



Annual Report

→ 2023

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Letter from us



Lucas Grob

Dr. Lucas Grob, CEO

Switzerland's dedication to excellence, precision, and innovation is not just a reputation – it's a proven commitment. This is vividly reflected in our annual report, which stands as a tribute to the extraordinary creativity and unified spirit that pervades our network. At the core of our ethos is the drive to catalyse innovation, a mission that gains relevance and urgency in the face of unparalleled challenges. Through these times, we have not only adapted but flourished, showcasing the strength of collective intelligence and the transformative impact of cross-sector collaboration in effecting significant change.



Fabian Wahl

Dr. Fabian Wahl,
President

In 2023, 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. The ecosystem continues to grow and adapt at a fast pace. Our holistic approach to support the transformation into a more future proof agro-food and nutrition system keeps paying off its returns via a more effective and inclusive innovation network. By growing the team in numbers but also competencies, Swiss Food Research continues high quality support of a growing ecosystem for knowledge transfer, innovation and project delivery matters. The Innovationgroups 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 work with the ecosystem, the community, our partners and this network to enable change. Thank you.

We drive impactful innovation with a holistic approach to a sustainable agro-food and nutrition ecosystem.

Who is who

➤ *Our Team*

➤ *Our Steering Board*

Our members



Supported by

AVINA

Seedling

We are proud to call Avina and Seedling Foundation our supporters. Thank you for investing with us in future-proof innovations.

Swiss Food Research

Dr. Fabian Wahl
President

Dr. Lucas Grob
CEO

–

Dr. Peter Braun
Finance and
Innovation Manager

Marina Helm Romaneschi
Marketing and Strategy

Corinne Stämpfli
Communication Manager

Dr. Sandra Sulser
Innovation Manager

Jan Biehl
Innovation Manager

Helene Renaux
Innovation Manager

Fabian Bättig
Project Support

Alejandra Jimenez
Project Support

Jasmin Scherrer
Project Support

Denise Arpogaus
Communication 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 Zurich

Prof. Dr. Selçuk Yildirim
ZHAW

Who is new

➤ *Our new colleagues*

➤ *Anniversary and its changes*



*back ltr.: Dr. Lucas Grob,
Dr. Peter Braun, Marina Helm
Romaneschi, Jan Biehl,
Dr. Sandra Sulser,
Fabian Bättig
front ltr.: Helene Renaux,
Corinne Stämpfli, Jasmine
Scherrer, Alejandra Jimenez,
Denise Arpogaus*



*ltr.: Dr. Lucas Grob,
Dr. Fabian Wahl, Dr. Peter
Braun, Prof. Michael Kleinert,
Dr. Hans-Peter Bachmann,
Prof. Dr. Jean-Claude Villettaz*

Our team is growing!

We are happy to welcome Jan Biehl, Helene Renaux and Denise Arpogaus in our Team! Jan's passion is about mentoring talents and enabling teams to develop, grow and implement innovative ideas and sustainable food tech solutions. Helene is an agricultural scientist and brings this novel perspective in our team. Denise studies communication design in Constance and makes the world of Swiss Food Research colourful and appealing. We're glad to have you all on board and are curious about where the journey will take us! Furthermore, we are privileged to announce that, in addition to Avina, the Seedling Foundation has joined our circle of supporters. Reflecting on a fruitful 2023, we move into 2024 with optimism and are buoyed by your unwavering support.

Our team is changing!

2023 does not only mark 15 years Swiss Food Research but also an important change in our team. Dr. Peter Braun hands over to our new CEO Dr. Lucas Grob. Lucas joined Swiss Food Research two years ago and continued pushing innovation. Dr. Peter Braun will remain within Swiss Food Research as Finance and Innovation manager.

Timeline of people behind Swiss Food Research

History of Swiss Food Research

- 1999 *Founding Swiss Food Net*
- 2003 *National Competence Network of the Universities of Applied Science (UAS) supported by CTI (later Innosuisse).*
- 2008 *12 February: Founding Swiss Food Research.*
- 2012 *Becoming the National Thematic Network in agro-food and nutrition supported by CTI (Innosuisse)*
- 2013 *Prof. Dr. Jean Claude-Villettaz and Dr. Hans-Peter Bachmann hand over to Prof. Michael Kleinert as new president and Dr. Peter Braun as new CEO.*

12 March 1999

Prof. Dr. Jean-Claude Villettaz founded Swiss Food Net as Information and Competence Platform to support coordination between research and industry (14 founding members). Objective: Enable closer collaboration amongst the UAS in Switzerland. Note: UAS did not exist at that point in time in Switzerland!



l.r.: Dr. Hans-Peter Bachmann, Prof. Dr. Jean-Claude Villettaz, Dr. Peter Braun, Prof. Michael Kleinert

08 May 2003



12 February 2008



2008 – 2012

Swiss Food Net was accepted as the National Competence Network of the UAS. Swiss Food Net was also supported by Innosuisse (formerly CTI). Members of Swiss Food Net (Einfache Gesellschaft): HES-SO, FIAL, ZHAW, BFH, ETH, BAG, BLW, BLV, SGLUC, SGLWT, SVIAL, SGLH, SGE.

Prof. Dr. Jean-Claude Villettaz and Dr. Hans-Peter Bachmann founded Swiss Food Research together with partners from research and industry (FIAL, ETH, Agroscope, HESSO, ZHAW, BFH). Swiss Food Research became the National R&D Consortia and Swiss Food Net continued to serve as information platform.

Innosuisse (formerly CTI) supported Swiss Food Research as National R&D Consortia with the aim of promoting research and developing projects.

Dr. Hans-Peter Bachmann and Prof. Dr. Jean-Claude Villettaz served as Co-Presidents.

2012 – 2020



15 October 2013



2013 – 2023

Swiss Food Research became the National Thematic Network being supported by Innosuisse to promote research based innovation and support transfer from research into application.

Prof. Dr. Jean-Claude Villettaz and Dr. Hans-Peter Bachmann hand over to Prof. Michael Kleinert as new president and Dr. Peter Braun as new CEO.

Swiss Food Research grew from nine members to over 200 members and developed itself to the largest innovation network in the agro-food and nutrition space in Switzerland. Integration of Swiss Food Net into Swiss Food Research.

2019



01 April 2023



19 September 2023

Handover presidency from Prof. Michael Kleinert to Dr. Fabian Wahl.

Transfer from Dr. Peter Braun to Dr. Lucas Grob as new CEO.

Celebration of 15 years Swiss Food Research and passing of the baton from Dr. Peter Braun to Dr. Lucas Grob as new CEO.

At a glance

Our Principles

We strive to push innovation forward for the better of the agro-food and nutrition system within and beyond Switzerland.

Passionate
about finding solutions for a holistic and sustainable future-oriented agro-food and nutrition system.

Confidentiality
in mutual respect of copyright, individual ideas and intellectual property.

Holistic Approach
is the basis of our actions.

Neutrality
as the basis for common action.

Sharing state-of-the-art know-how
within our network.

Our Services: Your Innovation Galaxy

Pick and choose. Along the whole innovation path, we have created innovative sources of knowledge and support.

Idea Generation
Innovationgroups,
Innovation Booster



Market Testing and Scaling
Agro Food,
Innovation Forum,
Future Food Market,
EIT Food Seedbed



Concept Development
Innovation Booster,
Innovationgroups,
EIT Food Solutions,
Our Support



Innovation Funding and Coaching
Research Calls,
Our Support



Project Development
Innovationgroups,
Innovation Booster,
EIT Food Solutions



Education and Know How
Technology Transfer,
EIT Food Inspire

Education

- ETH Food Innovation Lab
- EIT Food Solutions
- EIT Food Global Food Venture Programme
- Next Generation Workshop
Kantonsschule Obwalden



Innovation



Innovationgroups

- 481 participants at 16 events 30% participants from academia
- We value diversity 37% female participants 27% female speakers

Future Proof Farming

- 44 participants at the Kick-off at BBZN
- Schöpfheim supported by Seedling Foundation
- New environment for all of us
- New language and lots of learnings

Innovation Booster Swiss Food Ecosystems

- Goal: Open Exploration for more resource efficiency along the value chain
- Approach: Problem based approach with incubation phase
- Outcome per year: 11 ideas with up to 39'000 CHF
- Future Food Farming coming in 2024

Innovation Support

- 1:1: can be booked 3x a week for 45 minutes
- Peer reviewing
- Funding schemes

- > 80 1:1 Sessions

- 38 Projects initiated, reviewed and/ or direct involvement of Swiss Food Research

Value of the Network



- > 20 visits to companies to look at their problems

Business creation

EIT Food Seedbed

- EIT Food Seedbed
- 6 start-ups coached

KMU and Innovation Start-up Coaching

- Swiss Food Research became an official innovation partner



European Institute of Innovation and Technology



European Market validation for start-ups and projects.



Building bridges between farmers and consumers. Coming in 2024.



Generating radical innovation for resource efficiency.



Future-oriented networking of small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Have you seen us?

Media appearances of Swiss Food Research

Ernährung der
Zukunft
Züri Oberland

Wir müssen
definitiv
problemorientierter arbeiten
*Lebensmittel-
technologie*

Swiss Food
Research – One
Planetary Health
*Rosenfluh
Publikationen AG*

Transformation
von Nahrungs-
mittel zu
Lebensmittel
fokus.swiss

The Future of Food and Farming News Channel



The news channel "The Future of Food and Farming News" was launched in summer 2023. The three organisations Swiss Food Research, Café Europe and Crowdfoods have come together to launch "The Future of Food and Farming". The aim of the news channel is to bundle and prepare news from the entire value chain from field to fork. It enables business intelligence across Europe and connects the different networks and innovation platforms.

Education



*EIT Food Solutions
24 students were coached.*



*"easyPEAsy" presents a
chocolate pudding made
from peas.*

EIT Food

EIT Food aims at strengthening and growing the European agro-food system by enabling and valorising sustainable and healthy innovation. Swiss Food Research is deeply involved in EIT Food key activities, EIT Food Seedbed, EIT Food Solutions and Global Food Venture Programme.

EIT Food with "Global Food Venture Programme"

EIT Food offers the "Global Food Venture Programme" educational program in collaboration with European universities, industry experts and established start-ups. The aim of the program is to put the knowledge of young scientists into practice in the agricultural and food system. Swiss Food Research supports with educational lectures and mentoring young talents on their path towards impact.

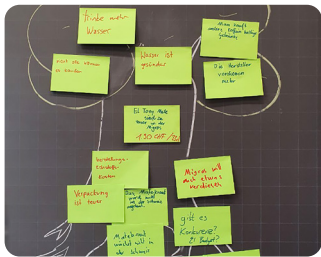
EIT Seedbed

As a well-established partner of EIT Food, Swiss Food Research provides valuable guidance and coaching to 40 promising start-ups that engage in the Seedbed program each year. The aim of the program is to validate ideas in the pan-European market. The final pitch and showcase event in Lisbon marks the end of the programme.

EIT Food Solutions

Together with EIT Food, our university partners from Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, University of Reading, Università degli Studi di Torino and our Industry Partners Gruppo an, Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research, and Instituto de Agroquímica y Tecnología de Alimentos iata csic, we gathered in Valencia for the final celebration of what has been a

↙ *Jan Biehl
Innovation Manager*



*Next Generation
@Kantonsschule Obwalden
3 student teams learned
about the "problem tree
method".*



*ETH Food Innovation Lab:
Three student teams
thought about a sustainable
food system.*

↙ *Dr. Lucas Grob
CEO
Marina Helm
Romaneschi
Marketing & Strategy
Dr. Sandra Sulser
Innovation Managerin*

marvellous EIT Food Solutions challenge. Five teams of students spent nine months developing a new type of food. To get there, proper problem definition, coaching, support, improvement, adaptation and learning were key. This included topics such as value proposition, USPs, pitching or prototyping of novel products.

Workshop "Nutrition" – Kantonsschule Obwalden

This year's theme day on nutrition took place at the Kantonsschule Obwalden on 21 October. Various organisations were invited to offer the high school students (13-18 year olds) a choice of workshops. Swiss Food Research introduced 40 young people, each in two groups, to the "problem tree" model. The problem is pictured as a tree. The causes being the roots of the tree and the effects of the problem being the branches. The students were characterised as particularly honest consumers. They suggested their own problems related to the food system, such as the poor cafeteria food and the overpriced Mate at the kiosk. It was impressive to see how networked the young people already think and what prior knowledge they have. For Swiss Food Research, it was an inspiring area that we look forward to expanding in the future.

ETH Food Innovation Lab

ETH Zurich is introducing the multidisciplinary learning programme "Food Innovation Lab" into the innovation process. Students learn about the challenges of the global food system and develop consumer-oriented prototypes and business models. The course is open to Bachelor's and Master's students as well as doctoral candidates and benefits from the knowledge and feedback of experts from academia and industry. Big thank you to the support from Upgrain, CatchFree, Michelle Grant, Tanja Schneider, Lucky Shrimps, Costas Papikonomou (Una Terra) und Lukas Bühler, HSG, WFSC.

Innovationgroups

Innovationgroup: Future Proof Farming



*First Meeting of the
Innovationgroup
Future Proof Farming*

We are excited to announce our new Innovationgroup "Future Proof Farming". A total of twelve different Innovationgroups are now discussing and working on innovations in the food industry.

Agriculture is fundamental and irreplaceable to our food system. Therefore, planning and sales certainty is urgently needed. Through our new Innovationgroup "Future Proof Farming" sponsored by Seedling Foundation, collaboration with all actors along the entire value chain is possible. Future Proof Farming is a local platform for testing and further developing transformative solutions. Taking into account the needs of consumers and producers to enable sustainable progress is essential and therefore our main focus.

New Format: Bioconversion and Proteins4Future

To further enhance the impact of our Innovationgroups, for the first time we combined two groups that are thematically very closely linked. By combining the IG Proteins4Future with the IG Bioconversion we empowered knowledge transfer and collaboration opportunities identification across interconnected research areas. Some highlights for the groups were e.g. valorising fermentation to minimize off flavours in plant protein raw materials or enhancing the nutritional value of plant based alternatives through intrinsic micronutrient fortification using selected microorganisms. Furthermore, fermentation technology projects to produce biomass based alternative protein solutions have been exchanged and discussed. By joining these Innovationgroups, two crucial innovation areas impacting several parts of the value chain triggered cross area exchange and nurturing ideas for the future of food.

Events



Swiss Food Research
at Empack.
Members involved:
Noriware, ETH Prototifib,
Mycrobez.



Swiss Food Research
at GLUG.
Members involved
Ecocascara, HSLU,
Koa Impact

↙ Corinne Stämpfli
Marketing &
Communication

Empack

Empack is the largest packaging trade fair in Switzerland. This is where all the actors along the entire value chain meet to exchange innovative solutions and new technologies. Dr. Peter Braun led a dialogue about the future of packaging: How can we improve food packaging in terms of function, design and resources? What would our supermarkets look like without plastic? Together we look forward to implement ideas of using alternatives to plastic or the development of a circular economy.

GLUG

GLUG is the event for beverage producers, distributors and suppliers. As a place to exchange knowledge about ingredients, production and processing, GLUG offers the chance for entrepreneurs and changemakers to gain knowledge and network. We supported the event with our expertise and experience by moderating the innovation forum.

Innovation Funding Schemes

This year we held our second webinar on Swiss Funding Schemes. The 1.5 hour online event not only provides an overview of funding and changes in 2023, but also shows which funding options are suitable for which projects and what needs to be considered when applying.

→ "We offer specific services in our portfolio, such as proposal reviewing or 1:1 sessions where ideas for new projects, open questions and next steps can be discussed."

Dr. Lucas Grob,
CEO of Swiss Food Research

Project Day organized by Innovation Booster



IB Project Day

The total of 17 Innovation Boosters are each involved in different thematic areas such as digitization, health or the food system along the entire value chain. At the project day on July 5, 2023, successful Innovation Teams from the past two years presented their experiences and visions. These ideas were accompanied and supported by experts during the preparation phase so that they could submit a project proposal worth up to 35'000CHF. These Project Days offer a unique insight into innovation processes as well as the opportunity to gain visibility and build networks.

Swiss Overshoot Day



Swiss Overshoot Day was on May 13. We would need 2.8 earth if everyone lived like in Switzerland.

Food has a great lever to move the date of the Overshoot Day. This year we joined forces with Global Footprint Network, Move The Date Switzerland, Soil to Soul, GDI Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute, and Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL to showcase examples that are already pushing the date, with a vegan dinner including products from our members.

Soil to Soul



Soil to Soul

2023, Swiss Food Research launched a partnership with the Soil to Soul "You are what you eat" movement. The highlight was the annual symposium with offerings for interested citizens around the topics of healthy, fertile soils, regenerative agriculture, and nutrient-rich enjoyable food. Swiss Food Research accompanied the symposium with an epicurean event featuring innovative products from members, a panel discussion on the "nutrition transition through the lens of innovation", and a booth at the Soil to Soul market to host products and projects from our members.

↙ Marina Helm
Romaneschi
Marketing & Strategy

Agro Food Innovation Forum



Agro Food Innovation Forum

The 5th edition of the Agro Food Innovation Forum took place on 19 September at Technopark in Zurich in combination with the General Assembly. It has been a special edition as we celebrated the 15th anniversary of Swiss Food Research. The event focused on Swiss Food Research members, their innovations and inspiring keynotes. Six members impressively demonstrated how partnerships, a good network and the right funding instruments can lead to great successes. The tasting of innovative products from young start-ups and companies characterized the food and beverage selection throughout the event. Networking among the participants and getting to know the members better was supported in various ways throughout the event. During the coffee breaks and lunch, of course, but also in an interactive way during systemic networking and speed pitching. At the heart of the event was an emotional handover from Dr. Peter Braun to the new CEO Dr. Lucas Grob – with all the visionary minds from the very beginning on stage.

↳ *Corinne Stämpfli*
Marketing &
Communication

Co-Development for food products: Pilot Project with Swiss Hotel School Lucerne SHL

The pilot project, which started in September aims to support the product development of sustainable and future-oriented foods. The focus of the project is to establish close collaboration between chefs and SHL students, innovation experts from Swiss Food Research and start-ups and their innovative products.

365 Days of Innovation

Jan ↘

- 24 10th meeting IG Coffee
- 25 Empack –
The Future of Packaging
- 31 11th meeting of IG Insects

May ↘

- 09 Innovation Booster Swiss
Economy–Workshop
- 13 Swiss Overshoot Day

Feb ↘

- 02 GLUG
- 07 4th meeting of IG
Fungi & Fungal Systems
- 28 Innovation Funding
Schemes

Jun ↘

- 01 8th meeting of
IG Protein4Future
- 08 8th meeting of
IG Bioconversion
- 13 Future Food Symposium

Mar ↘

- 09 10th meeting of
IG Digitalization
- 14 Open Exploration about
Resource Efficiency
- 16 13th meeting of
IG Grains & Baked Goods
- 23 52th meeting of
AK Chocolate

Jul ↘

- 05 Innovation Booster
Project Day
- 06 12th meeting of
IG Aquaculture

Apr ↘

- 26 Inspirational Talk
with Eggfield

Aug ↘

- 20 12th meeting of IG Insects

Sep ↘

- 05 Open Exploration about Resource Efficiency
- 06 11th Swiss Green Economy Symposium
- 12 14th meeting of IG Grains & Baked Goods
- 14 53th meeting of IG Chocolate
- 16 Soil to Soul Symposium
- 19 General Assembly
- 19 Agro Food Innovation Forum and General Assembly
- 28 5th meeting of IG Fungi & Fungal Systems

Oct ↘

- 04 EIT Paris
- 24 11th meeting of IG Digitalization
- 24 Swissnex meets Innovation Booster
- 26 1st meeting of IG Future oriented Farming

Nov ↘

- 08 6th EIT Food Venture Summit for Seedbed
- 08 Develop Tastes EIT Food Solutions in Valencia
- 09 Develop Healthy Foods EIT Food Solutions Event
- 14 New Format: 9th meeting of IG Bioconversion & Proteins4Future
- 30 Swiss Innovation Forum Presentation of Innovation Boosters

Dec ↘

- 05 11th Meeting of IG Coffee
- 06 Launch of support group on Innovation Booster Future Proof Farming
- 18 Pitching and Awarding Innovation Booster Ideas

Facts and Figures

We proudly look back on our twelve Innovationgroups, which have developed magnificently. In the following, we provide some insights into the impact they have had.

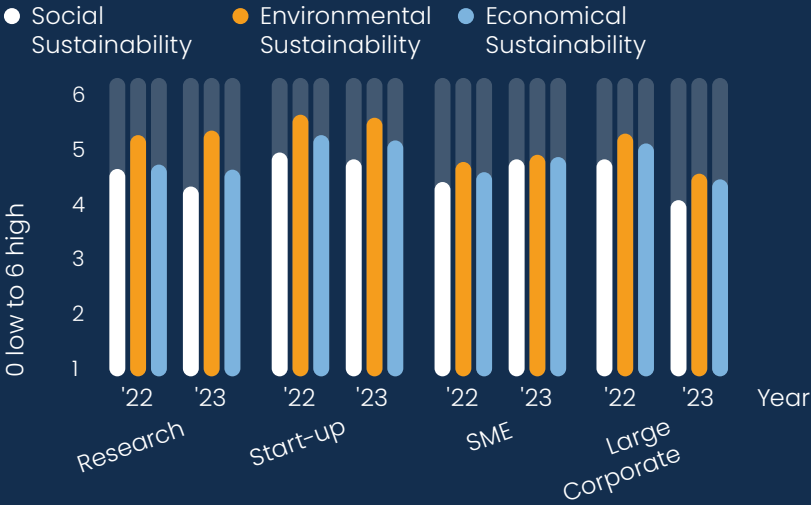


Salad made with vegan shrimps and hemp crunches from Swiss Food Research members. Served at Agro Food Innovation Forum.

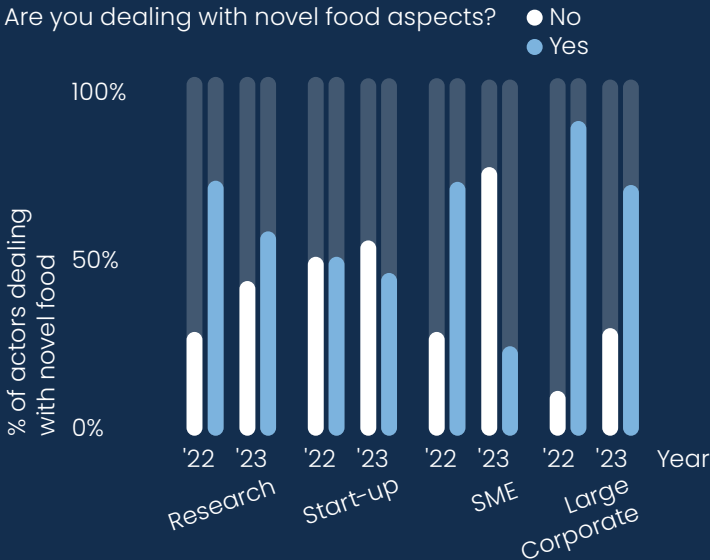


Soda Drinks from Ecocascara. Enjoyed at Agro Food Innovation Forum.

Innovation Impact rating



Actors are still dealing with the novel food topic





The start-up Hillbot receives feedback on its ultra-light, electric mowing robot at the Innovationgroup Digitalisation.

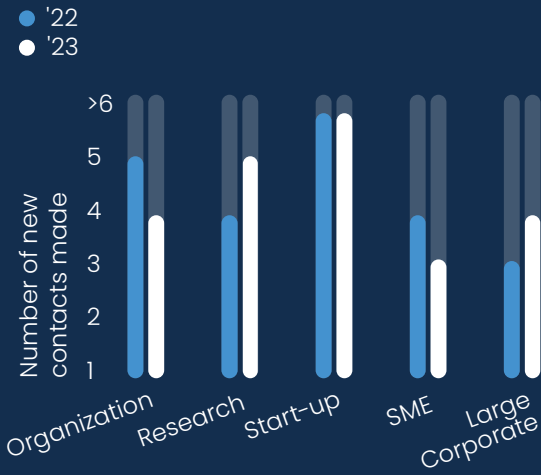


Meeting of the Innovationgroup Aquaculture.

→ "The Innovationgroups are a perfect platform for gathering valuable input and utilising a diverse network. In addition, the 1:1s with the Swiss Food Research experts provide food for thought and insights to improve and expand your own strategy."

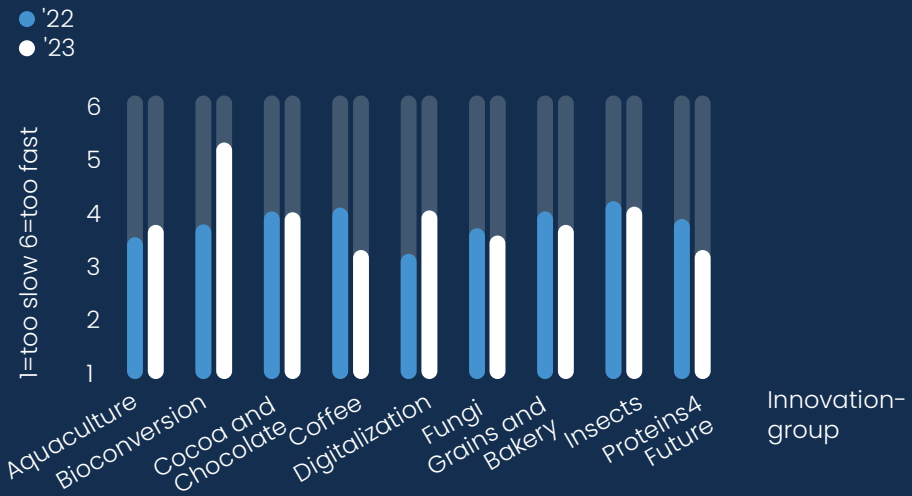
Claude Winter
about the Innovationgroups
Project Manager of Fenaco

How many new contacts have you made?



Picking up momentum

How do you feel about the transition into a more sustainable future in this Innovationgroup?



Partnerships & Cooperations



EIT Food

EIT Food, established by the European Institute of Innovation and 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.

SATW



The Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences SATW is the most important network of experts in the field of engineering sciences in Switzerland.

Together, we started a cooperation in the area of biopolymers to support the development of biobased plastics. Together the "Sensibilisierungswoche pflanzenbasierte Proteine" was held. Additionally, an Innovation Booster Swiss Food Ecosystem call was supported.

SVIAL



SVIAL is the Swiss professional association of food scientists and agronomists. 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.

We Talents



We Talents matches jobs between talents and companies. Fast, simple, efficient and secure – We Talents is revolutionizing the Swiss world of work.



Crowdfoods

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 with the support of Swiss Food Research in February 2023.



Swiss Hotel School Lucerne SHL

The Swiss Hotel School Lucerne and Swiss Food Research launched a pilot project in 2023 for intensive collaboration between chefs and students from SHL, innovation experts from Swiss Food Research and start-ups. In addition to product development, the collaboration will also enable market research with a demanding audience.



Agricultura Regeneratio

The organisation promotes regenerative agriculture and food industry by strengthening networks, raising awareness in society and supporting agricultural businesses.



Agropole

The only Vaud-based technology park dedicated to sustainable food. The campus brings together an active community of players from field to fork with innovators and promotes sustainable solutions.



Initiative regenerative Marktwirtschaft

For a successful and liveable future, the organization "Initiative regenerative Marktwirtschaft" wants to further develop ecology, social affairs and economy into a holistic, future-affirming new mission statement.

Imprint

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