



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

GUIDING, CATALYSING, CONNECTING
AND BOOSTING THE AGRO-FOOD AND
NUTRITION INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM



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01 FOREWORD

DEAR MEMBERS, PARTNERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS

Switzerland has long been known for its commitment to excellence, precision, and innovation, and the annual report serves as a testament to the remarkable ingenuity and collaborative spirit of our network.

Catalyzing innovation has always been at the heart of our mission, and in the face of unprecedented challenges, we have adapted and thrived. We have seen how the power of collective intelligence and cross-sectoral collaboration can drive meaningful change. In 2022, our network, comprising visionary entrepreneurs, brilliant researchers, and dedicated professionals, continued to push boundaries, challenged conventional thinking, and created opportunities that have a lasting impact.



Fabian Wahl

—Dr. Fabian Wahl
President
Swiss Food Research

NEXT GENERATION AGRO-FOOD ECOSYSTEM

The ecosystem continues to grow and adapt at a fast pace. Our holistic approach to support the transformation into a more future proof system keeps paying off its returns via a more effective and inclusive innovation network. The Swiss Food Research Team continued to grow and support our members in knowledge transfer and all questions relating innovation.

The innovation groups and the innovation booster were valuable assets and keep providing a fertile ground for the next generation of ideas and organizations. It is a privilege to be driving this network for transformation. Thank you.



P. Braun

—Dr. Peter Braun
CEO
Swiss Food Research

02 ORGANISATION

ORGANISATION 2022

Dr. Fabian Wahl
President

Dr. Peter Braun
CEO

Dr. Lucas Grob
Innovation Manager

Marina Helm Romaneschi
Marketing and Strategy

Corinne Stämpfli
Communication Manager

Dr. Sandra Sulser
Innovation Manager

Fabian Bättig
Project Support

Alejandra Jimenez
Project Support

Alessia Kamenar
Project Support

STEERING BOARD MEMBERS

Prof. Dr. Wilfried Andlauer
HES-SO

Michel Burla
Centravo AG

Dr. Frank Burose
KNW-E

Prof. Dr. Christoph Denkel
BFH HAFL

Dr. Karola Krell Zbinden
FoodLex

Valérie Vincent
Groupe Minoteries SA

Prof. em. Dr. Erich Windhab
ETH Zürich

Prof. Dr. Selçuk Yildirim
ZHAW

Supported by

A V I N A

OUR MEMBERS

[View all members](#)



03 2022 IN NUMBERS



HOLISTIC
APPROACH



PASSION



SHARING
STATE-OF-THE-ART
KNOW HOW



CONFIDENTIALITY



NEUTRALITY

THE 5 PRINCIPLES



- Research Organisations
- GOV/ NGO
- Start-Ups
- Small sized enterprises
- Medium sized enterprises
- Large sized enterprises



194
MEMBERS



SINCE

600K+ CHF

80 Swiss Food Research Calls

125

guided
Innovation Groups

70%

of projects
were continued

585K CHF

Funding via the
Innovation Booster
"Swiss Food
Ecosystem"

SINCE

INNOVATION GROUPS
IN 2022

672

people joined

70%

learned
something new

19

meetings

» INNOVATION FUNDING WEBINARS

» FUTURE FOOD SYMPOSIUM '22:

Everything stays inside?!

» A food system without losses?

» 4TH AGRO FOOD INNOVATION FORUM

Let's line up for the next generation!

» INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

OF BIOPOLIMERS

Biopolymers of the future

» FOCUS ON FOOD

ANNUAL EVENT INNOVATION BOOSTER

BEGINNING OF 2022

» EIT FOOD SEEDBED KICKOFF

» EIT FOOD SOLUTION

» FUTURE FOOD MARKET

Testing and tasting of innovative products with consumers

ENDING OF 2022

» PROTEIN

AWARENESS WEEK

SATW

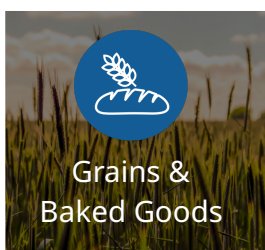
EVENTS PER QUARTER OF 2022



Digitalization



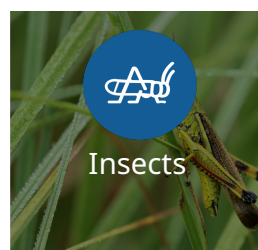
Proteins4Future



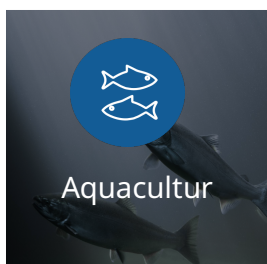
Grains & Baked Goods



Coffee



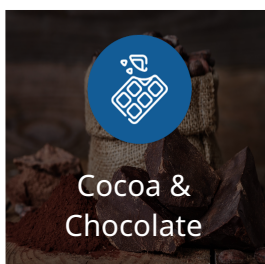
Insects



Aquaculture



Bioconversion



Cocoa & Chocolate



Fungi & Fungal Systems



Packaging



Non Thermal Preservation

INNOVATION GROUPS

We are running eleven Innovation Groups for knowledge transfer, exchanging of ideas and creating new concepts together with peers. The Networking Event Series are powered by Innosuisse.

STEERINGBOARD MEMBERS

Each innovation group is led by a steering board according to topic and is composed by experts from academia and research. They focus on direction and scope of the innovation group and meet on a regular basis.



04 WHAT HAPPENED IN DETAIL IN 2022

MEMBERS

Swiss Food Research has continuously grown to 194 members. This is +26 compared to 2021. With 32 research organisations, 18 GOV / NGO organisations, and 144 companies thereof: 80 start-ups, 18 large sized enterprises, 16 medium sized enterprises, 30 small sized enterprises. Swiss Food Research is Switzerland largest innovation network in agro-food and nutrition.

26 NEW MEMBERS
SINCE 2021

NEW SERVICE 1:1 FOR MEMBERS

In newly launched one to one meetings members took an initial deep dive with us into their challenges.



INNOVATIONGROUPS

At 19 meetings, a total of 672 people from academia, economy, and society joined the diverse range of events. This is an increase of about 100% from year 2021. With 2/3 of members and partners from industry attending, a clear increased interest of the economy was signalled.

The involvement of research groups, start-ups and industry partners helped to depict the innovation landscape and set the scene within the different domains. Creating intense workshop sessions to further discuss projects and ideas in small groups further stimulated the active exchange between all stakeholders. These sessions were facilitated by both speakers and moderators.

In addition, hybrid events gave the chance to people from a larger perimeter to join and listen to the talks. Overall, the topics allowed the whole agro-food community to participate in the transformation of the agro-food system. To cross-fertilize innovation, submitted ideas to the Innovation Booster Swiss Food Ecosystems were again discussed with the community to validate and match-make with industrial partners. 70% of the participants said that in the events they learned something new and got new ideas. To ensure proper knowledge transfer, a web repository can be found in the memberzone of the website. For each group a continuous blog exists on the webpage where main findings are summarised, and all presentations are accessible.

I GOT NEW IDEAS AND LEARNED
SOMETHING NEW!
70% of the members

INNOVATION PROJECTS

We are committed to catalize innovative projects. A total number of 30 projects were supported with connection, inputs, and peer-reviewing.

STIMULATING EARLY-STAGE IDEAS INNOVATION BOOSTER

In its second year of activity the Innovation Booster Swiss Food Ecosystems powered by Innosuisse and co-managed with Cluster Food & Nutrition successfully took the mid-term reviews and was accepted to be continued until 2024.

11 IDEAS SUPPORTED
WITH 279'000 CHF

Winners of campaigns in 2022



The program aims at funding ideas that have disruptive potential to the agro-food ecosystem and allows projects to quickly find competences, join forces with experts and better understand viability, feasibility and desirability for implementation and impact. All members are invited to participate. In 2022 campaigns were dedicated to resource efficiency in the entire system and 3D printing in food in a joint campaign with the Innovation Booster Additive Manufacturing and supported by SATW. All campaigns started with an Open Exploration Workshop forcing deep dives into the challenges of our system before entering the ideation campaigns. Since the beginning in 2021 almost 100 ideas were submitted of which 11 ideas were supported with a total funding of CHF 279'000.- in 2022.

ACTIVITIES ACROSS EUROPE EIT FOOD

To further support early-stage ideas across Europe, Swiss Food Research has intensified its contribution to EIT Food. With activities in education (EIT Food Solutions) and business creation (EIT Food Seedbed accelerator). 9 innovative solutions from students and the EIT Food Seedbed cohort 2022 can be found *here*.

9 INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FROM STUDENTS
AND 40 EARLY-STAGE
START-UPS & RESEARCHERS
WERE SUPPORTED.



AGRO FOOD INNOVATION FORUM – 4TH EDITION

The Agro Food Innovation Forum 2022, is an exchange platform for innovations and start-ups with a professional audience from research, industry, organizations from the agro-food ecosystem, entrepreneurs, gastronomy and funding organizations.

The 4th edition was held at the BFH School of Agricultural, Food and Forest Sciences in Zollikofen. The program set the scene for “The next generation of the Agro Food System”.

New technologies, use of AI, next generation consumers, future skills and education as well as sustainable strategies were presented in the plenary, while projects were show-cased and products tasted during networking.



FUTURE FOOD MARKET

The first edition of the Future Food Market was designed as a Food Innovations Pop-Up to showcase sustainable solutions for people and the planet. It took place for two days (11.-12.03.2022) in “dieCuisine” in Zürich. This format was intended as an opportunity for innovations from start-ups, research institutions, and companies to do a reality check with consumers and find out what their needs are. Whether in conversation, in tasting, or through a moderated workshop.



FUTURE FOOD MARKET

EXHIBITORS/OFFERS: 17

ORGANISATIONS: 5

PRESENTATIONS: 8

VISITORS: APPROX. 500+

TOTAL SALE OF PRODUCTS: CHF 3'400

TOTAL: APPROX. 250'000+

AGRO-FOOD INNOVATION FORUM

PARTICIPANTS: 100

INNOVATIVE IDEA-PITCHES: 19

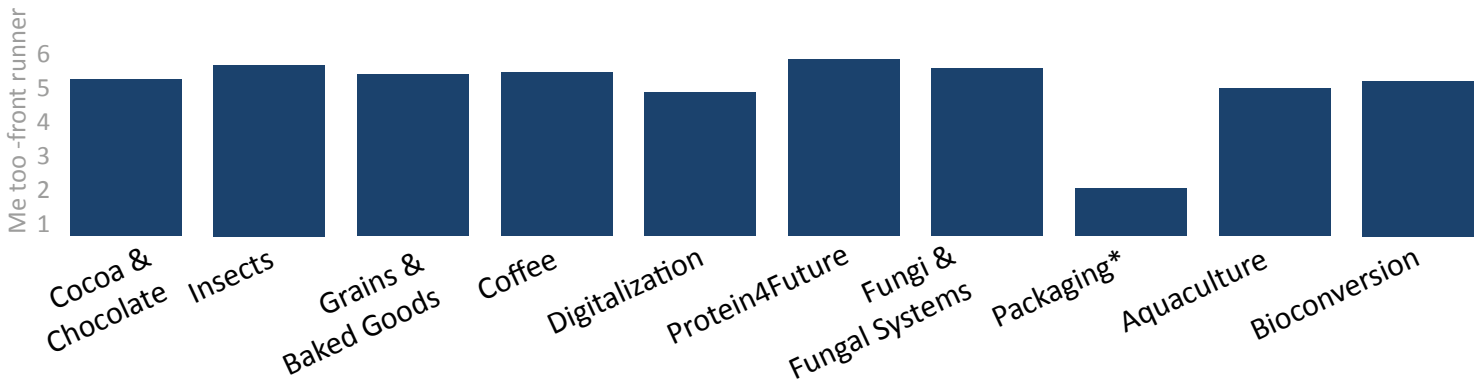
KEYNOTES AROUND SUBJECT

“NEXT GENERATIONS”: 7

05 CATALIZING INNOVATION IN NUMBERS

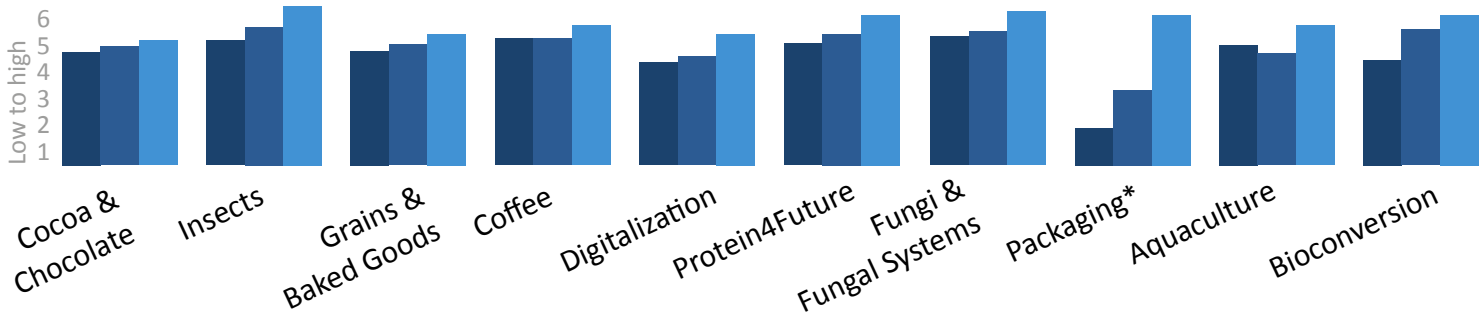
HOW DO YOU RATE YOUR INNOVATION?

Continuous metering of different innovation groups and their perceived impact of their innovations on sustainability

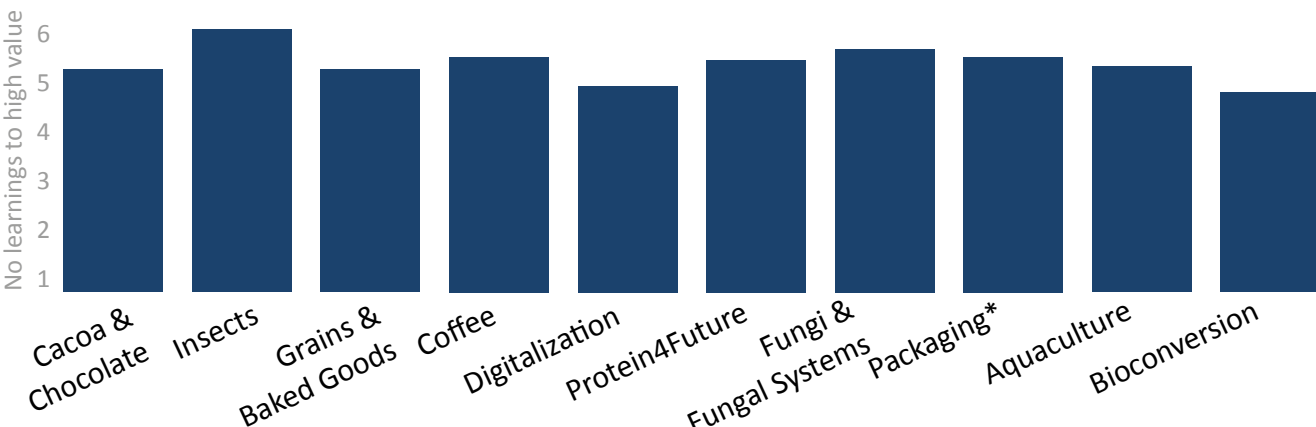


DRIVING SUSTAINABILITY IN ALL DOMAINS

Social Sustainability (Dark Blue), Economical Sustainability (Medium Blue), Environmental Sustainability (Light Blue)



HOW VALUABLE ARE SUCH EVENTS FOR YOU?



*Only ten Innovation Groups, as there was no Non Thermal Preservation in 2022.

*Not enough feedback (one voice)

06 NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS

COOPERATIONS

STRENGTHEN THE NETWORK THROUGH COLLABORATION.

Increased interaction with cross-industry networks, pan-european, and cross-disciplines helped to use more synergies and tap into a broader range of expertise and audience.



EIT Food, established by the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT), is Europe's leading food innovation initiative, working to make the agro-food system more sustainable, healthy, and trusted. EIT Food is building an inclusive and innovative community of diverse food sector partners, to drive innovation and entrepreneurship across Europe. Swiss Food Research is partner of EIT Food providing mentoring, coaching, and education within multiple programs.



Swiss Food Research started a cooperation with SATW in the area of biopolymers to support the development of biobased plastics. Furthermore, a strategic collaboration has been agreed for the Food 4.0 funding programme. The Food 4.0 programmes aims at supporting early-stage projects and idea testing and can also be combined with the Innovation Booster. Thus, the agro-food & nutrition segment is now well staffed with fundings for idea testing and development.

Together the «Sensibilisierungswoche Pflanzenbasierte Proteine» in November 22 was held. Additionally, an Innovation Booster Swiss Food Ecosystem call was supported to further drive the transformation and early-stage projects/ideas.



SVIAL is the Swiss professional association of food scientists and agronomists. It comprises 1700 members. The strategic cooperation between Swiss Food Research and SVIAL has been established at the operational level and several events had been held such as the Agro Food Job dating and the Future Food Symposium.



A strategic alliance to strengthen the access to the DACHLI region retail-oriented start-up scene. The well-established Food Start Up Summit by Crowdfoods was carried out as a joint event first time in February 2023. Promoting common goals and leveraging our resources to provide a larger platform to all members will be further increased as we move forward.

07 WE ARE CONVINCED!

WE BENEFIT FROM A BROAD AND COMPETENT NETWORK IN THE INDUSTRY THROUGH OUR MEMBERSHIP IN SWISS FOOD RESEARCH. ESPECIALLY THE MEETINGS OF THE INSECT INNOVATION GROUP PROVIDES US WITH THE OPPORTUNITIES TO GET IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE AND TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS.

Franco Bargetze, Nutrifly

AS A YOUNG START-UP, WE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY AT THE AGRO FOOD INNOVATION FORUM TO EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH OTHER MORE EXPERIENCED START-UPS. THE PEOPLE ARE GREAT AND THE EXCHANGE IS AMAZING.

Anita Zehnder, Tasty Spreadly KLG

EGGFIELD - A SUCCESSFUL SWISS START-UP IS DEVELOPING A NEW GENERATION OF PLANT-BASED EGG ALTERNATIVES. THE ONLY ALLERGEN-FREE CLEAN-LABEL ALTERNATIVE TO CHICKEN EGG IN THE B2B SECTOR SO FAR. SWISS FOOD RESEARCH HELPED ME TO NAVIGATE THE SWISS ECOSYSTEM AND FIND THE RIGHT PARTNERS.

Silvan Leibacher



WHAT ABOUT YOU?

HAVE A LOOK ABOUT ONGOING EVENTS AND JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



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