



## FoodNexus Position Paper

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FoodNexus will help the EU food sector undergo the transformations necessary to successfully address the complex challenges related to food security, and the economic sustainability of the food sector. FoodNexus initiatives in business, innovation and education, will unlock enormous opportunities for creating new businesses and jobs, and stimulate economic growth for both rural areas, SMEs & large firms.

Currently the food sector faces many challenges which it does not have the structure to address. Historically the sector has not succeeded in joining forces to deliver solutions to issues such as: climate change; loss of biodiversity and soil resources; dependency on imported proteins; changing dietary habits; the mismatch between skills supply and demand; the general mistrust amongst consumers and authorities; and the lack of cooperation with the agricultural community and farmers.

FoodNexus can successfully address the issues faced by the sector. FoodNexus is a business-led community representing Europe's strongest agro-food regions. The partnership represents the broad food sector across Europe as well as the full value chain. FoodNexus has teamed up with the world's best knowledge institutes in the area of food, a group of 18 universities and research institutes. Of these, seven are ranked amongst the top 10 European best performers and have published almost 15,000 joint publications in the last five years alone. FoodNexus has demonstrated successful collaboration through our partners who are working together on almost 100 Horizon 2020 projects.

Our comprehensive and articulated plan has set our clear goals, developed through contributions from 100 industry and academic partners based in over 35 NUTS1 regions across Europe. They are key to addressing the societal challenges faced by the European food sector.

FoodNexus is uniquely positioned to reach out to the complete EU food system, with spin-off options in Eastern Europe and other parts of the world. FoodNexus will provide strong leadership to ensure change, resulting in profound and positive economic, social and environmental impacts, strongly rooted within local communities.

The purpose of FoodNexus is to be recognised as the pan-European consortium that, given its nature and credibility, is in a position to create a new level of competitiveness in the European food sector by transforming it into a fully integrated and connected food system. In this way, FoodNexus will complement EIT-Food activities and help drive the transformation to create a trust-worthy system that delivers sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious food, while remaining carbon neutral. This will be a system that is open to, and where relevant, connected with other systems, like bio-refining, water, energy, and ICT/digitalisation. The system will span the whole food chain, from farm to fork, connecting locally, regionally and on a European and global level.

In summary FoodNexus will help transform the food industry into a sustainable, citizen-centric food system that will allow Europe to retain its competitive advantage, value its diversities and responsibly address the global societal challenges.