Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum policy conference;
Next steps for food innovation in the UK
Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 2nd March 2027
*****Taking Place Online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

WESTMINSTER FOOD & NUTRITION FORUM

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

9.05 **Assessing recent developments and priorities for food innovation in the UK**
Rachel Bailey, Deputy Director, Agri Growth, Trade and Technology, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

9.20 **Investing in emerging food technologies - key considerations for funding, scale-up and commercial viability**
Senior representative, funding

9.30 **Priorities for research and future food technologies - innovation, evidence and applications**
research priorities across precision fermentation, cell-cultivated products and other emerging food technologies | potential applications in food production, ingredients and manufacturing evidence on safety, nutritional characteristics and product quality | potential benefits and limitations for nutrition, sustainability and food system resilience | comparing new and existing production methods on energy and resource use evidence supporting health and sustainability claims | collaboration between researchers, technology developers and food businesses | addressing gaps in the evidence base
Ayela Spiro, Nutrition Science Manager, British Nutrition Foundation
Senior representative, research
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, sustainability

9.55 Questions and comments from the floor

10.20 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

10.25 Break

10.35 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

10.40 **Adopting new food technologies - priorities for food manufacturers and ingredient users**
Senior representative, food industry

10.50 **Manufacturing and scaling up emerging food technologies - infrastructure, skills and production capability**
challenges for SMEs moving from research and pilot production to commercial scale | access to specialist facilities, equipment and contract manufacturing | capital requirements, production costs and risks of first-of-a-kind manufacturing | availability of ingredients and feedstocks | production consistency and reliability at scale | product performance, quality and pricing considerations for manufacturers and ingredient users | skills requirements across engineering, food science and manufacturing | applications of AI in process control, efficiency and quality monitoring | food safety, hygiene and validation of new production processes | implications for farmers and existing operations and food supply chains | commercial partnerships, customer demand and long-term purchasing arrangements
Senior representative, SMEs
Senior representative, skills
Senior representative, AI
Senior representative, food safety

11.10 Questions and comments from the floor

11.35 **Next steps for food regulation and market access - authorisation, UK-EU arrangements and consumer confidence**
FSA and FSS novel foods authorisation | safety evidence, application preparation, timelines and delays | Cell-Cultivated Products Sandbox guidance and Market Authorisation Innovation Research Programme priorities | production requirements and pre-application support | prospective UK-EU SPS agreement - existing GB authorisations, applications in progress, transition, regulatory responsibilities, data protection and market exclusivity | international regulatory differences, and use of evidence across jurisdictions, exports, and UK competitiveness | consumer views on safety, nutrition, price and production methods | transparency, naming, labelling and evidence for product claims | retail and business-to-business demand | willingness to pay for new products and ingredients
Dr Carolina Maciel, Researcher, International Trade and Agri-food Law, UK Trade Policy Observatory, University of Sussex
Jessica Burt, Associate, Food Law, Mills & Reeve
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, consumers
Questions and comments from the floor

12.30 **Next steps for food innovation in the UK - priorities for novel foods authorisation and regulatory development**
Senior representative, regulation
Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Jessica Lear, Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum