Vision for the Future

Summit Lab: Radical New Food Production Systems (biotech proteins)

Innovative focus areas/challenges which need our attention to accelerate the transformation of the global food system. Significant potential impact to be considered.

Sum up from the Summit Lab

Regulation

- Novel food regulation is a challenge – especially in the EU. Lack of coherence between strategies and reality (EU gives funds to innovation, but the road to market is blocked by themselves). Approval times of 1.5 years become 2.2 to 3.6 years depending on the protein type. Still no approvals of cultured meat or precision fermented proteins yet.

Technological scale up challenges

- Every organism and product is different and often require a different technological set up at different scales. Often challenges with fluid processing, hygiene and sustainability.

Raising capital

- Investment costs and operation costs are often high and the usual VC model of investments and quick exits within 5 years do not work due to the two challenges above.

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The LAB's recommendation: focus areas/solutions + capacity needed

What do we need in order to move ahead from now and until 2025?

Regulation

- The regulatory system must be freed from political interference and only focus on food safety. Additional ressources must be allocated so the timelines are shortened. The regulatory framework is unclear even to those who are employed to provide guidance thereby extending the application period. Improved quality of dossiers by applicants.

Technological scale up challenges

- Reduce the entry barrier for scaling by providing subsidies for use at pilot and demo sites. Technology still continuously developed on case-by case basis, so continuous need for technological innovation to improve efficiency and yields.

Raising capital

- Public/private partnerships with focus on patience, risk sharing, and sustainability. Also a need for risk capital to help companies transition economically from lab to pilot to demo. There should be a focus on the combination of equity that focuses on IPR and tangible assets like loans/credits.

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Who will be the most significant contributors (necessary for the acceleration) to be successful? Suggest type of actor.

Who should be involved to boost the collaboration process

Regulation

- **EFSA** should look to Singapore and provide a quicker and a more transparent framework for approval of new protein types. **Consultants** and **clusters** should help companies understand the requirements and create better dossiers.

Technological scale up challenges

- **Funding bodies** should reduce the entry barrier for scaling by providing subsidies for use at pilot and demo sites. The technologies and plants are continuously developed on case-by-case basis, so there is also a need for continuous technological innovation to improve efficiency and yields from both **industry** and **researchers** supported by the **clusters**.

Raising capital

- **Public** and **private investors** and **business angels** should join forces and **clusters** should match them with innovative **startups** and **scaleups**.