the entire The Good Farmer Award initiative and the related prize obtained and, in particular, in order to further promote the culture of regenerative organic farming. These materials may be used for media relation activities and on Davines S.p.A. social media channels. In the context of the above purposes, winners will be required to sign a release for the use of the images, in accordance with the relevant regulations.

Winners will be appointed Ambassadors of Davines S.p.A. research hub (hereinafter "EROC") and may also use the designation "The Good Farmer Award 2025" in their communication activities. These farmers will be an example for others and, together with EROC, help disseminate the principles and practices of regenerative organic farming in Italy.

## STAGE 3

### Notification of the award

Applicants declared winners will be notified of the award by via email from the email address [thegoodfarmer@susdef.it](mailto:thegoodfarmer@susdef.it). Applicants undertake to maintain the confidentiality of what is communicated until the day of the Awards Ceremony (27 November 2026) in order not to cause any damage to the communication and press office activities related to the initiative and to the event.

Within 3 days of receiving the notice, winners should send an email to the Organizing Secretariat - at the email address [thegoodfarmer@susdef.it](mailto:thegoodfarmer@susdef.it) - accepting the Award. If the acceptance email is not received by this deadline, the Organizing Secretariat may consider whether to award the Award directly to the next candidate in the ranking.

Winners may also turn down the Award by promptly notifying the Organizing Secretariat. This waiver cannot be revoked. A winner who intends to turn down the Award must formalize their waiver in writing via email to the Organizing Secretariat, which will consider whether to award the Award directly to the next candidate in the ranking.

## STAGE 4

### Awards Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony will be held on November 27, 2026 at Davines Group Village, located at 55a Via Calzolari Don Angelo, 43126 Parma.





## **STAGE 5**

### **Disbursement of the prize**

In order to receive the prize, the winning companies (1st and 2nd place in the ranking) must issue an invoice made out to Davines Spa, stating as the reason “The Good Farmer Award Prize,” by December 4, 2026, and comply with Davines SPA’s tax regulations, for an amount equal to **€10,000 (ten thousand) + VAT**.

Should any companies operate under a flat-rate tax regime, Davines Spa will assess the disbursement arrangements on a case-by-case basis. If such a situation occurs, it must be indicated in the prize acceptance email.

The billing details and the purchase order number required for issuing the invoice will be provided by the Davines Spa team, represented by Maria Vittoria Ranzani, **by November 27, 2026**.

The invoice will be paid by Davines Spa within 7 days from the date of receipt. The invoice must indicate the reference to the prize related to the TFGA competition and the PO that will be sent by the Davines SPA team to the winners.



# JURY COMPOSITION

**President of the Jury: Edo Ronchi**, President of the Sustainable Development Foundation. From 2009 to 2013, Edo was a lecturer in environmental design at the University of Rome. From 2001 to 2006, he was a lecturer in Environmental Legislation at the University of Bologna. Minister of the Environment during the 13th Legislature (1996-2000). Since 2019, he has been a scientific expert on the Natural Capital Committee established by the Ministry of the Environment, which is responsible for drafting the Report on the State of Natural Capital in Italy.

**Davide Bochicchio**, Researcher at CREA Animal Production and Aquaculture. Graduated in Veterinary Medicine, PhD in Human Nutrition, and lecturer in Food Chemistry, since 1997 he has been conducting research in the field of animal and human nutrition; since 2008 he has been working on organic livestock farming through national and European projects. He is currently the scientific coordinator and WP leader of numerous national and European projects. His main areas of interest are organic livestock farming, animal welfare, and the environmental sustainability of livestock systems. On these topics, he also serves as a technical consultant for MASAF (Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests).

**Dario Fornara**, Director of EROC (European Regenerative Organic Center) located in Parma near the Davines Group headquarters. Dario has authored and co-authored more than 90 scientific papers on topics related to soil biogeochemistry and biodiversity. In recent years, he has been involved in networks of excellence, including the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Soil Carbon Stock Changes of the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) sponsored by FAO, the Working Group of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP), and the Integrative Research Group of the Global Research Alliance.

**Angelo Gentili**, National Agriculture Manager of Legambiente and Coordinator of Legambiente's National Center for Agroecology. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Fairtrade Italia, a fair trade organization, a member of the Board of Directors of Firab, the Italian Foundation for Research in Organic and Biodynamic Agriculture, and coordinates the national review on organic wine organized by Legambiente in collaboration with the University of Pisa.



## JURY COMPOSITION

**Paola Migliorini**, Pollenzo University of Gastronomic Sciences. Paola teaches the Agroecosystems and Sustainability and AgroBiodiversity course in the undergraduate program and Agroecology, Sustainable Agriculture, and Organic Agriculture in the Master's programs and is a board member of Agroecology Europe. She works at the research level on agricultural models, agriculture and agroecosystem analysis, transition to agroecological approach, ecological, sustainable and organic agriculture, sustainability assessment with agroecological indicators such as soil fertility, biodiversity, and energy efficiency.

**Camilla Moonen**, Associate Professor, Institute of Plant Sciences. Sant'Anna University of Pisa. Agroecology Expert. Camilla deals with the diversification of agroecosystems through functional analysis of biodiversity. Her studies focus on the management of semi-natural habitats and the co-design of cropping systems, from field to landscape scale, with the goal of optimizing e.g., weed management and soil fertility through the use of cover crops, grain legume intercrops or living mulches. She is the author of numerous scientific publications and book chapters.

**Alessandro Monteleone**, Research Director of CREA - Council for Agricultural Research and Analysis of Agricultural Economics, Policy and Bio-economy Center.

Alessandro is Head of the National Rural Network for CREA and an expert in agricultural policy analysis and evaluation on strategic issues related to production chains, efficient use of natural resources and their enhancement, local development and aspects related to social inclusion. He is the author of numerous scientific and popular publications, has participated in several conferences with scientific contributions, and has been a speaker at many national and international conferences.

**Francesca Pisseri**, Italian Agroecology Association. Veterinary physician with expertise in agroecology and sustainable livestock management. Consultant on farms for cattle, small ruminants, swine and poultry in central and northern Italy on the topics of preventive veterinary medicine, rational pasture management, agro-sylvo-pastoral systems design, animal nutrition, nonconventional medicines. Trainer of counselors and breeders, independent researcher and author of articles and books. Founding Member of the Italian Agroecology Association and the Agroecology Desk in the City of Calci.



## NOTES ON THE AWARD

To ensure transparency of purchases of materials and/or services required as part of the nominated project, winners must provide an accounting of expenses incurred, no later than June 30, 2027, by attaching an invoice, contract, estimate, or payment accounting in accordance with the guidance provided by Davines in the Guidelines after the winning phase.

If the total expenses incurred do not add up to a total of € 10,000, an allowance of up to € 500 margin will be maintained, thus totaling € 9,500.

Should the margin be greater, di Davines S.p.A. reserves the right to evaluate on a case-by-case basis.

For an extension of the reporting period (beyond June 30, 2027), the winner will have to provide documentation that attests to the effective commitment to implementing projects that require more time. This means that the project must still be started within 6 months of receiving the award, but may be completed after June 30, 2027, subject to documentation to prove its veracity.

### ***Allowed goods and services***

The types of goods and services that can be purchased with the amount of the award collected include:

- organic products (essences, organic compounds for fertilization or pest control, etc.)
- tools and machinery for new farming practices or to make existing ones more efficient
- development of new crops
- purchase of new land
- purchase of seeds
- agronomic consultations
- training projects/workshops
- purchase of animals or materials useful for their maintenance
- renovation of property within the scope of the project/farm
- energy and/or water efficiency
- consulting or purchase of materials and/or services for ecological land improvement interventions (e.g., hedgerow or wetland reconstruction)

The cost of communicating one's activity is not included.

Should the winner decide to purchase other goods and/or services not listed in the application form, he/she must justify the expenditure incurred in the context of those activities/goods that would support or enhance his/her farm.



## PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

The Personal Data of participants and winners will be processed by Davines S.p.A. and the Sustainable Development Foundation in accordance with the relevant legislation on the protection of personal data (EU Reg. 679/2016 - “GDPR” - and Legislative Decree 196/2003 - “Privacy Code”).

The provision of data is a necessary and indispensable condition for participation in “The Good Farmer Award” initiative. Any refusal to provide the requested data will therefore make it impossible to participate in the initiative.

For more information on processing and protection of personal data of participants and winners, applicants are encouraged to review the privacy policy available at the bottom of the initiative application form accessible via the following link (<https://davinesgroup.com/en/good-farmer-award>). For further information on the processing and protection of the personal data of the members of the Jury, they are invited to read the information available [HERE](#).

## GENERAL NOTES

- By submitting their application, applicants declare that they have carefully read these regulations, the information on the processing of personal data and the specific requirements and responsibilities regarding the submitted content.
- Participation is free of charge.
- The production strategies stated when applying for the call must be fully implemented by the farm/farmer sending the application. The Examining Jury of the Initiative reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to exclude from the Initiative any strategies found to be composed, even in part, of elements produced by third parties.
- The organizers reserve the right to check participation requirements.
- If the Organizer detects non-compliance with these requirements, it will exclude the Applicant (at the application and selection stage), finalist (once the selection is made) from the initiative.
- The Organizer reserves the right to change, even partially and at any time, the terms of participation in the initiative, giving adequate notice, not introducing pejorative changes and safeguarding the rights already acquired by the participants.
- The Organizer assumes no responsibility for entries and/or messages and/or emails lost or received damaged as part of the online transmission, received after the stipulated time or with incorrect data.
- The Organizer also assumes no responsibility for any access problem, impediment, malfunction or difficulty regarding technical equipment, such as computer, telephone line, cables, electronics, software and hardware, transmission and connection, and Internet connection that may prevent a user from participating in the initiative.
- Selected Applicants may not claim financial compensation against the Organizer’s use of the content. Enrollment in the initiative entails the Candidate’s acceptance of this transparency terms and conditions document in its entirety and without reservation.

# CONTACTS AND SUPPORT

For information and/or support for participation you can:

- Call 06 8414815 (Sustainable Development Foundation Secretariat) Monday through Friday during the hours 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Send an email to [thegoodfarmer@susdef.it](mailto:thegoodfarmer@susdef.it)

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