
Innovative Food Processing a web-based decision making innovation toolbox for the food industry

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iNOBox, a four-year research project has developed a web-based innovation toolbox to help food industry make informed decisions on process innovation, overcome bottlenecks to market and ensure innovative products reach the consumers. The e-toolbox (www.innovativefoodprocessing.no) was built upon durable projects outputs and external data sources, enabling effective knowledge sharing of iNOBox outcomes.

With food security set high on the socio-political agenda, innovative food processing technologies can help to meet the demand of sustainable and affordable healthy diets for a growing and aging population. Safer and healthier foods resulting from innovative processing will improve the public health system through reduced prevalence of food allergy, diet-related diseases, food recalls and associated health/social costs.

iNOBox proposed five market-driven business solutions with broad transferability that integrate innovative processing technologies across relevant agri-food chains, towards better decision-making on sustainable process innovation and enhanced know-how/technology transfer.

Through cross-disciplinary research, iNOBox aimed at greatly advancing the current knowledge on the innovative technologies' cold plasma, pulsed electric fields, ultrasounds, UV-light, high-pressure processing, and microwaves. To ensure the successful implementation of innovative processes, food producers must be aware of their benefits (and how to communicate them to the consumers), their suitability for different products/applications, as well as scientific, technical and regulatory aspects.

We will in this lecture present the e-toolbox and the research behind it, and how it can support food industry end-users/manufacturers on scientific, technical, regulatory and sustainability matters, and support decision making in marketing strategies.

The iNOBox project was founded by the research council of Norway and lead by Nofima, in collaboration with the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, NORSUS, University of Liverpool, Campden BRI, University of Zaragoza, TNO, and representants from innovative processing technology providers and the agri-food industry.