

New Initiative Sustainable Development Goals Fall 2026

The goal of Op+lait's new research initiatives is to stimulate collaboration among researchers from various disciplines, fields, and institutions within a single research axis, as well as to encourage cross-axis collaboration.

The academic community is already actively involved in advancing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, which will guide sustainable development actions for the coming years. Op+lait seeks to encourage its members to contribute to **achieving one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals** through a specific new initiative grant focused on sustainable development. These new initiative grants promote partnerships and collaboration among Op+lait members and key stakeholders in the dairy sector.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. The research team must include at least two members of the Op+lait group, including at least one regular member, from at least two different institutions.
2. The project must align with the research themes of one of the four Op+lait research axes (please refer to the group's website) and address one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. A researcher may submit only one application as the principal investigator per competition.

Grant Value and Duration:

The grant offers a maximum of \$15,000, along with a \$7,500 scholarship for an undergraduate student.

Eligible expenses for the \$15,000 grant include: Laboratory supplies, technological platform usage fees, research personnel and technician salaries (excluding researcher salaries), and travel between laboratories (up to \$500).

The duration of the grant is one year maximum.

Selection Criteria:

Innovative aspect of the new initiative (20 %), Relevance to Op+lait's research themes and axes (20 %), alignment with one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (25 %), complementarity of the team, new collaboration, and use of a technological platform (20 %), feasibility (10 %), and anticipated outcomes (5 %).

The Op+lait Scientific Committee is responsible for evaluating applications and awarding grants. In the event of a conflict of interest, the committee member involved will not participate in the evaluation of the concerned application.

Documents to Submit:

1. Completed application form
2. A final report must be submitted three months after the end of the grant (a report template will be provided), and the project must be presented at the Annual Op+lait Scientific Meeting.

Complete applications must be submitted to Josée Labrie by email (josee.labrie@umontreal.ca) no later than **November 12, 2026**.