



Impact Report

January 2025-March 2026

Novel Foods Expert Network (NFX UK)

Accelerating a greener, healthier and more resilient food system



www.nfxuk.co.uk



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Executive Summary

Our Response to a Global Challenge

Our global food system faces three interlinked crises: unsustainable food production, unhealthy diets and deepening food insecurity. Novel Foods represent a promising near-time response, with the alternative proteins market alone projected to hit \$290 billion by 2035. Yet, despite the potential of these innovations, regulatory challenges continue to hinder such solutions from reaching consumers at pace and scale.

The **Novel Foods Expert Network (NFX UK)** was established in 2025 to address such bottlenecks and accelerate market entry for Novel Foods, in line with the UK's Modern Industry Strategy. Supported by £0.5 million from Innovate UK, NFX UK has been led by Reading Scientific Services Ltd. (RSSL), with Imperial College London's Bezos Centre for Sustainable Proteins and Pfeifer & Langen UK as strategic partners. NFX UK has grown to a nationally recognised platform, delivering impact across three pillars.

Our Impact at a Glance



Pillar 1: End-to-End Ecosystem

- Connected stakeholders across industry, academia and regulators
- Delivered our Launch Conference convening 170 sector leaders
- Created foundations for targeted collaborations in a previously fragmented sector



Pillar 2: Regulatory Engagement

- Established a trusted partnership with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and Food Standards Scotland (FSS)
- Facilitated two-way dialogue between regulators and industry, with growing influence in policy discussions
- Contributed to the development of evidence-based and future-ready regulatory frameworks for a rapidly evolving sector



Pillar 3: Knowledge Exchange

- Built a central virtual hub for open-access, expertly curated resources
- Provided innovators direct access to multidisciplinary experts to help navigate the complex regulatory journey
- Designed an interactive Novel Foods Roadmap to equip businesses with essential understanding

Looking Ahead

Our ambition is to scale NFX UK over the next three years with additional investment - deepening our impact in the UK and expanding the model into international territories.

NFX UK is not just responding to system challenges. It is helping to redesign the system for the future.



Why Regulatory Infrastructure Matters Now



A Food System Under Pressure

By 2050, the global population is projected to approach 10 billion. Food systems must deliver healthy and affordable diets while reducing environmental impact and strengthening resilience. The scale of the challenge is stark. Currently, food systems account for a third of global greenhouse gas emissions. Poor diets drive 75% of non-pandemic mortality due to non-communicable diseases worldwide. In the UK, 50% of food is imported, with supply chains exposed to geopolitical instability and climate disruption. The case for transforming how we produce and consume food has never been stronger.

Novel Foods (foods or ingredients not consumed to a significant degree by humans in the EU/UK before 15 May 1997), from precision fermentation to cell cultivation and other advanced food technologies, offer a powerful pathway toward more sustainable, diversified and resilient food production.



The UK's Strategic Advantage

The UK is uniquely positioned to lead in sustainable food production with its world-class research institutions and entrepreneurial talent. Additionally, significant government investment in strategic centres of excellence for alternative proteins and a £2 billion commitment to Engineering Biology through to 2032 as part of the UK's Modern Industrial Strategy, has put UK at the forefront of research and innovation. However, scientific excellence alone does not guarantee impact as many promising innovations are still far from reaching supermarket shelves. Translating innovation into economic growth, sustainability, public health benefits, and food systems resilience depends on one critical factor: regulatory infrastructure.



Regulated Products

To reach consumers in Great Britain, Novel Foods must pass through a robust pre-market authorisation process, requiring submission of a comprehensive scientific dossier to the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and Food Standards Scotland (FSS) under Assimilated Regulation (EU) 2015/2283. A credible and science-led regulatory pathway is essential to ensure safety, build consumer trust and provide investor confidence.

The Regulatory Bottleneck

For many innovators, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and first-time applicants, navigating this pathway is complex and resource-intensive. Bringing a Novel Food to market typically takes at least 3-5 years, once R&D is complete. Regulatory considerations must inform product design, R&D strategy and commercial planning from the outset, but this expertise is not always accessible. The result can be delayed submissions, suboptimal dossiers and prolonged time to market.

At the same time, regulators are tasked with assessing rapidly evolving technologies. Without structured, pre-competitive engagement across the ecosystem, valuable insight and evidence remain fragmented. Collectively, these dynamics slow responsible routes to market and risk limiting the UK's ability to capture the full value and impact of its own innovation.

In a globally competitive landscape, delays in approval pathways lead to capital flight, overseas commercialisation and lost leadership in high-growth technology areas. Regulatory readiness is not just a compliance consideration - it is a determinant of industrial advantage.

A Strategic Opportunity

Encouragingly, momentum is building. The UK Government has signaled its commitment to pro-innovation regulation through the launch of the Regulatory Innovation Office (RIO) within the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT). In 2024, £3 million was allocated to FSA and FSS to accelerate approvals and strengthen capability in both cell-cultivated products and precision fermentation. What had been missing is the connective infrastructure to coordinate industry, regulators and scientific expertise around a shared goal of responsible, efficient routes to market.

In 2025, £0.5 million was awarded to establish the UK's first **Novel Foods Expert Network (NFX UK)** — a direct response to bridge that gap and strengthen the nation's regulatory science foundation. A strategic imperative for global leadership in sustainable food innovation.



NFX UK: Who we are



The UK's 1st Novel Foods Expert Network: **NFX UK**



Our Vision

A greener, healthier and more resilient food system

Our Mission

To accelerate route to market for innovative products by empowering the Novel Foods sector along the complex regulatory journey



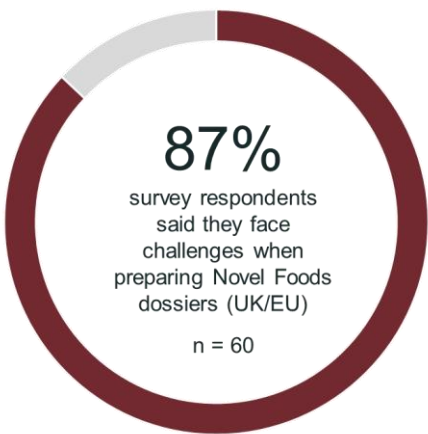
Our Principles

Collaborative by Design
Neutral & Trusted
Evidence-Led
Future-Focused

What the Sector Told Us

In 2024, we directly consulted the industry and regulators in the Novel Foods sector to understand where the system was falling short. The findings pointed to three systematic failures:

- Gaps in regulatory understanding and inconsistent dossier quality, leading to lost time and high costs
- Inefficiency and difficulty in finding specialised regulatory and scientific expertise
- Communication barriers between industry and regulators



The most frequently cited challenges are detailed below:

For Industry:

-  Lack of coordinated access to regulatory/scientific expertise & customised analytical support
-  Interpreting Novel Foods regulations & requirements for specific products
-  Deciding on dossier strategy (plan, collation and submission)
-  High costs, lack of funding, long timescales for approval (and managing expectations)
-  Lack of understanding of different regulatory / regulated products regimes
-  Hurdles with effective & regular industry-regulator dialogue
-  Insufficient networking and collaboration across the sector to share best practices
-  Navigating IP data protection and dossier confidentiality requests
-  Identifying relevant manufacturing scale-up facilities

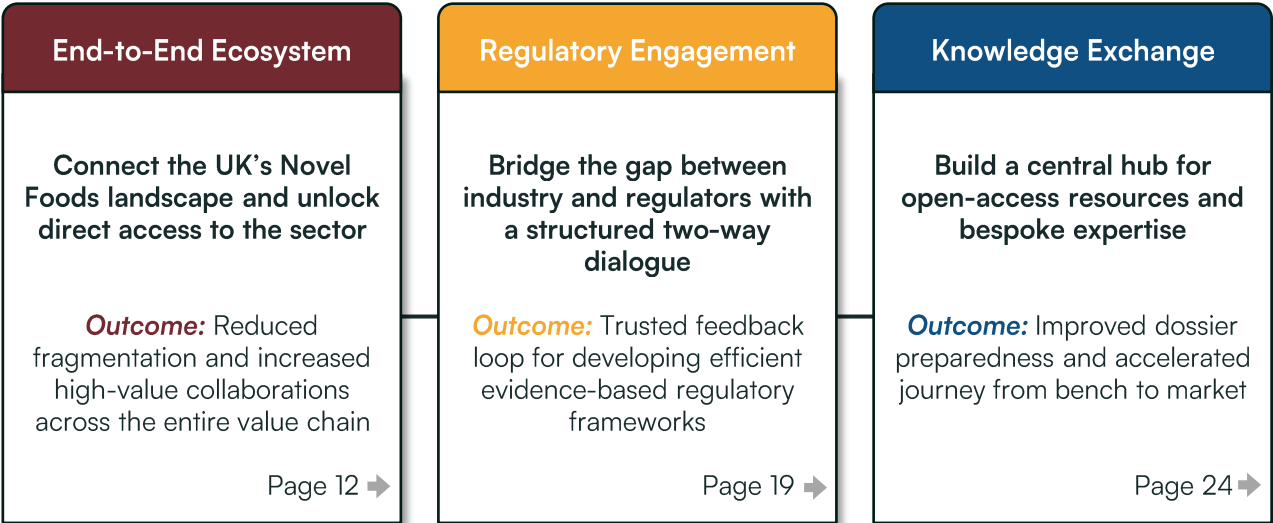
For Regulators:

-  Poorly structured or incomplete submissions impacting timeliness of review
-  Dossiers with non-compliant scientific evidence hindering efficient & accurate assessments
-  Ensuring targeted reach to all Novel Foods innovators
-  Hurdles with effective & regular industry-regulator dialogue
-  Keeping pace with emerging technologies & ensuring assessors with right expertise in place
-  Communication regulations to industry in the most impactful way

Our Response

The Three Pillars of NFX UK

NFX UK was established to build the coordinated infrastructure needed to strengthen the UK’s regulatory science capability and support our ambition to lead globally in food innovation. We designed the network around three interconnected pillars to improve regulatory readiness of emerging technologies and accelerate responsible routes to market for Novel Foods.



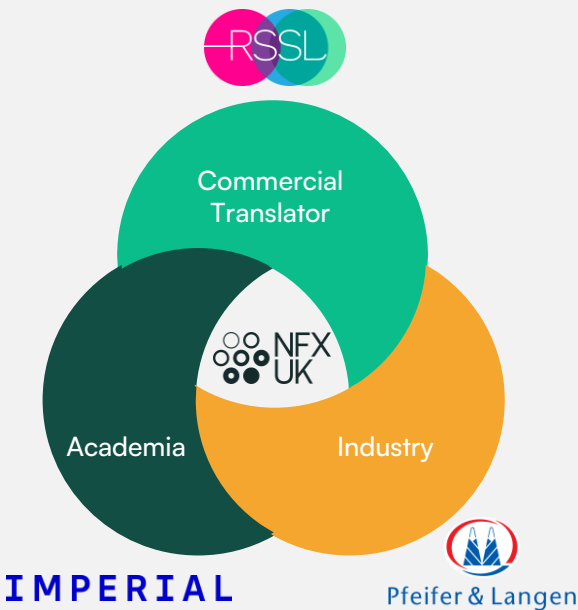
The Partnership

NFX UK is a multi-partner initiative led by **Reading Scientific Services Ltd (RSSL)**, in partnership with **Imperial College London** through the Bezos Centre for Sustainable Proteins, and **Pfeifer & Langen UK Ltd** (formerly The Supplant Company), and delivered in close collaboration with regulators and key industry stakeholders.

Together, the partnership combines:

- Deep scientific, regulatory and commercial expertise
- World-leading academic insight
- First-hand experience within Novel Foods innovation

Beyond the core partners, NFX UK has convened a rich and growing **ecosystem** across the Novel Foods landscape, ensuring a trustworthy and representative network.



This partnership model ensures we bridge innovation and regulation with credibility and practical insight, staying forward looking as technology evolves.

From Concept to National Asset

Between 2024-2025, Innovate UK invested over £4.7 million to support the creation of **Regulatory Science & Innovation Networks (RSINs)** across non-healthcare industry sectors to develop and strengthen regulatory science tools and approaches for bringing emerging technologies to the UK market faster.

Over 15 months, the design, testing and launch of a coordinated national network through NFX UK demonstrated a clear demand for a structured intermediary. We have delivered a core national infrastructure, which is now positioned to deepen national impact and scale internationally.

NFX UK has established a first-of-a-kind network, translating regulatory reform ambitions into **practical, collaborative, sector-level delivery** — in line with the UK's Modern Industrial Strategy.



The Rt Hon Lord David Willetts
Chair of the Regulatory Innovation Office

JAN 2024

£50k Innovate UK funding secured for Feasibility

Stakeholder consultations and industry workshops shape the foundation of the network.



JAN 2025

£0.5M Innovate UK follow-on funding secured for Implementation

1 of 11 RSINs - the only food-centric one.



MAY 2025

NFX UK Website Launched

Public-facing platform and virtual network goes live.



AUG 2025

Knowledge Hub Launched

Expert Directory, Novel Foods Roadmap, Resources Library and FAQs made accessible to the ecosystem.



SEPT 2025

Cross-Group Policy Forum Established

Strategic coordination with leading UK centres and sector organisations including BEZOS, NAPIC, CARMA, GFI and APA.



JULY 2024

Partnership Established

RSSL, Imperial College London and Pfeifer & Langen UK Ltd formalise collaboration.



MARCH 2025

Strategic Collaboration with FSA Initiated

Structured, two-way engagement established to strengthen regulatory science dialogue.



JULY 2025

Experts Co-Creation Workshop

Experts convene to shape priorities and identify systemic gaps, co-creating Knowledge Hub.



SEPT 2025

Launch Conference

Formal national launch event convenes 200 industry, government, regulators, and academic stakeholders.



FEB 2026

In-Depth Toolkits & Webinars Released

Expert seminars on regulatory readiness and UK-EU SPS Agreement readiness.



Our Impact at a Glance

£0.5M

Innovate UK grant across 15 months

<12 months

to set up a national infrastructural asset

1st

food-sector focused network out of 11 RSINs

260+

stakeholders in
Member Directory

75

experts in
Expert Directory

160+

organisations in
ecosystem

14

countries
represented in
ecosystem

170+

attendees at Launch Conference

30

speakers at Launch Conference

15

structured
engagements with
regulators

50+

targeted stakeholder
engagements

20

events & conferences
attended with stands,
keynote speakers and
panellists

500+

LinkedIn
followers

15

newly curated
resources and tools

100+

slides of in-depth content
deployed across Novel
Foods Roadmap

130+

stakeholders
directly upskilled

Pillar 1: End-to-End Ecosystem

Connecting the UK's Novel Foods landscape
and unlock direct access to the sector



A Diverse Yet Targeted Ecosystem

NFX UK has built the UK’s first dedicated network bringing together stakeholders from across the Novel Foods ecosystem, providing a platform for structured and targeted connectivity between key players in the sector.

A Growing Ecosystem

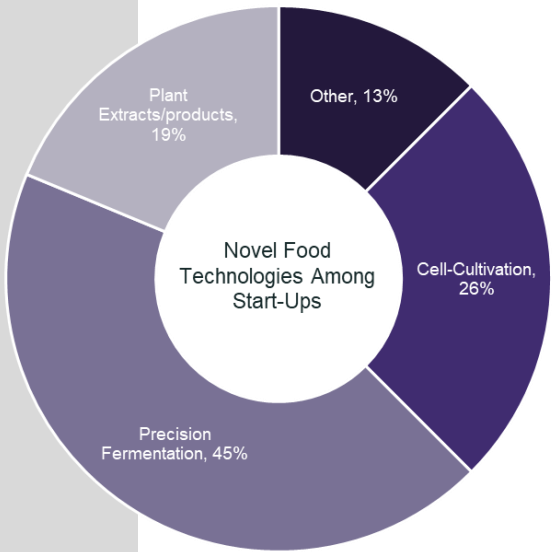
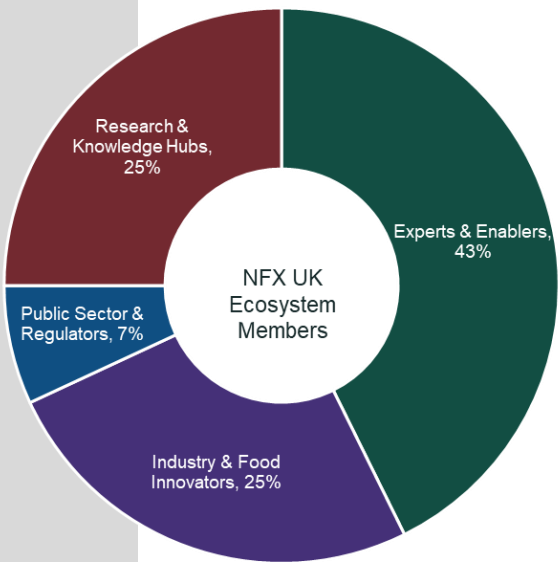
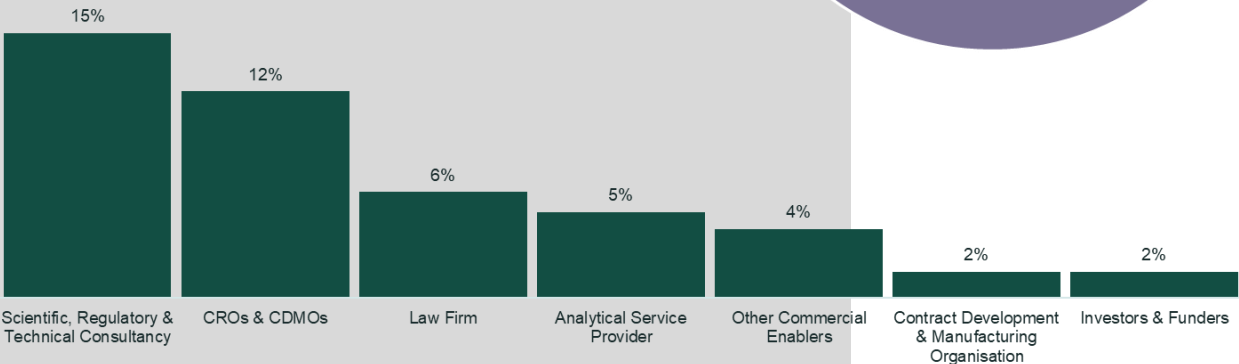
Our growing ecosystem of **260+ members** across **150+ organisations** encompasses:

- **Experts & Enablers** — including contract research organisations, contract development and manufacturing organisations, scientific and regulatory consultants and lawyers
- **Industry & Food Innovators** — including start-ups, SMEs, food manufacturers, multinationals and retailers
- **Research & Knowledge Hubs** — including universities, institutes, trade associations, networks, hubs and non-governmental organisations
- **Public Sector** — including government bodies and regulators

Technology Profile of Start-Ups

The technological profile of our start-up segment mirrors national strategic investment in high-growth areas, with precision fermentation and cell-cultivated products forming the largest share.

Breakdown of Experts & Enablers



Our Ecosystem

Food Manufacturing & Multinationals



Start-Ups & SMEs



Public Sector, Regulators & Funders



Experts & Enablers



Research Institutes & Academia



Networks, Associations & Hubs



Launch Conference

10th September 2025 | The Royal Society, London

In September 2025, NFX UK officially launched with a high-profile conference in London. The event convened ~200 key stakeholders, including industry pioneers, academic researchers, policymakers and investors, all focused on shaping the future of Novel Foods in the UK. 33 speakers expertly mapped the current Novel Foods landscape, with 10 high-growth companies presenting their innovative technologies.

The conference attracted presence of senior government and regulatory figures including:

- **Mike Reader MP** (Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Food and Drink)
- **Lord Willets** (Chair of Regulatory Innovation Office, RIO)
- **8 leaders from the Food Standards Agency** including Thomas Vincent (Deputy Director of Innovation)
- **3 senior representatives from Innovate UK** including Chris Danks (Transforming Food Production Innovation Lead).

Key Themes:

From keynote talks to expert panels, four key themes emerged:



1. Building smarter, faster, more agile regulation

Moving beyond the ‘barrier’ narrative — regulation can be a growth enabler if designed to be fit-for-purpose, responsive and well-resourced.



2. The importance of funding and collaboration

A clear consensus emerged — increased funding is essential, not only for the industry but for regulators to keep pace with the demands of a rapidly evolving and growing sector.



3. Scaling innovation challenges

The shortage of accessible and cost-effective food-grade scale-up facilities is one of the biggest hurdles for translating Novel Foods innovations from bench to market.



4. Navigating the dossier maze

Engaging the right expertise early to establish a sound regulatory strategy is the key to unlocking the complex regulations.



Conference Outcomes:

- ✓ 40+ new professional collaborations and connections facilitated
- ✓ Presence of 13+ government and public body officials signalled national priority for investment in Novel Foods R&D and regulation
- ✓ Built a multi-perspective understanding of barriers and accelerators through open dialogue
- ✓ Reinforced the role of Novel Foods as a cornerstone of a resilient and sustainable food system

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The network **has become a valuable resource for organisations** navigating the complex regulatory landscape surrounding Novel Foods.

NFX UK **demonstrated strong convening power** with their 2025 conference bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders from industry, policy, government, and academia, fostering meaningful discussion, shared understanding, and collaboration across the ecosystem.

Additionally, their website brings together clear, accessible guidance on regulatory requirements, the authorisation pathway, and best practices for achieving novel food status. NFX UK represents a **key partner for NAPIC** to support the UK’s innovators working on novel foods.



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Kathryn Miller
Technology and Innovation Manager, NAPIC

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As the voice of UK food and drink manufacturers, the FDF sees NFX UK playing a key role in the future advancement of the UK’s novel foods sector. They are **uniquely placed to bring together key stakeholders** to work on shared challenges and maximise growth opportunities for the sector. Last year’s NFX UK conference highlighted their valuable role in being able to facilitate collaboration between key players across the FSA, industry, investors and academics.

The Knowledge Hub provides **excellent resources for businesses of all sizes** to understand regulatory frameworks and ensure the safety of newly developed food innovations.

Making the UK a global hub for developing and scaling up novel and innovative ingredients is a **core pillar of the FDF’s Ambition for Growth**. NFX UK is well positioned to help realise this through encouraging collaboration, supporting knowledge transfer and helping to jointly address policy and innovation barriers.



”

Kate Halliwell
Chief Scientific Officer, FDF

Outreach and Engagement

NFX UK has established itself as a thought leader in the Novel Foods sector. With representation at **20+ national and international events**, we have shared insights, influenced policy thinking and strengthened collective understanding of what is needed to bridge the gap between innovation and commercial reality for Novel Foods.

Future Food Tech 2025 | London

NFX UK took centre stage at Future Food-Tech, a leading forum connecting over 500 leaders from global food companies, ingredient providers, start-ups and investors. Our presentation highlighted how the UK is cultivating food innovation through targeted investment in regulatory capability, strategic policy and collaborative ecosystems — positioning NFX UK as a prime example of this approach in action. We also exhibited at the event, expanding our ecosystem and raising awareness of the regulatory considerations that matter when innovating with emerging technologies.



Mills-Fabrica Food Innovation Workshop 2025 | London

Government officials, regulators and start-ups convened at this policy-focused workshop, with discussions exploring the growth challenges — regulatory, operational and investment — that must be addressed collectively to realise the UK’s ambition to become a global hub for food innovation. Drawing on our overarching understanding of the Novel Foods sector, NFX UK actively participated as the voice of the industry, providing insights into the challenges the sector faces and the opportunities to advance regulatory science.

Regulating the Future of Food Conference 2025 | Amsterdam

NFX UK presented at this forum, organised by leading experts within our network and dedicated to the evolving global regulatory landscape for Novel Foods. The event convened regulators, innovators, scientists and policy experts — including representatives from EFSA, the FSA, the European Commission, FSANZ and FSSAI. We showcased how the UK is paving the way for impactful collaboration between industry and regulators to accelerate routes to market for emerging technologies, while maintaining robust safety standards.



Outreach and Engagement

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International competitiveness requires the UK to **upskill start-ups on their regulatory journey** to commercialisation. Ensuring quality of data for regulatory dossiers requires companies to have access to appropriate scale-up facilities.

NFX UK has **created the right regulatory expert infrastructure necessary** to enable Novel Foods start-ups to accelerate their commercial operation.



Dr Ian Noble
Chair of Innovate Business Connect - Food
and VP R&D, Mondelez International

“

NFX UK is helping accelerate novel food approval and commercialisation by **convening the ecosystem** and aligning industry, academia, researchers, investors, and government. It supports innovators with practical regulatory guidance and structured engagement that helps **reduce uncertainty and strengthen dossier quality**.



Dr Malcolm Burns
Senior Scientific Adviser (Principal Scientist)
Food analysis, National Measurement Laboratory (LGC)



“

IFST has been extremely **impressed with the network, momentum, and quality of knowledge exchange** that NFX UK has achieved in such a short time. We were delighted to welcome NFX UK to contribute to the central theme of **‘Feeding the Future: Resilience Across the Food System’** at our **IFST Annual Conference 2025**. The talk emphasised the need for collaboration across research, product development and regulatory communities, to ensure that novel foods can be developed with confidence and delivered safely to consumers.

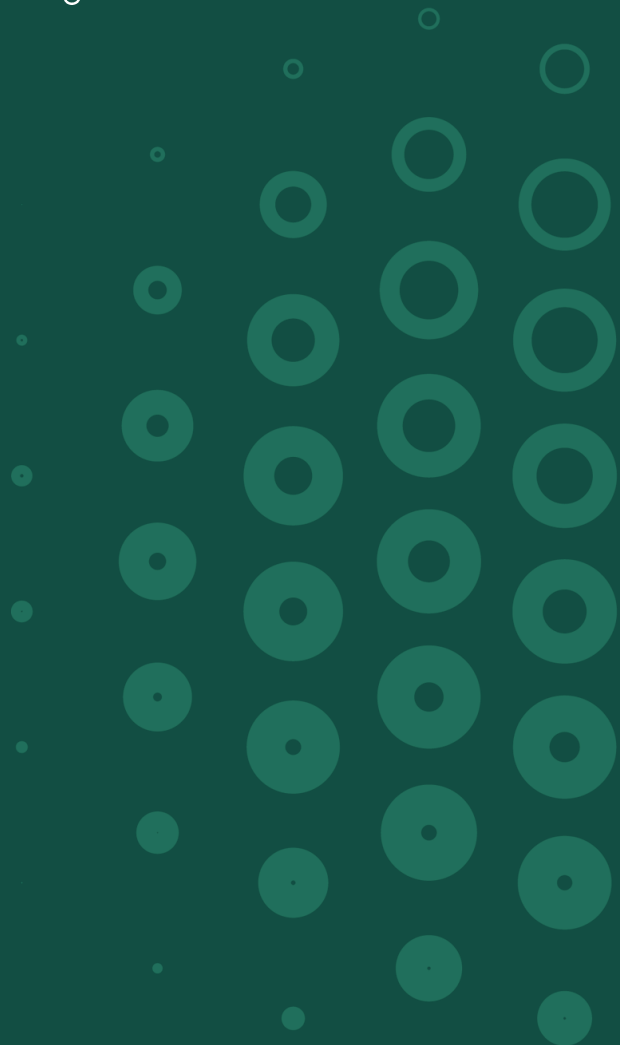
The value of open dialogue across the ecosystem was further reinforced at the **Bezos Centre for Sustainable Protein Annual Conference** in March 2026. Only through continued, transparent collaboration will alternative proteins and other emerging food solutions become viable at scale; supporting a growing global population while strengthening the UK food economy and building a truly resilient food system. NFX UK is **playing a vital role in making that future possible**.



Dr Stephen French
Scientific Policy Director, IFST

Pillar 2: Regulatory Engagement

Bridging the gap between industry and regulators
with a structured two-way dialogue



Partnership with the UK Regulators

Recognising that food safety and standards legislation operates across the UK's devolved governments, NFX UK prioritised building strong working relationships with both the **Food Standards Agency (FSA)** and **Food Standards Scotland (FSS)**. The result is a structured, trusted partnership that is meaningfully improving the quality and consistency of engagement between regulators and the Novel Foods ecosystem.

Relationship Building

- ✓ **We have created a sustained and consistent channel of communication between industry and regulators that did not previously exist** — building mutual trust and fostering earlier alignment as the regulatory and technological landscapes evolve.
- ✓ **Through engagement with senior policy teams and the FSA Board**, we have expanded the scope of collaboration — embedding NFX UK as a credible and valued partner at a strategic level.
- ✓ **We have normalised a culture of open, two-way dialogue** — with regulators and industry participating in each other's forums.

Practical Collaboration

- ✓ **We have established a real-time feedback loop between industry and regulators** — ensuring early and evidence-led alignment on emerging challenges, improving the quality of regulatory intelligence on both sides.
- ✓ **As a trusted delivery partner for the Innovation Research Programme (IRP)**, we have had a measurable impact — increasing participation by up to 30% by mobilising our network.
- ✓ **We have jointly developed our Knowledge Hub resources** on NFX UK website — giving innovators access to digestible, and up-to-date materials that reflect current regulatory expectations and priorities.

Case Study:

Rapid regulator-industry feedback loop for dossier challenges

Approach

- NFX UK hosted a **workshop with 10 technical experts** from across the Novel Foods ecosystem
- We explored how best to tackle common challenges faced when preparing regulatory dossiers

Insights Identified

- The forum **identified 9 key questions** across three priority areas: recurring misconceptions, scientific challenges and administrative complexities encountered during the submission process

Outcome

- We shared these questions **directly with the FSA who swiftly provided formal responses**
- We disseminated these responses back to the experts and integrated into the NFX UK Knowledge Hub FAQs section for the wider ecosystem to leverage



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The Novel Foods Experts (NFX UK) Network has already demonstrated clear value to the Food Standards Agency by strengthening our understanding of real-world challenges faced by innovators and providing a **structured channel for insight** into dossier preparation, common pitfalls, and emerging regulatory questions. Their ability to convene experts across industry, academia, and regulatory science has given us **improved visibility of stakeholder needs** and has supported our own horizon scanning and guidance development work.

NFX UK's workshops, draft resources and targeted feedback have materially helped us test assumptions, refine messaging, and anticipate issues earlier in the process. This has **contributed to a more informed and evidence rich environment for regulatory policy development**, particularly in areas such as cell cultivated products, precision fermentation and broader novel foods.

We see NFX UK as a **valuable convenor in an increasingly complex and fast-moving landscape**, and continued access to the network would support our ambition of ensuring clear, proportionate and science-led regulation that protects consumers while enabling responsible innovation.”

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Rebecca Lamb, Dr Joshua Ravenhill & Imogen Maxwell

Head of Innovation Research Programme, Head of Cell Cultivated Product Sandbox Programme & Head of Innovation, FSA

FSA & FSS Innovation Showcase 2026 | London

NFX UK was invited as a key delivery partner to contribute to the Innovation Showcase — a milestone event demonstrating how regulators are improving clarity and keeping pace with emerging technologies, through the Innovation Research Programme and Cell-Cultivated Products Sandbox. We highlighted the importance of proactive, open engagement between regulators and industry in driving mutually beneficial outcomes, with the UK regulators helping to set a strong example of best practice.



Policy Engagement

Since its inception, NFX UK has actively engaged policymakers and parliamentarians, helping to position regulatory innovation as a critical enabler of the UK’s leadership in next-generation food technologies.

“NFX UK is exactly the kind of initiative the UK needs right now, bringing together expertise from across science, regulation and industry. By creating space for open dialogue and collaboration, it’s helping to strengthen the UK’s position as a leader in novel food innovation, and maintaining the high, science-based standards we’re known for. This kind of work directly supports the government’s growth agenda by unlocking innovation, attracting investment, and backing high-potential sectors. All while building a joined-up, forward-looking ecosystem for safe, sustainable and scalable food production.

I was pleased to support NFX UK last year, and I look forward to supporting it further as the Chair of the Food and Drink, and International Trade and Investment APPG’s.”



Mike Reader MP
MP for Northampton South and Chair of the Food and Drink, and International Trade and Investment APPG's

Building Credibility with Government

We have developed strong alignment with the **Regulatory Innovation Office (RIO)**’s goal to support emerging technology sectors with high growth potential. This was reflected at the Launch Conference, where **Lord David Willetts** emphasised the critical role of regulatory innovation in strengthening the UK’s global competitiveness and scientific leadership.

Mike Reader MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Food and Drink, has actively supported our mission — highlighting at the Launch Conference the economic and food system opportunities associated with unlocking this sector’s potential.

Cross-Group Policy Meetings

As technological innovation pace picks up and the political and regulatory landscape evolves, coordination across the policy landscape has become increasingly important. NFX UK has taken a central convening role by establishing a cross-group policy forum that brings together key stakeholders and sector leaders. While the consortium partners bring rich insights into the alternative proteins space, we provide a full-sector perspective — ensuring policy discussions reflect the breadth of the Novel Foods landscape.

The first two forums brought together groups including the National Alternative Protein Innovation Centre (NAPIC), the Cellular Agriculture Manufacturing Hub (CARMA), the Bezos Centre for Sustainable Proteins, the Alternative Proteins Association (APA) and the Good Food Institute (GFI). A third forum is scheduled for 2026, focused on regulatory and policy implications for the Novel Foods sector due to upcoming EU-UK trade deals.



Policy Engagement

Westminster Forum 2025: Next steps for Novel Foods in the UK

NFX UK was invited to deliver a keynote address at this forum, which brought together industry experts to explore the future of Novel Foods policy in the UK — with a focus on innovation, regulatory reform, building public confidence and routes to market.

We highlighted the UK's strong scientific foundations and the critical need for coordinated, sustained investment in regulatory capability to accelerate safe and responsible routes to market.

Outputs from the event were shared with parliamentary, ministerial, departmental and regulatory offices to ensure that sector insights directly contribute to national policy discussions.

Proposed UK-EU Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement

As the UK Government seeks to enhance trade relations with the European Union through a potential SPS Agreement, NFX UK has established itself as a critical intermediary for the Novel Foods sector.

With dynamic alignment potentially altering the market authorisation process and requirements for Novel Foods, we are maintaining a proactive watching brief to safeguard industry interests and ensure the sector is not caught off guard by structural change.

Recognised by the FSA and FSS as a key conduit for industry insights, we continue to attend briefings and provide sector-specific intelligence upon request, directly informing SPS readiness strategy. We are committed to ensuring that our ecosystem remains informed, resilient and prepared to navigate any structural transitions arising from the negotiations.



Pillar 3: Knowledge Exchange

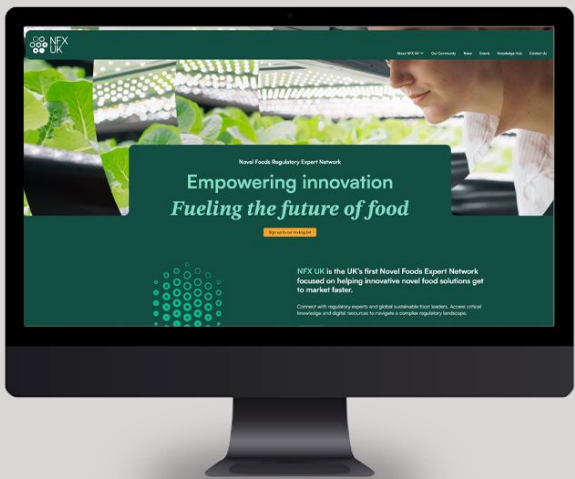
Building a central hub for open-access resources and bespoke expertise



Our Website: NFX UK’s Digital Home

Access to reliable regulatory and expert insight is essential for businesses navigating Novel Foods approvals. Yet knowledge across the sector is often fragmented and difficult to access.

To address this, we created the **NFX UK website** as the digital home for our ecosystem, with the **Knowledge Hub** at its core — designed to bridge the skills and knowledge gap by providing an accessible, structured and expert-curated platform to unlock regulatory understanding. All knowledge resources have been co-created with our network experts and approved by the FSA and FSS.



A trusted centralised platform that brings together regulatory guidance, industry expertise, and sector engagement in one accessible location.



Sign up today
www.nfxuk.co.uk



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NFX UK has quickly proven to be a **highly valuable partner** for ÄIO to navigate the novel food landscape. We appreciate their commitment to building a collaborative ecosystem to tackle regulatory obstacles together. During the launch event, we shared suggestions about improving the Knowledge Hub and creating expert roundtables, and the NFX UK team was genuinely open to refining their platform based on industry needs. Their efforts to **make regulatory guidance more accessible**, especially for companies entering the UK market, **show real understanding of the practical challenges innovators face**.

At äio, we believe NFX UK is building a **crucial support system** that will strengthen the entire novel foods ecosystem, and we are excited to continue collaborating with them.”



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Dr Mary-Liis Kütt
Chief Innovation Officer, äio

Our Knowledge Hub

Designed to help navigate the regulatory journey with confidence and clarity

Novel Foods Roadmap

A **step-by-step guide** translating **complex regulatory requirements** into a clear pathway, from early development through to dossier submission and approval.

Members & Experts Directory

A **dynamic database** of **75+ experts with cross-disciplinary knowledge** drawn from across the Novel Foods ecosystem, enabling impactful collaborations at national and international level.

Resource Library

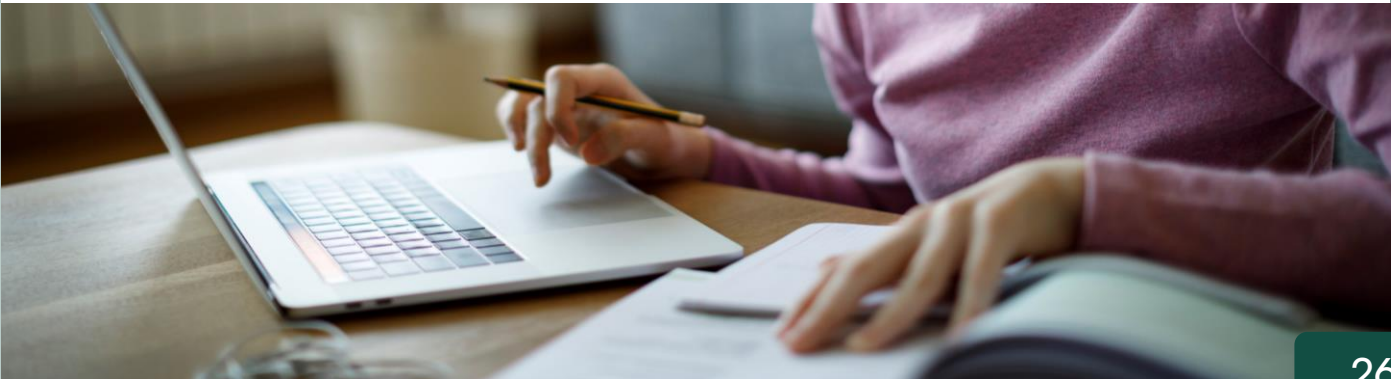
A **living repository of open-access resources** — including newly created **expert content across 100+ slides** — bringing trusted regulatory and scientific knowledge together in one place.

FAQs Bank

A **curated set of 50 question and answers**, developed with experts and regulators to address common regulatory queries or misconceptions.

Members Forum

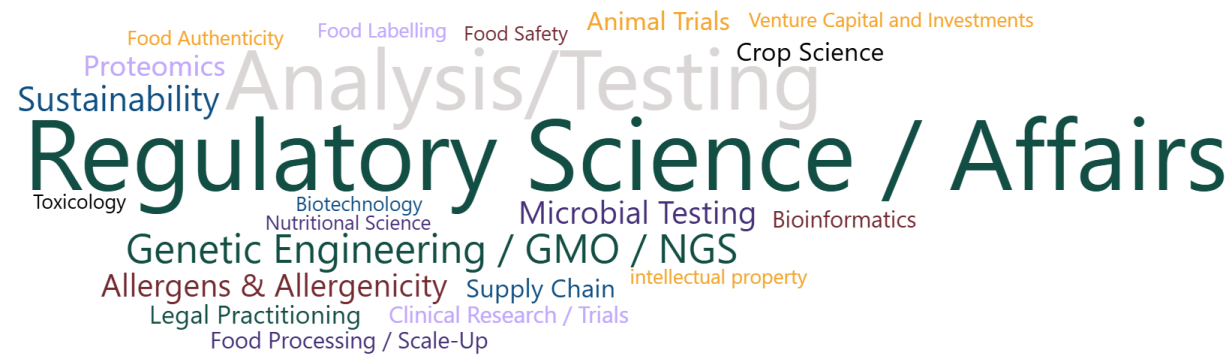
A **neutral collaborative space** where the ecosystem can exchange insights, ask questions and discuss emerging challenges across the sector.



Scientific & Regulatory Expertise On-Demand

We have convened rich and relevant expertise within the network — directly placing the knowledge needed to navigate regulatory pathways successfully at the sector’s fingertips.

The breadth of expertise spanning our network (as seen below) reflects the full complexity of the Novel Foods regulatory journey — from food science and toxicology to intellectual property, nutritional science and manufacturing scale-up.



“

NFX UK’s rich database of experts **enabled targeted, insightful and valuable connections** for the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, improving their understanding and helping them become regulatory-ready as they outline a potential strategy to bring a range of traditional foods to the UK market.

The discussions were very useful and **clarified the complexity of gaining market access** for native/novel foods, highlighting the value of a specialised regulatory consultant.”

”

Dr Amy Little
Counsellor - Agriculture,
Australian High Commission to the UK



“

NFX UK **delivered a valuable expert session** for our researchers at CARMA, translating complex novel foods regulation into practical insights for cellular agriculture.

By demonstrating how regulatory considerations could shape experimental design and data generation from the outset, they **helped our team embed regulatory thinking directly into ongoing research** and future adoption for sustainable manufacturing in food systems.

”

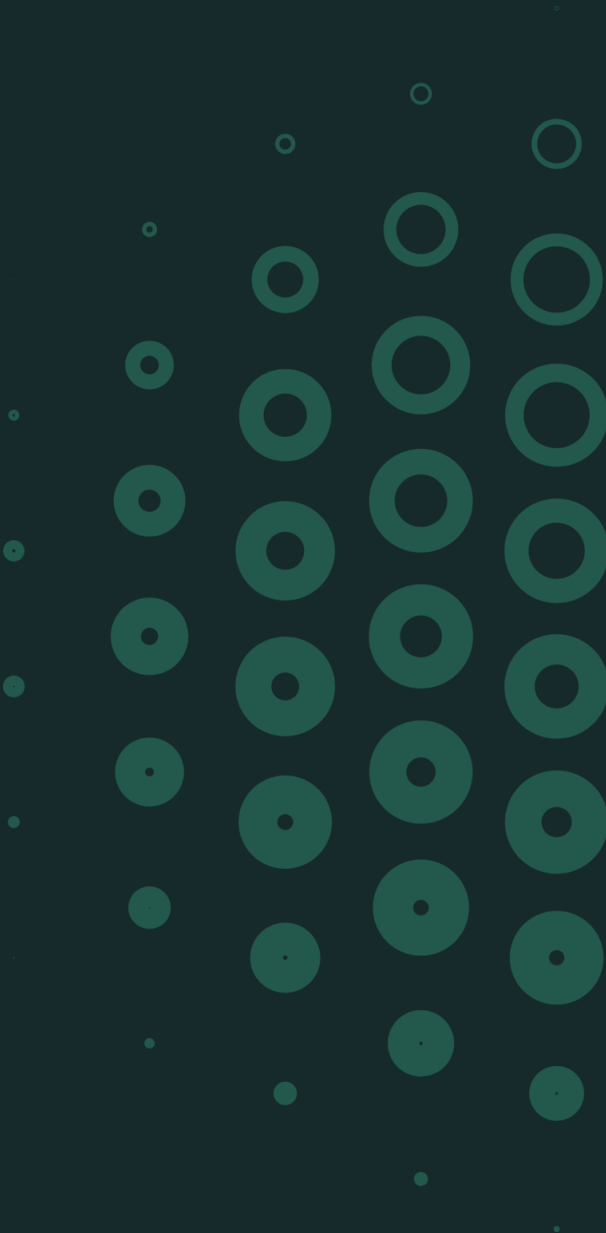
Dr Marianne J. Ellis
Professor of BioProcess & Tissue
Engineering (University of Bath) and
Director (CARMA)



Become an NFX UK Expert

We are continuing to grow our Expert Directory and welcome specialists who wish to contribute their expertise. Sign up on our website today.

Looking Ahead





Our Ambition

Our ambition is to enable structural **acceleration of Novel Foods regulatory pathways** - positioning the Novel Foods Expert Network as a **globally recognised catalyst** for faster, higher-quality and more responsible Novel Foods approvals. To scale and deepen our impact, we require sustained investment.



What Success Looks Like

-  **Raise the global standard of Novel Foods regulatory submissions**
A materially higher proportion of dossiers progress efficiently through regulatory assessment.
-  **Accelerate regulatory readiness for high-growth technologies**
Companies engage regulators and experts earlier, with stronger evidence-led dialogue leading to improved dossier quality and in turn greater regulatory certainty
-  **Increase successful market approvals**
More Novel Foods move from innovation to approved products reaching consumers, translating scientific excellence into real-world impact.
-  **Build formal, trusted working relationships with international regulators**
Trusted relationships with global regulators will enable impactful collaboration with industry, shared learning and collective action — extending the NFX UK model globally.

We are building the infrastructure that the global Novel Foods sector needs — and we are keen to work with collaborators and funders who share our conviction that better regulation leads to better outcomes for people, planet and industry.

Join us to drive positive global impact for environmental sustainability,
public health and food system resilience



Join NFX UK today

Be part of the journey to accelerate a greener,
healthier and more resilient food system



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