



UCC / Teagasc
Strategic Alliance
in
Food Research

Underpinning the development
of a sustainable, competitive and
innovative Irish food industry

Consolidating Ireland's strengths
in food science, technology
and innovation



ucc

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire
University College Cork, Ireland



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Background

Teagasc and UCC enjoy a long history of collaboration in food science and technology to the benefit of the food and related industries in Ireland. There is now a need to build greater scientific critical mass and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our two organisations in the use of public funding and in underpinning innovation in the food industry. To this end, UCC and Teagasc have agreed to establish a formal Strategic Alliance in Food Research.

We welcome this strengthening of the bonds between our two organisations. We see this Alliance as addressing all of the key strategic objectives of recent policy statements in relation to the development of the Smart Economy and as a critical resource supporting Ireland's largest indigenous industry. We believe that the Alliance will bring an already vibrant interaction between Teagasc and UCC to a new and higher level and will create a 'Food Hub' which will enhance Ireland's reputation as a world centre for fundamental and applied research focused on excellence, innovation, development of human capital and technology transfer to industry.

We thank all involved in the internal working groups in bringing the Alliance to fruition, and in particular we thank Professor Michael Dowling who chaired the Joint Working Group and who now chairs the Steering Committee which is preparing a work plan and management framework for the implementation of the Strategic Alliance.



Dr Michael Murphy
President, UCC

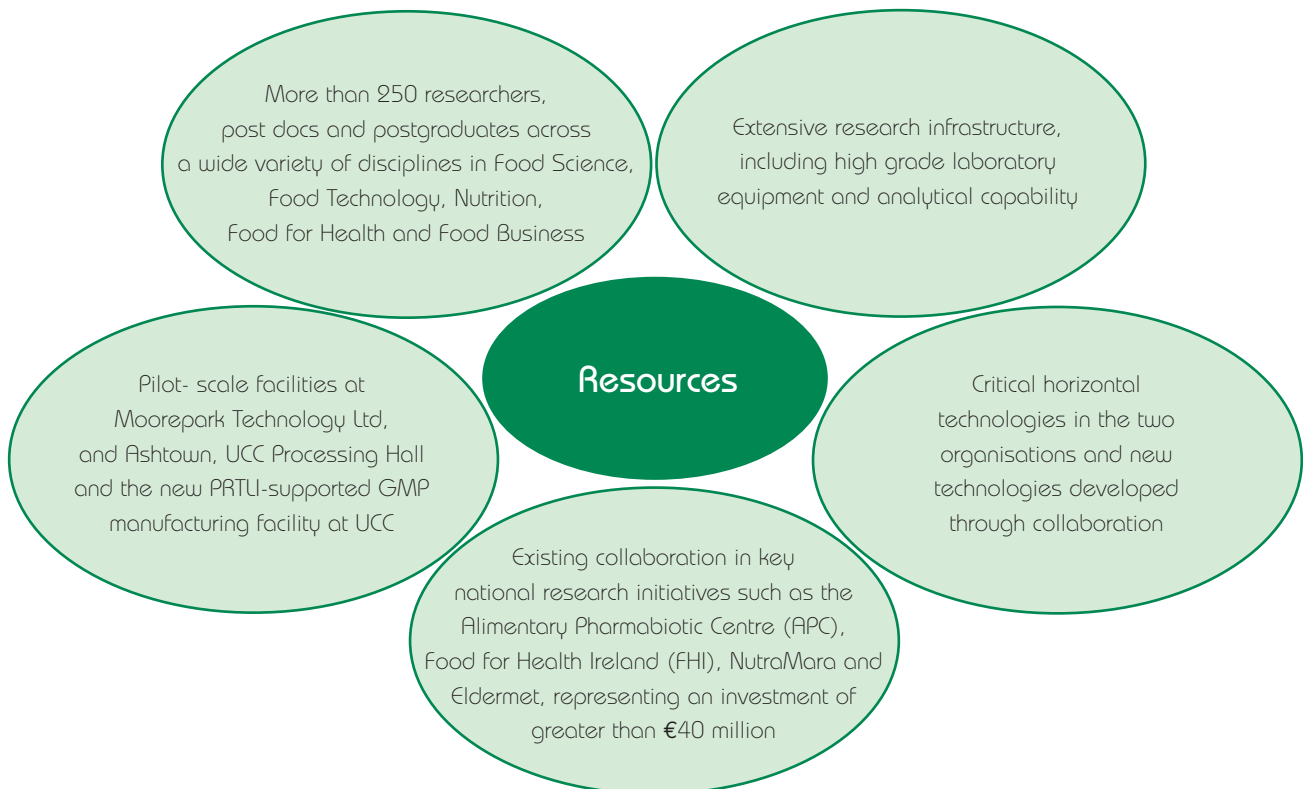


Professor Gerry Boyle
Director, Teagasc



Research and Innovation Strategy

- Focus on three main thematic areas:
 - Food & Health;
 - Food Science & Technology; and,
 - Food & the Consumer.
- Apply combined technology platforms supporting the research agenda.
- Develop new programmes in consultation with stakeholders.



Benefits

The Alliance will:

- Establish a single portal for food companies in Ireland enabling them to more easily access the world-class research and innovation expertise in both organisations.
- Establish a common food research and innovation programme in consultation with industry and government agencies.
- Strengthen collaborative research, including postgraduate training, and create a critical mass of expertise across Food Science, Technology, Nutrition, Health and Business.
- Facilitate sharing of the very considerable research infrastructure in the two organisations.
- Enhance Ireland's reputation as a world centre for fundamental and applied food research.

What They Say



"The Food Industry has been identified as a major driver in the future of Ireland's economy. The UCC / Teagasc Strategic Alliance in Food Research builds on very strong collaborations developed over many years and will strengthen Ireland's reputation as a world renowned centre for food research. This Alliance will ensure that Irish food companies have access to excellent scientific capability, facilities and critical mass that will support the delivery of products, processes and jobs for the Irish economy into the future."

Mr Brendan Smith, TD,
Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries & Food



"The creation of this Alliance will contribute to a more focussed Irish food research strategy that will provide most effectively for our industry's needs. I warmly welcome it."

Mr Dan Browne,
Dawn Group



"Ireland's food export competitiveness requires that we capitalise on the quality of our primary raw materials and quickly move up the value chain. This can only be realised through a unified approach to innovation and scientific development - aligned to consumer requirements and industry development needs."

Mr Stan McCarthy,
CEO, Kerry Group



"The creation of the Alliance will move the Irish food research and innovation effort to a new level. With an important input from industry into the direction of its programme, it will be a critical factor in the expansion of the food industry, which is critical to the future economic growth of the country."

Professor Michael Dowling,
Chairman, UCC /Teagasc
Strategic Alliance
Steering Committee



"The abolition of quotas in 2015, in an increasingly deregulated market, presents a challenge to the industry to move up the value chain. Commitment to collaborative R&D, harnessing the collective strengths of the research institutes and industry, is essential in driving successful, market-led, growth. I welcome this initiative."

Mr Kevin Lane,
CEO, Irish Dairy Board



"Pfizer advocates the creation of alliances across industry, academia and government in Ireland as it is fundamental in fostering innovation and commercial success."

Dr Dan O'Callaghan,
Director of New Product
Development, Pfizer



"This strategic alliance between UCC and Teagasc will benefit the development of the food industry as it creates a platform of synergistic research capability in basic and applied research and is welcomed by Enterprise Ireland."

Mr Dick Lenehan, Manager
Food Division, Enterprise Ireland

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