Exploiting synergies for growth through innovation, research, skills and knowledge

Aviva Stadium, Dublin, Ireland | 29 May 2013
Debate key challenges in research, skills and knowledge and opportunities for innovation that exist across both islands for suppliers, manufacturers and retailers.

Identify opportunities for developing a more entrepreneurial workforce through greater collaboration in development and training.

Understand how R&D and knowledge exchange within a broader European context can create a strong platform for innovation to enhance the competitiveness of the food sector.

The theme of this important Summit is ‘Exploiting synergies for growth through innovation, research, skills and knowledge.’ This event is a positive step towards building closer cooperation between the two islands in the agri-food sector, reflecting the comments made by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny and Prime Minister, David Cameron in March 2012. It takes place at a time of great opportunity, but ever growing challenges, for the UK and Irish food industries.

The Summit will be jointly opened and addressed by the Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Mr. Simon Coveney, TD and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt. Hon. Owen Paterson, MP. The Directors of both Teagasc and IFR will then present keynote addresses on models to foster innovation and strengthen synergies across the Irish Sea.

This will be followed by a series of perspective presentations by leading UK and Irish food company CEOs and senior managers, focusing on a number of strategic issues for their companies and how these can be addressed through greater collaboration. Issues to be addressed will include food security, shortening the food chain, reducing waste, growing world population, emerging markets, consumer trends, entrepreneurship, role of research and innovation and the trend towards public-private partnerships. An expert panel will then discuss some of the key messages.

In the afternoon, three parallel workshops will focus on how the UK and Irish food industries, in partnership with their innovation support agencies, could respond to new challenges and opportunities. The workshops will focus specifically on:

- People, Entrepreneurship and Skills for a Growing Food Industry (including mobility, sharing of best practice and education/research/business staff exchange)
- Requirements for Global Food Innovation (including food & health, innovative food ingredients)
- Research, Innovation and Business Opportunities to Shorten the Food Chain (including food security, new value chains based on waste and by-products)

Following the workshops, a plenary session will identify the key actions and take home messages from the Summit.

Throughout the day representatives from the UK and Irish food innovation support ecosystems (research institutes, universities, government agencies and food industry membership organisations) will exhibit their capabilities and will be available for one-to-one discussions.
Programme Overview

Registration
7.30 Registration and Food Innovation Exhibition (Exhibition continues throughout the day)

Welcome Addresses
8.30 Professor Gerry Boyle, Director of Teagasc, Agriculture and Food Development Authority, Ireland
8.45 Professor David Boxer, Director of the Institute of Food Research, Norwich, UK

Food Industry Perspectives
Presentations by leading UK and Irish food industry thought leaders including:
9.00 Mr. Patrick Coveney, Chief Executive, Greencore Group plc.
9.20 Mr. John Kennedy, President Western Europe, Diageo plc.
9.40 Ms. Melanie Leech, Director General of the Food and Drink Federation, UK

Keynote Addresses
10.00 Mr. Simon Coveney, TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland
The Rt. Hon. Owen Paterson, MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK

Panel Discussion
12.10 Moderated by Ms. Jacki Davis, Managing Director of Meade Davis Communications
13.10 LUNCH

Parallel Workshops
13.50 Theme 1: People, Entrepreneurship and Skills for a Growing Food Industry
Theme 2: Global Food Innovation for Economic Impact
Theme 3: Research, Innovation and Business Opportunities to Shorten the Food Chain and Reduce Waste
14.45 Workshops will be repeated to facilitate delegate attendance at two Themes
15.40 BREAK

Summary
16.10 Summary Reports and Outputs from Workshops Presented by:
Mr. Stephen Parry, Chair, UK Food Sector Group of Biosciences Knowledge Transfer Network.
Professor Mary Lambkin-Coyle, UCD School of Business.
Professor Damien P. McLoughlin, UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School.

17.00 Close

Food Business Innovation Exhibition
An exhibition of leading organisations supporting food innovation, research and education in the UK and Ireland.
Registration Details

Who Should Attend:

This Summit is aimed at UK and Irish food company CEOs and their senior operations, strategic, technical, R&D and marketing managers.

It will also be of great interest to managers of food research programmes in research institutes, universities and institutes of technology.

Food innovation support organisations and state agencies will also benefit from this event.

To register your attendance at this event, please go to www.teagasc.ie/businesssummit/registration.asp and select the workshop you wish to attend.

There is no fee for this event but places are limited.

For further information please contact:

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