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## BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR FOOD: A POTENTIAL TOWARDS A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM IN EUROPE



**BETTY MILANO** 

European Affairs Officer Wagralim

















igretec•





**Betty MILANO** 

- Wagralim
- I4CE
- Biotech4Food
- FoodWal



### sustainable food system in Europe



## THE AGRI-FOOD INNOVATION CLUSTER

Wallonia - Belgium

#### Wagralim







### sustainable food system in Europe

### Wagralim







300 members
= dynamic
ecosystem
around
innovation







Wagralim

#### **OUR CORE BUSINESS**





## sustainable food system in Europe

#### **OUR STRATEGIC BUSINESS AREAS**

Wagralim



Interconnected, sustainable agrifood systems

Creating an agro-industrial plant protein chain that meets sustainability criteria



Efficient and transparent industry

Innovations for greater food safety and transparency

New solutions to reduce the impact of packaging



Nutrition & consumer

Innovation project to develop a consumer offering that provides a better **nutritional** balance while integrating the principles of sustainability.





#### **IMPACT**

- 77 projects approved by the Walloon Government
- 252 products, services or processus developed
- 14 EU projects funded
- 4 TSSP Agri-food partnerships





**S**3

- S3 = smart specialization strategy FOOD priority sector
- Wagralim's alignment (EU & regional) → regional initiatives
  - Ex. FoodWal





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An **inter-regional partnership** promoting quadruple helix approach specialised in the agri-food sector, and more particularly in the production of **innovative circular ingredients** (nutritional, functional) intended for **food** processing industry and **non-food** applications, including feed, cosmetics, pharma, etc.

Food, feed, cosmetics



We support the development of innovative ingredients for cross sectoral applications, while fostering circularity.



Ingredients for a circular economy





## sustainable food system in Europe

#### I4CE aims to...

- ✓ Boost the economy
- ✓ Develop sustainable innovation & growth
- ✓ Catalyse & animate the ecosystem
- √ Promote cross-regional cooperation

#### And explore new routes...

- ✓ To new ingredients
- ✓ With new raw material.
- ✓ With new technologies
- √ To new applications and uses
- √ To better meet consumer needs.

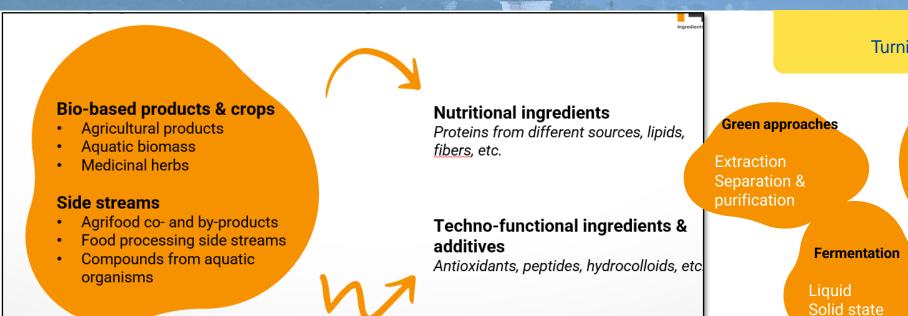
#### Ingredients for a circular economy

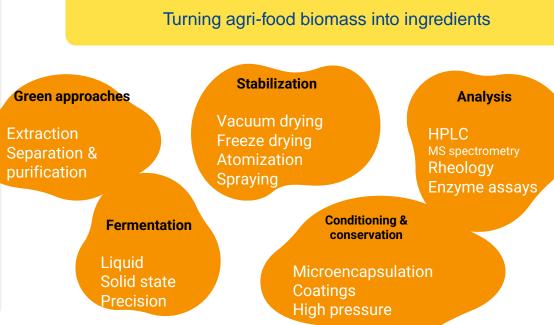






## sustainable food system in Europe









### sustainable food system in Europe





Acceleration of new promising circular agri-food value chains and sustainable industrial interregional investments in SMEs, by integration of advanced biotechnology



**Greener and resilient Europe** 

Clusters, RTOs, regional authority,

15 companies















Food innovation and biotech?

- The agri-food sector is the first industrial sector in Wallonia in terms of turnover and employment, mainly composed by SMEs
- Fermentation and precision fermentation = most used processing technology = <u>opportunities</u>



### Identify <u>new value chains</u>

Biotech4Food

- Alternative proteins from bacteria- or mycelium sources
- Probiotics
- Microalgae based products (protein/fats)
- Support innovation in food sector through <u>biotechnologies</u>
  - Precision fermentation and fermentation, valorisation of side streams, enhancement of processes for food complements (probiotique), processing insectes for feed, dairy sector





### sustainable food system in Europe



Simplified regulatory framework and faster access to market

Launch a study analysing how biotech legislation could be further streamlined. This study could lay the foundations for a possible EU Biotech Act





Better support for scale-up and ease of navigating regulations

Establish an EU Biotech Hub to help companies avigate through the regulatory framework and identify support to scale up, by end 2024.



Foster a larger market for biotechnology and biomanufacturing

 Deepen cooperation with international partners, such as the US, on biotechnology research, under the Science and Technology Agreements, by end 2024

### Enable fair comparison with fossil-based products

develop methodologies to ensure a fair son between fossil-based and bio-based i, in 2025, including the review of the Environmental Footprint.

#### Review the EU Bioeconomy Strategy by end 2025

g into account the current societal, uphic and environmental challenges, ng the bioeconomy's industrial in and its links to biotechnology biomanufacturing to contribute



#### Encourage more investments

- Launch a study to identify barriers and ways to support the consolidation of investment funding, by mid-2025.
- Advocate for the inclusion of biotech and biomanufacturing as part of the European Innovation Council accelerator Work Programme 2025.



#### Accelerate the uptake of Al in biotechnology together with stakeholders

- Support structured exchanges with businesses and industry in biotech and biomanufacturing in the context of the GenAI4EU initiative.
- Raise awareness of facilitated access to the EuroHPC supercomputers for Al startups and the science and innovation community.
- Support the development of advanced generative AI models for healthcare, leveraging data, existing tools and using EuroHPC supercomputing capacities.

#### Biotech on EU level

Biotechnology¹ and its application to manufacturing bio-based products, biomanufacturing² can be part of the solution to address many societal and environmental challenges, such as climate mitigation and adaptation, access to and sustainable use of natural resources, restoration of vital nature systems, food supply and security, and human health. Biotechnology and biomanufacturing are key for the competitiveness and the modernisation of our economy due to their high growth potential and increased labour productivity. They also strongly enhance the EU's open strategic autonomy and resilience by reducing industry's dependency on

fossil-based input and other sources of raw materia advance the European Health Union and achieve the E

Biotechnology has also been identified as a **critical to perspective**<sup>3</sup>, given its cross-cutting nature. It is also of Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) re







European





**Wallonia**.be

JORADA+ 2024 FURADA event





Strategic positioning

- Wagralim is dealing with the opportunities of biotech
- Positioning on EU level as cluster through topics
- Positioning on EU level for our companies
  - through the S3 partnership = strong consortium for calls
  - through EU projects





## THANK YOU!

betty.milano@wagralim.be

www.wagralim.be















