Here's a curated list of questions to ask before initiating API development.

**General API Landscape**

1. How many APIs does your project/system currently have?
   * As a provider?
   * As a consumer?
2. How many APIs are used within your agency vs. external?
   * Internal APIs within the agency?
   * External APIs used from other agencies or third parties?

**API Development Standards & Governance**

1. Do you follow any API guidelines, standards, or formats?
   * OpenAPI, REST maturity levels, etc
2. How do you ensure consistency across teams/modules/projects in API development?
3. Is there a defined API lifecycle process in place?

**Compliance & Security**

1. At what stage of API development do you perform compliance and security validation?
2. How is security testing conducted (e.g., VAPT, authentication, authorization)?
3. Have you faced issues with API security (e.g., authentication, authorization, rate limiting)?

**API Documentation & Versioning**

1. How does the team validate API documentation, versioning, and backward compatibility?
2. Do you maintain a list of projects/contacts that consume your APIs?

**API Hosting & Communication**

1. Is there a common platform to host and share APIs within your agency?
2. How do you communicate API changes to users or consumers?

**API Readiness & Testing**

1. How does your team assess API readiness before implementation?
2. What are your main challenges in getting an API production-ready?
3. How do you handle performance testing and monitoring for your APIs?
4. How do you manage API governance and lifecycle processes?