

# EIT Food Nominees in the 2018 EIT Awards

## Introduction

Two EIT Food projects, two start-ups and two women entrepreneurs have been nominated in three award categories from the top graduates, entrepreneurs and innovators across Europe as part of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Awards, to be held in **Budapest on 4 October during the EIT's annual Innovation Forum, INNOVEIT.**

Our nominees will be competing as part of a group of thirty-nine candidates who have each been selected for driving European innovation through ground-breaking products, projects and services that tackle global challenges in the fields of climate, energy, digitalisation, food, health and raw materials. Four of the EIT Food nominees – Entomics, RethinkResource, Tellspec and Flatev – are members of our 50-strong agrifood startup community, the **RisingFoodStars.**

The nominees will be competing in three categories: EIT Innovators, EIT Venture and, for the first time, the EIT Woman Award, with two nominations in each category.

## About EIT Food's RisingFoodStars

To support and nurture a select group of young companies, EIT Food has created the RisingFoodStars Association, which serves as an umbrella for high potential agri-food start-ups and scale-ups. The Association is a partner of EIT Food and as such its members can participate in all EIT Food activities, thus contributing to the delivery of EIT Food's strategic objectives.

RisingFoodStars benefit from access to EIT Food's partners, its expert network, programmes, technological infrastructure and business creation support as well as potential customers and distribution channels, which will significantly accelerate their international growth.

Collaborations between the RisingFoodStars and other EIT Food partners contribute to creating an innovation culture within our community, whilst the complementary competences between startups along the food supply chain help deliver cutting-edge technologies and innovative new business models.



## 1. The EIT INNOVATORS Award

This award recognises teams from the EIT Innovation Communities that develop high-impact products and services for a sustainable future.

### METAMORPHOSIS Project

#### Project Overview

The METAMORPHOSIS project of EIT Food focuses on turning organic waste streams into a valuable, next generation aquaculture feed ingredient.

More than half of all aquatic species are now produced by aquaculture and their production is likely to double in the next 15 years. Coupled with a shortage of sustainable protein feeds, this means that new approaches are needed to meet industry's growing needs.

Many insects are very efficient in transforming organic wastes into sustainable nutrients that are rich in proteins and fats. Insect meal has been demonstrated to successfully provide nutrition to fish and, based on currently available waste streams, several thousand tonnes of insect meal could be produced at a favourable price and quality.

The METAMORPHOSIS project will investigate a novel insect feed additive for salmon, which will provide an alternative to Europe's increasing reliance on fish meal and soy imports from South America, and thus will help decrease the European protein deficit in a sustainable manner.

#### The Project Consortium

This EIT Food project is led by Matis, an Icelandic Food and Biotech R&D institute. They are supported by partners IATA-CSIC, a food science and technology research centre based in Spain, and Entomics, a company specialising in developing technology solutions for the growing insects for food & feed sector.

#### The impact

Metamorphosis will impact the environment by utilizing waste material and reducing the need for food waste disposal by supermarkets. It will lower aquaculture's operational costs and generate up to 40 jobs in the short term, while additional jobs will also be created and safeguarded throughout its predominantly-EU supply chain.

### Improving Trust on Fish Chain Project

#### Project Overview

This EIT Food project is developing rapid detection tools to monitor the quality, safety and authenticity of fish products.

Fish fraud, the practice of misleading consumers about the fish they consume in order to increase profits, has a negative impact on marine conservation efforts, consumer trust and human health. Wholesalers, retailers, restaurants, catering businesses and consumers deserve to know the facts about their fish supply chain, including what kind of fish it is, its nutritional profile, and if frozen does it contain excess water. They

have the right to know if the fish has been grown in a safe environment and if the abuse of antibiotics is a common practice where they came from.

The project aims to find a solution to fraudulent practices by offering new real-time, portable and affordable monitoring devices.

### **The Project Consortium**

This EIT Food project is being led by Tellspec from the UK, an award-winning food analysis data company. They are supported by Azti, a Spanish Technology Centre, Queens University Belfast and Microbion, a Microbiology contract research organisation from Italy.

### **The impact**

This project will help the fish industry to introduce affordable monitoring and surveillance programs for fish fraud vulnerability and to identify potential sources of fish fraud within their supply chains. It also contributes to the sustainability of fisheries by curtailing illegal fishing and fish distribution practices. The project will also society by ensuring that we are able to continue fishing in a regulated and sustainable manner, as it reduces the unfair competition that fraudulent fish introduce into the market.

## 2. The EIT VENTURE Award

This award recognises successful start-ups and scale-ups that have been supported by the EIT's Innovation Communities through dedicated business creation and acceleration programmes.

### Entomics

#### Company Overview

Entomics are a UK-based startup specialising in using insects as a method of converting biological waste to generate food and animal feed.

Entomics 'closes the food waste loop' by transforming organic waste into sustainable agricultural inputs, using an insect called the Black Soldier Fly (BSF) as a conversion catalyst. The BSF larvae efficiently convert 95% of organic waste into complex fats and proteins in their bodies. By leveraging their innovative post-processing technology, Entomics is able to refine these compounds into aquaculture feed and organic fertiliser in a cheap, scalable and sustainable manner.

Entomics are currently involved in the flagship project, METAMORPHOSIS, that is developing functional insect meals for farmed salmon that have health and welfare benefits with an EIT Food consortium. Their GENESIS division is also developing a data-driven engineering solution to solve food waste challenges of larger agricultural operations.

### RethinkResource

#### Company Overview

RethinkResource, an innovative startup based in Switzerland, is aiming to revolutionise the waste-based economy by developing the world's leading online marketplace and auction platform for secondary resources. Thanks to this 'Circado' platform, resources which would otherwise become waste are able to be bought and sold as part of a circular economy.

RethinkResource have developed a cross-industrial solution which allows the producing industry to apply circular economy models on a large scale. Their solution is creating a new and transparent way to trade with waste side-streams and connecting different industries that haven't been connected until now.

### 3. The EIT WOMAN Award

This award recognises the outstanding achievements of women entrepreneurs and leaders from our Innovation Communities.

#### Isabel Hoffmann



Isabel Hoffmann is CEO of Tellspec, a UK-based data company that is developing real-time, affordable and non-destructive food analysis tools.

Isabel has founded eight successful companies, in software and preventive medicine. Her purpose now is to help educate others about clean healthy food and to improve food safety for all. As CEO of Tellspec, combating fish fraud is part of her larger mission to create a world where food is clean and truly nutritional for everyone.

Isabel feels that over the past 30 years the world has not changed much in terms of gender inequality, with many studies demonstrating that when women control their own financial means, their children become healthier, and the overall economic status of a country improves. She believes that women are crucial to the economic growth of a country and that much more has to be done to support women entrepreneurs in the world. Isabel says that these women need funding, respect, mentorship, experience and recognition.

#### Pamela Vazquez



Pamela Vazquez is Chief Food Technology Officer for Flatev, a startup based in Switzerland. Her company has developed a smart appliance for creating artisan breads at home and is leading the EIT Food SMARTbreakfast project that aims to use smart appliances to prepare customised fresh, tasty and healthy breakfasts in a convenient way.

Pamela has spent her career developing innovation strategies in start-ups, ingredients and finish goods companies. This has helped her to understand innovation strategy from multiple perspectives and the challenges involved in its successful implementation.

Pamela believes that “old school management” has a big influence in the narrow view of women leadership and that it has to be transformed. She feels that this is not only for the generation above her, or her generation, but also for our daughter’s and son’s generation and their children. She says that women and men should believe and trust the potential of women to lead and to complement each other: to be diverse and inclusive.