

Summary of workshop held by Food Science Sweden, current strengths and future research priorities

Background: a workshop was organized in conjunction to a seminar arranged by Food Science Sweden at SLU, Uppsala on December 8th 2017. The aim of the workshop was to;

- Identify research areas where we have the national strengths within food science
- Identify research areas of high relevance for the coming 5 years
- Discuss how collaboration can facilitate future research of high relevance based on our national strengths

Researchers from RISE, SLU, LTH, Chalmers, OrU and research financiers (> 70) participated in the seminar and the workshop. The workshop consisted of 8 different groups where each participant first reflected individually and then jointly discussed and prioritized currently strong research areas as well as identified the areas of highest future relevance (in a 5 year perspective).

Outcome: **National strengths** were identified within the following areas of food science:

- Sustainability
- Process
- Food safety
- Food and health

The areas that were deemed **future priorities** include:

- Food and Health
- New processes
- Novel foods
- Multi-OMICs
- Circular bioeconomy

Research areas that are clearly identified as current strength and of high future importance are “Food and Health” and “(New) Processes”. Under health comes more specific topics such as individualized nutrition, sustainable nutrition, OMICs with emphasis on metabolomics as well as gut health. Topics such as alternative processes, digitization and automation were highlighted within "New processes".

Sustainability is a national strength, which gives high credibility to the future priorities of “Novel foods”, “New processes” and “Circular bioeconomy” as well as the use of the complete food chain. Under Novel foods, plant based foods and novel protein sources were mentioned. The title “Multi-OMICs” include characterization of foods, animal and plant genetics, phenotyping and establishing food compound profile libraries.

Collaboration: Last question during the workshop was on how we collaborate to best utilize our national strengths and address prioritized research areas of the future. A clear need for further collaborations was expressed. Increased collaboration between academic institutions as well as between academia, research institutes and industry can be achieved via PhD students as well as through collaborative projects involving scientists from academy, research institutes and industry. Other aspects that were deemed important were connections to small and large industry, as well as communication with society as a whole including politicians, journalists, social media etc.