

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

” I’m extremely proud of the UK’s food and drink industry and what it’s achieved. Not only is it our largest manufacturing industry, contributing over £96 billion and employing nearly 4 million people, but it also leads the way in driving forward innovation with around 8000 new products hitting the market each year.

I fully support the FDF’s Innovation Vision. I want to see the industry build on its success and become a global leader in developing new technologies. That’s why I’m working closely with farmers, manufacturers and retailers across the whole food sector to make it easier for businesses to grow both in the UK and abroad.

Whether it’s encouraging more investment in the UK through agri-technologies or flying the flag for Great British food abroad, I’m determined to do all I can to ensure the industry prospers and remains competitive for the future.

Owen Paterson
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

” As the FDF’s Centenary Year draws to a close we have been able to reflect on 100 years of food and drink manufacturers embracing innovations which have transformed consumers’ lives. To write the next chapter in this success story will require the shared commitment of industry, government and the research community to work together on the priority areas identified in this vision.

Jim Moseley
FDF President 2011-13

” Bridging the gap between basic and applied research is vital if we’re to meet the fundamental challenge of producing more food with fewer resources while reducing our environmental impact and helping deliver improvements in public health. The food industry has a strong track record in innovation and we must keep this up to deliver yet more breakthroughs.

Richard Evans
FDF President from 1st January 2014 and President of PepsiCo UK & Ireland

” Members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Food and Drink Manufacturing have seen first-hand the importance of innovation in the sector. Delivering on this vision and developing a shared understanding of the industry’s priorities will help the UK’s largest manufacturing sector to deliver increased rates of sustainable growth.

John Stevenson
Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Food and Drink Manufacturing

GROWTH
THROUGH
INNOVATION

About Us

The Food and Drink Federation is the voice of the food and drink industry, the UK’s largest manufacturing sector.

Our sector directly employs up to 400,000 people and accounts for 16% of manufacturing by value. An invaluable partner to British agriculture the sector purchases two thirds of farm produce.

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Food & Drink Manufacturing
The UK’s largest manufacturing industry

**DELIVERING
SUSTAINABLE
GROWTH THROUGH
INNOVATION**

Food and Drink
Federation 
Delivering Sustainable Growth

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THE INNOVATION GAP

The UK food industry – in common with the global food production system – faces fundamental challenges that require urgent attention including:

- Reducing our environmental impact
- Meeting growing global demand for food
- Producing more from less as pressure increases on resources
- Mitigating the potential impacts of climate change
- Reformulating and creating new products to meet diet and health requirements
- Delivering our vision of 20% growth in the sector by 2020

Meeting these challenges will require a transformation in the way we currently do business at all levels – from the ingredients we use and the products we make to how we package them and transport them to our customers.

UK food and drink manufacturers currently bring over 8000 new products to the market every year, investing £1bn a year in innovation. This increases the availability of high quality, safe and nutritious food at affordable prices, with plenty of choice to suit

revolutionises our sector to address the challenges outlined.

This can only be done with long-term commitment, a clear sense of shared priorities, sufficient funding, a strong relationship between researchers and industry and a structure which the research community and industry can navigate their way through without undue difficulty. This is a particular challenge for an industry where over 80% of the 6000 companies are medium to micro sized.

There is currently a gap between basic and applied research and no clear articulation of the strategic innovation priorities necessary to meet the environmental, social and economic challenges we face.

The Government's Agri-Tech Strategy is a move in the right direction. We now need to build on this to create an innovation vision and shared priorities for the manufacturing sector and the whole supply chain.

In this way we can start the process of unlocking the full potential of what science can contribute to delivering sustainable growth to the largest manufacturing sector in the UK; and healthier, more secure and sustainable food and drink, which is affordable and accessible to all.

individual tastes and diet. We need to harness that record of innovative success to unlock transformative technological innovation in a way that literally

In 2011 FDF launched its shared vision to deliver 20% sustainable growth by 2020 in the food and drink manufacturing sector. The key drivers of this growth we identified as exports, skills and innovation.

A SHARED VISION FOR INNOVATION

Our vision is for an innovative, resilient and resource-efficient food and drink manufacturing supply chain that delivers affordable, nutritious and safe food for 21st century populations. In order to deliver this we need industry, government and research communities to agree a shared agenda for sustainable growth through innovation from one end of the food supply chain to the other.

Innovation Priorities

Working with our partners in the Food Sector Group of the Biosciences Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) and the National Technology Platform for Food (NTP), we have looked at the fundamental challenges we face and identified ten long-term priority areas for innovation.



We have also identified the need to:

- Improve knowledge transfer.
- Ensure we have the technical skills required to compete globally and attract inward investment.
- Create a multi-disciplinary, strategically focussed approach to deliver integrated solutions.

Case study

THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR FOOD ENGINEERING AT SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY

The new Centre of Excellence for Food Engineering at Sheffield Hallam University is a standout example of how industry, government and academia can collaborate to bridge the research gap. The £6.9m investment by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in the Centre coupled with industry support and leadership will help to create world-leading capability and deliver innovation and skills solutions for UK food and drink manufacturing. This focal point for research and innovation excellence will play a leading role in meeting the considerable challenges identified in our shared vision.

DELIVERING THE VISION

The right policy and collaboration framework to encourage innovation is critical to our sector and to UK plc.

Our sector is thriving and vital and has a proud track record, but the competition from elsewhere is becoming ever stronger and unless we provide the right incentives, and make it easier for business to engage with the UK research base, we will not keep pace. We need:

- Funding models and delivery mechanisms aligned to business needs
- Better communication and coordination of the many different initiatives which already exist, ideally through a single contact point
- Support for R&D investment at least equivalent to our European competitors
- An evidence-based regulatory approach which does not act as barrier to new technologies

The call to action

We have taken the first steps in creating a better future through our 10 priority areas for innovation. We now need to build on this working with our partners with an interest in promoting innovation in food and drink. FDF is in arguably a unique position, as the voice of the sector and a trusted partner to government and other key stakeholders, to articulate the needs and priorities of the sector and we will use this position to help develop and champion a clear view of where and how limited funds should be spent to tackle the highest priority challenges.

We have already begun our conversations across disciplines and across institutions. Our initial discussions confirm that in the future we must find new ways to produce old favourites, innovate to create new ones and get closer to our customers in order to:

- Make our supply chains work better for suppliers, customers and the environment
- Make better use of simulation and modelling to de-risk investment in new facilities
- Keep our machines running for longer and in better condition for example with self-cleaning technology
- Make sure that our processing capability is matched effectively to our raw materials
- Improve the quality of our products through technology, for example better use of sensors in manufacturing
- Create packaging that works across the whole chain – improving efficiency and reducing waste
- Redesign our packs to help consumers waste less and to increase product enjoyment

The rewards

The challenges facing the sector are immense - and we cannot afford not to meet them. We know that working together at the pre-competitive stage can deliver tangible down-stream commercial benefits and maximising our ability to find solutions to the key strategic challenge facing the global food system – how to feed a growing population whilst reducing our environmental impact - is an essential factor both in the UK's food security in the long term and to the delivery of £4bn growth in our sector by 2020.

INNOVATION HAS HELPED...

