

# Value Opportunities for the Tillage Sector

## Plant Processing and Valorisation



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Head of Food Programme



# SUSTAINABILITY

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*A Food Systems Approach*



# SUSTAINABILITY

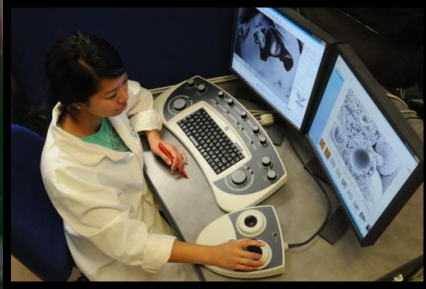
## *Examples of new Research*

1. Reducing food waste by developing product stream conversion- bioprocessing (circular economy)
2. Providing data to support labelling - based on dietary quality 'Nutri Carbon' per kg CO<sub>2</sub>e (quality, digestion)
3. Alternative Ingredients made from plants / Crops (grains, legumes, and Marine)
4. Develop the technologies to support use of eco-friendly packaging- recyclable, compostable or biodegradable packaging
5. Ensuring the food safety, nutrition and quality of "climate-friendly" foods
  - Molecular based methodologies developed for microbiological quality indicators in food





# Unlocking Protein Resource Opportunity To Evolve Irelands Nutrition



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## U-Protein

[www.U-Protein.com](http://www.U-Protein.com)



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# New Value Landscapes for Plant Protein Pathways

Co-ordinator Ewen Mullins



VALPRO.Path



VALPRO\_Path

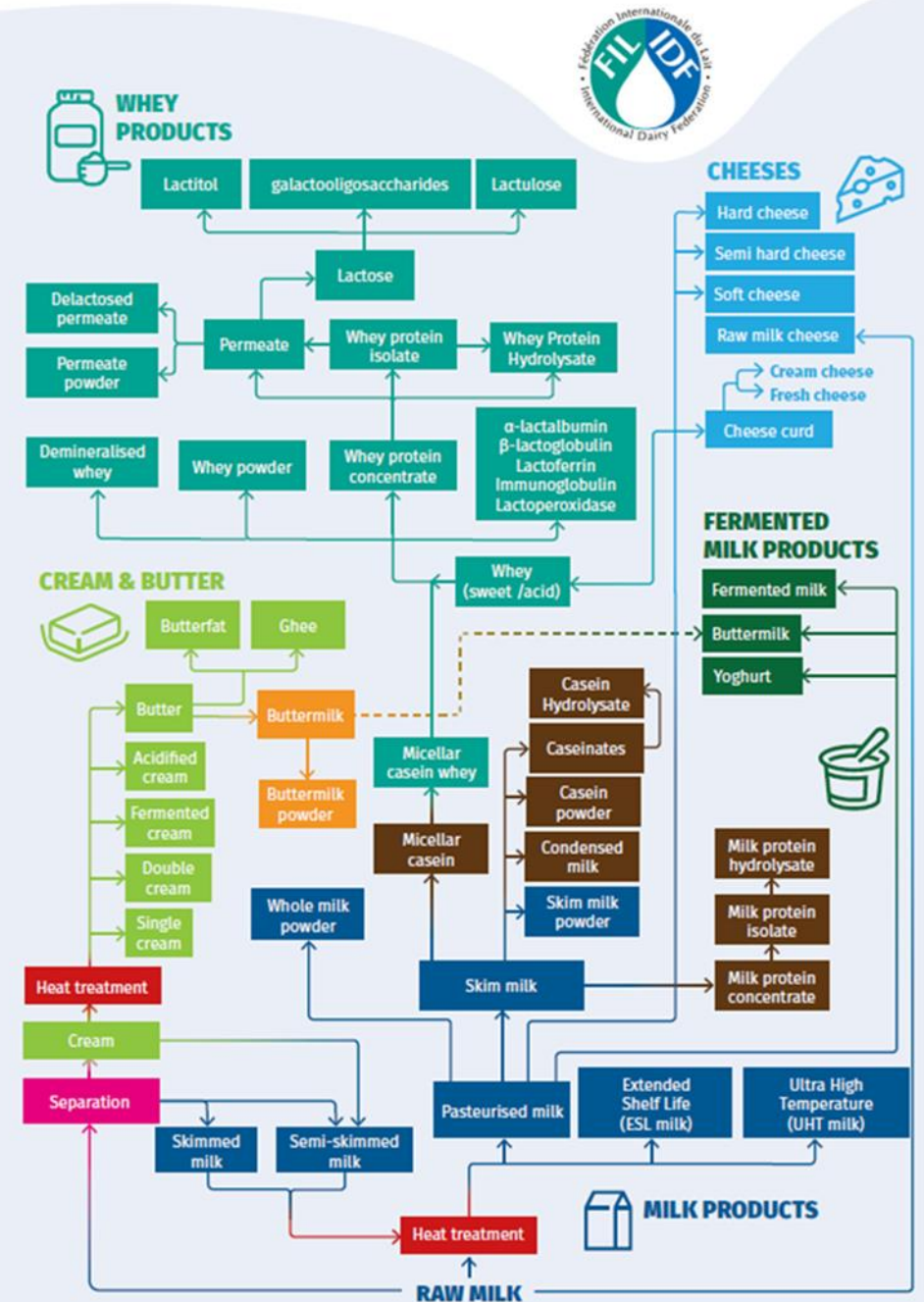


valpro-path

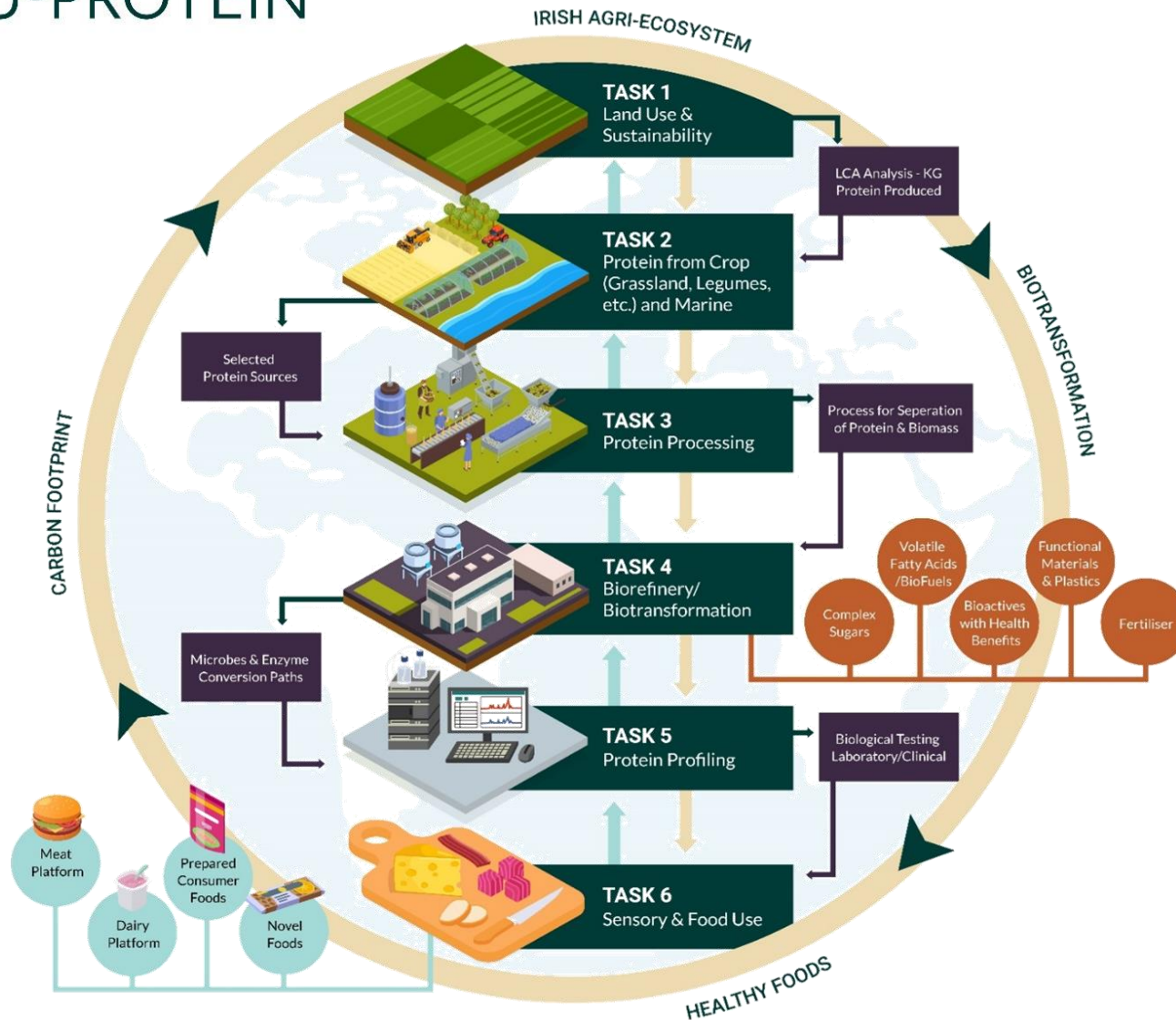


Co-funded by  
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# Development of Plant Based Ingredients



## Expected Outputs

- Novel protein products
- Digestibility score
- Valorised Plant Biomass
- Land use models
- LCA /Kg Protein



# Scaling up the Plant Biomass Processes and Protein Extraction Unit

## Process Design

- ✓ Continuous or batch?
- ✓ Scaling factor determination
- ✓ Economic aspects assessment

## Optimization

- ✓ Process optimization
- ✓ Barriers to improve scale up efficiency?
- ✓ Ingredient functionality

## Procurement

## Publication (2023)

Kamani, M. H., Fitzsimons, S. M., Fenelon, M. A., & Murphy, E. G. (2023). Unlocking the nutritional and functional potential of legume waste to produce protein ingredients. *Critical Reviews in Food Science and Nutrition*, 1-19.

## Publication (2024):

Kamani, M. H., Fitzsimons, S. M., Fenelon, M. A., & Murphy, E. G. Determining the influence of fava bean pre-processing on extractability and functional quality of protein isolates. *Food Chemistry*

## Nutrition and Safety

- ✓ Nutrient Density
- ✓ HACCAP & QA measures
- ✓ Compliance with safety-environmental regulations



→ Transition

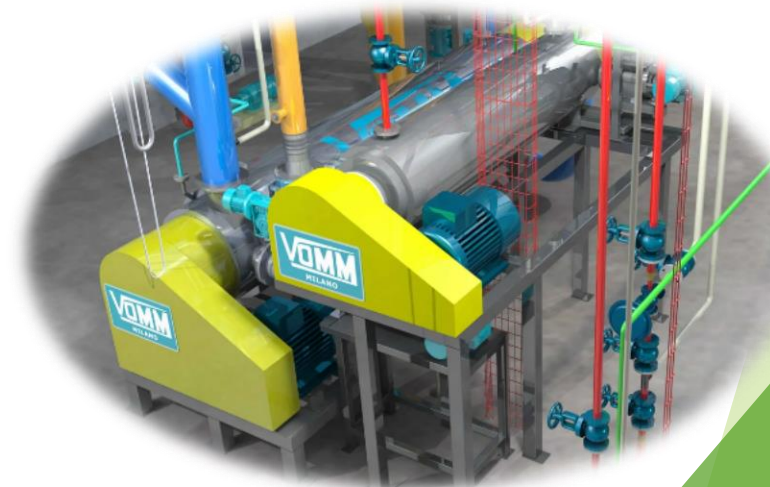
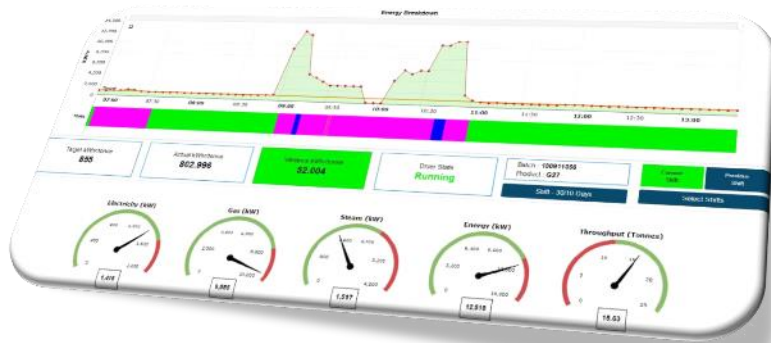








- Nutritional Beverage produced using Fava, Lupin, Pea protein isolate. Functionality testing complete.
- Rapid testing methods established for isolate and finished product testing.
- New drying system tested for drying of plant based residual biomass after protein extraction
- Evaluation of Intelligent digital platforms, including web based tools for processing.





# Can we valorise deproteinated plant matter by biotransformation?

## Valorisation of Fructans from Tuber Residue



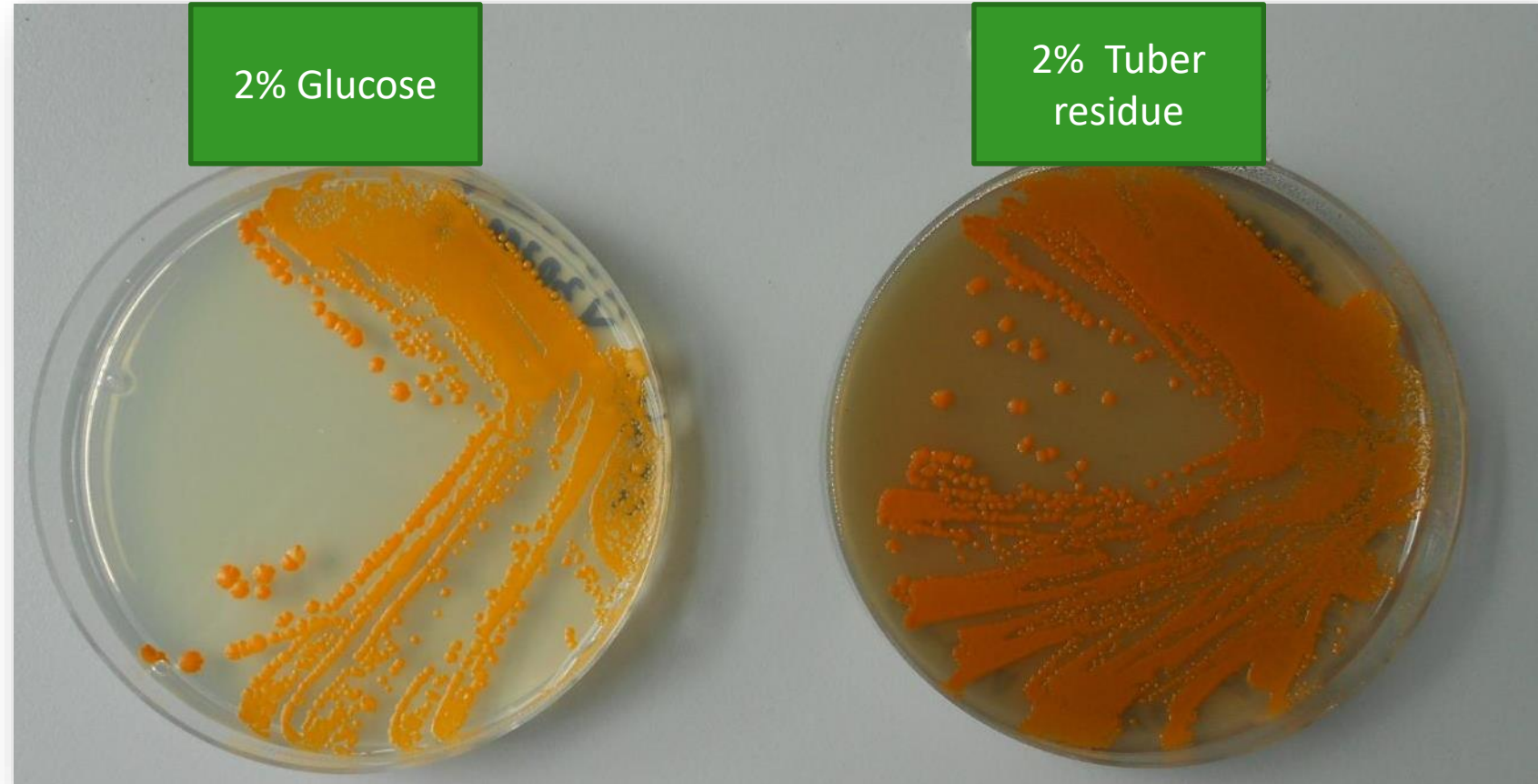
Olivia McAuliffe  
Teagasc, Moorepark



Arun Rajkumar  
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*Yeast engineered to produce the food pigment  $\beta$ -carotene (**left**) can consume fructans from tuber residue (**right**) and produce carotene with no decrease in pigmentation*



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**teagasc**  
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



Crop	Area grown in 2023	Tonnes harvested in 2023	Average Yield	Average Protein content	Profitability (€/ha for feed) incl. premium
Faba Bean	10,800ha (90-95% F. Bean)	65,700t	5t/ha	25-30%	€638/ha
Field Pea			4t/ha	20-25%	€620/ha



## Current Research

- Variety trials and optimisation of agronomic practices
- Intercropping to prevent lodging
- Technologies for isolating protein
- Evaluation of use in food products
- Identification of novel uses for by products

## Current Markets

- Predominantly animal feed
- Specialist fresh/frozen peas

## Potential Markets

- Protein flour used in baked products
- Protein isolate as an ingredient in many foods
- By-products used for bio-fuel, fertiliser, colours

Thank you!