

Press release

FEASTS launched: a research project on cultured meat and seafood explores the future of protein.

- FEASTS is a groundbreaking, collaborative research programme funded by the EU Horizon Programme, with the goal to deliver a comprehensive, unbiased knowledge base about cultured meat and seafood, and their place in the food system.
- The focus is firmly on sustainability by design, an interdisciplinary approach and knowledge sharing.
- FEASTS' central commitment in exploring the future of protein is to include the perspectives of all those involved in producing our food – from farm to fork and beyond.

The FEASTS (Fostering European Cellular Agriculture for Sustainable Transition Solution) programme, which launched in January 2024, will be conducted by a consortium of 36 independent institutions from 17 countries. Over the next 3 years, participants will delve into the technologies involved in the sustainable production of cultured meat and seafood. They will investigate nutritional, health and regulatory aspects, as well as issues of food safety related to these complementary proteins. Ethical questions connected with cultured meat and seafood will be addressed. Environmental, economic and social life cycle analysis will feed into dynamic systems models and expand the understanding of the multi-dimensional impact of cellular agriculture on the environment and the food value chain.

Dr. Dwayne Holmes, Director of Responsible Research & Innovation at New Harvest Netherlands and current FEASTS Executive Director said: *"The emergence of cultured meat and seafood technologies has excited some in Europe, while raising concerns for others, and the existing information gap is not able to resolve this difference. FEASTS is designed to cut through the current polarized climate of hype and fear to produce an unbiased, science-based, holistic analysis of CM/CSF's potential to interact with and become part of Europe's agricultural system. Built on an interactive approach with multi-stakeholder engagement it will develop open informational tools and mechanisms to empower all stakeholders, including those in the current food value chain, as well as consumers and policymakers, so that they can make informed decisions about their future."*

The FEASTS consortium includes leading universities and research institutes, start-ups, business accelerators, independent consultants, international food innovation initiatives, representatives of farmers and aquafarmers and a consumer association. Also inviting input from food system stakeholders, FEASTS will provide a forum for open and informed discussion about the role of cellular agriculture in meeting the growing demand for protein. Solutions developed over the life

of the project will take into account such considerations as food security and just transitions for farmers and aquafarmers.

An important part of FEASTS is exploring how cultured meat and seafood technologies can contribute to the future of farming. As all cellular agriculture products require the contribution of traditional agriculture, FEASTS will actively involve farmers in designing processes and future scenarios which will generate fair economic returns for them. Another topic of study will be the impact on consumers. Knowledge gaps regarding nutrition and food safety will be addressed with the requisite rigour and transparency, while workshops and focus group studies will put consumer preferences and the vibrant, diverse food cultures of Europe at the heart of research on acceptance of new products on tables across the EU.

Animal farming in the current food system generates 17% of the total greenhouse gas emissions¹ while supplying only 18% of the global calories and 37% of the global proteins.² Cellular agriculture, specifically cultured meat and seafood, has the potential to mitigate the negative effects of current intensive agricultural methods on human and animal health, and to address nutritional challenges, which the EU is facing. One of the goals of FEASTS is to establish a stewardship model for the European Union's cultured meat and seafood sector and support its future competitiveness. The ambition is to create a framework for sustainable production resulting in safe, nutritious, and widely accessible cultured products available to all consumers.

Prof. Frederico Ferreira, FEASTS Project Manager & Coordinator from Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon said: *"Our aim with FEASTS, which has been designed as a think-tank, is to expand the knowledge related to cultured meat and seafood so we can future-proof protein supply. We are focused on responsible innovation and principles of open science to ensure data-sharing, reproducibility and, ultimately, access to the project's findings by key stakeholders. We also welcome input from any institutions operating in the food system which are not yet part of the project. Together, we will create a unique opportunity for an effective reorganisation of the food system and the establishment of resilient value chains in the EU."*

ENDS

For enquiries about FEASTS please contact dwayne@new-harvest.org

¹ <https://ourworldindata.org/food-ghg-emissions>

² <https://ourworldindata.org/land-use>

FEASTS is funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or Horizon Europe. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

About FEASTS

FEASTS – Fostering European Cellular Agriculture for Sustainable Transition Solutions, which started on 1st December 2023, answers to the call “Cultured meat and cultured seafood – state of play and future prospects in the EU (Horizon-CL6-2023- FARM2FORK-01-13)”, is funded by the European Union’s research and innovation Horizon programme under Grant Agreement no. 101136749.

Members of the FEASTS consortium



IST-ID Associação do Instituto Superior Técnico para a Investigação e Desenvolvimento, Stichting New Harvest Netherlands, Laboratorio Ibérico Internacional de Nanotecnología, Bruno Cell S.L.R, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V, Wageningen University, Nord Universitet, S²AQUA Laboratório Colaborativo, Technische Universität München, Univerza v Mariboru, acib GmbH, VITAL MEAT, Cultimate Foods UG, Supreme (GOURMEY), EurA AG, Ecoinnovazione srl, RESPECTfarms BV, Aarhus Universitet, Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production gGmbH, Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna, Lunds Universitet, Universidad del País Vasco/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea, Lukas Madl (Innov), Safe Food Advocacy Europe, Agricultura Cellulare Italia, Cellular Agriculture Greece, CellAgri Portugal – Associação Portuguesa para o desenvolvimento da Agricultura Celular, CellAg Deutschland EV, Agriculture Cellulaire France, EIT Food, ShakeUp Factory, Rügenwalder Mühle Carl Müller GmbH & Co. KG, Agri-food Technology Center Ctic Cita, NaTurtle AG, CULT Food Science, Japan Association for Cellular Agriculture (JACA).

About Stichting New Harvest Netherlands

New Harvest is a nonprofit organisation anchored in the US, Canada, and the Netherlands that advances cellular agriculture through world-leading research, innovative collaborative projects and multi-stakeholder engagement across the burgeoning public and private sectors of cellular agriculture. Founded in 2004, New Harvest is the world’s longest-running organisation dedicated to advancing cellular agriculture as a strategy

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to create a more resilient, sustainable and ethical global food system. New Harvest Netherlands was established in 2022 with a focus on field-building within the European region, while coordinating activities for synergy with the US and Canadian entities. To learn more about New Harvest's work, visit new-harvest.org.