

# SOURCES OF SUPPORT FOR INNOVATION IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY

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# DEFRA FTU – ROLE AND REMIT

- Develop and implement science and innovation support programmes to benefit the UK food processing industry.
- Stimulate industry linkage with the science base and investment in research.
- Enhance industry capabilities to innovate and adopt best practice.

# YOUR NPD ISSUES

If you have a problem ...

... and need a technical solution ...

... who should you be talking to?

“The Science Base”?

Technology facilitators?

Sources of funding?

# WHAT ARE YOUR MAJOR ISSUES?

- Raw material quality?
- Process Control & Efficiency?
- Organoleptic qualities?
- Nutrition?
- Stability & shelf life?
- Consumer perception & choice?
- Legislation, claims and labelling?

# WHO HAS THE KNOWLEDGE?

- Raw Material Quality:
  - Composition and structure.
  - Properties of constituents.
  - Contaminants (detection/assays)

# WHO HAS THE KNOWLEDGE?

- Processing issues:
  - Process modelling.
  - Process control.
  - Novel processing technologies.
  - Minimal processing

# WHO HAS THE KNOWLEDGE?

- Organoleptic qualities:
  - Development of colour/flavour/aroma.
  - Development of structure/texture.
  - Sensory analysis.

# WHO HAS THE KNOWLEDGE?

- Nutrition:
  - Physiological effects of foods.
  - Functional foods.
  - Allergies.



# WHO HAS THE KNOWLEDGE?

- Stability and shelf life:
  - Materials science.
  - Microbiology/spoilage.
  - Refrigeration/chill chain.
  - Packaging technology.

# WHO HAS THE KNOWLEDGE?

- Consumer issues:
  - Appetite control & satiety.
  - Basis of food acceptability & choice.

# WHO HAS THE KNOWLEDGE?

- Legislation:
  - Health and nutrition claims.
  - Labelling requirements.

# MECHANISMS OF SUPPORT

- Sources of money and advice ....

## WHERE CAN I GO FOR HELP?

- Government Departments for research support programmes (not near market).
- RDAs & Government Offices for regional strategies and initiatives.
- Trade Associations for sector-specific information.
- Local food networks.

# DEFRA FOOD LINK PROGRAMMES

- Advanced Food Manufacturing: Process efficiency via improved process capability and better diagnostics and control. Also reduced energy usage and waste generation.
- Food Quality & Safety: Understanding the basis of material quality attributes and their interaction with processes. Improved measurement of quality attributes.

# DTI LINK PROGRAMME

- *Sustainable Technologies Initiative LINK:*  
Cross-sectoral – development of new sustainable technologies. (Improvements at the design stage rather than “end-of-pipe” clean up)

# KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIPS

- Formerly “Teaching Company Scheme”
- Operated by TTI under the auspices of DTI Small Business Service.
- Provides graduate working in-company on specific problem of strategic importance.
- Up to 70% of total cost covered by grant.
- Network of regionally based consultants.