



## Bioeconomy Business Accelerator

### What is BioPaavo?

We are a Bioeconomy Business Accelerator located in Saarijärvi. Our aim is to accelerate the business development and growth of bioeconomy SME companies. We strive to initiate and commercialize globally significant solutions for mitigation of climate change in international business context and to generate notable bioeconomy and carbon neutral based business growth throughout Finland. The accelerator is run by the Institute of Bioeconomy, JAMK University of Applied Sciences.

Our operating model connects leading companies that offer new openings by presenting development needs with SMEs, as well as start-ups, researchers, and students, that are developing solutions to meet the development needs. We operate in close co-operation with the Bioeconomy Campus and the expert teams of the Institute of Bioeconomy from JAMK University of Applied Sciences.

### What do we do?

We strive to offer an internationally and nationally recognized and inspiring meeting point for top businesses, R&D -organizations and innovators working on sustainable bio-based business opportunities. We also promote uptake of innovations and the utilization of new technologies, robotics, and digitalization to create sustainable bio-based business.



BioPaavo co-operates with the greatest accelerator programme in Finland – Growth Open. The aim of the co-operation is to help leading Finnish companies to tackle their sustainability challenges with the help of Hackathons. With the help of the networks of BioPaavo and Growth Open, our Hackathons connects the expertise of different fields to respond to the innovation call or challenge by inviting teams of experts from

business and research to develop and offer a solution.

In 2021, our concept has been tested as an online process and it has been successfully applied to several innovation challenges. Our challenge owners from the leading bioeconomy companies have gained workable solutions and SMEs have gained business opportunities.



## **Our aims related to the project proposal!**

**Building our international network** – to find expertise and solutions beyond Finland & have international teams to join our Hackathons – and connect Finnish SMEs to solve also international challenges.

**Building our operational model** – to explore and apply tested practices for operating as a meeting point and innovation accelerator as well as to explore and benchmark sustainable funding models for accelerator activities.

**Support regional bioeconomy development** - to establish BSR co-operation initiatives that help to build the bioeconomy innovation ecosystem of Central Finland to better respond to the needs of the SMEs in the region and to drive the transition to circular bioeconomy in our region.

**Building our Smart Farming testbed and innovation arena** - Connecting our developing smart farming testbed & innovation arena to BSR value chains and bioeconomy innovation ecosystem and building its international relevance with better understanding of the business sector needs in BSR. One of the aims is to develop a digital twin of farm for data-based testing and decision-making.

We work here in co-operation with our smart farming expertise team of JAMK University of Applied Sciences.

**To boost biogas production and supply chain development** via inter-regional co-operation with Häme region.

**Looking for also other initiatives arising from the value-chain mapping and discussions with the partners joining the proposal!**

**-> Potential leads arising from ConnectedByBiobord activities:**

*Building the transnational initiative between Finland, Norway and Sweden for **Digital Forest Lab**. The Digital Forest Lab would allow for developing and testing digital methodologies for forestry, upscaling methods for mainstream use and co-operation between partners in each country.*

- *Interest groups: Small forest owners and institutional owners*
- *Market: Forest management plans & forest health, growth reports for forest owners*
- *Existing forest areas (700 ha JAMK), education/research, IT services and technologies, companies that work in digital forestry (TerraNor)*