



Development goals and measures (UMV) 2017-2020

**National Food Institute, Technical University of
Denmark**

Academic profile and expected performance goals of the department

The National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark (DTU), researches in and disseminates - through consultancy, innovation and teaching - sustainable and value-adding solutions in the area of food and health for the benefit of society and business. The institute delivers its outcomes through a unique interdisciplinary cooperation between the disciplines of nutrition, chemistry, toxicology, microbiology, epidemiology and technology.

The institute's vision is to create welfare for the future through research into food and health. The institute makes a difference by producing knowledge and technological solutions which:

- prevent disease and promote health,
- make it possible to feed the growing population, and
- develop a sustainable food production.

The strategic reference points for the institute are:

- academic progress,
- one united institute,
- dedicated employees, and
- sound finances.

Vision and reference points indicate where the institute wants to go by undertaking strategic initiatives which increase the level of ambition and create an extremely visionary, proactive and competitive institute.

Academic progress

Research

The National Food Institute is an ambitious institute and solves some of the biggest societal challenges facing the world. The institute's research areas have been selected with a view to solving these challenges. Furthermore, they constitute the institute's beacons. The institute's strategic objectives for the coming years are to:

- be among the three leading research institutions within the area of food and health in Europe,
- support an ambitious academic climate by focusing research efforts and exploiting the institute's entirely unique interdisciplinarity, which could attract more research funds and partners, and
- ensure a sufficient research infrastructure by reaching a more robust financial position and utilising the existing infrastructure in the form of databases, apparatuses and knowledge across the organisation.

Teaching

The institute teaches and educates students for the food sector, public authorities and the research communities related to the institute's focus areas. In order for teaching to be state of the art, it must be research-based. The institute's strategic objectives for the coming years are to:

- establish clearly profiled study programmes which meet needs in society for graduates with strong and relevant engineering competencies in food production and life science,
- focus on innovation and entrepreneurship in teaching, and
- create a learning teaching environment with a focus on teachers' didactic development.

Scientific advice

The National Food Institute delivers independent scientific advice to national and international authorities and enterprises. The institute fulfils its obligation of initiative by ensuring that consultancy is based on research and interdisciplinary knowledge, and that the institute is a forward thinking and constructive discussion partner for buying parties.

Consultancy is anchored in one division, thus ensuring that clients benefit from the coordination of interdisciplinary knowledge. The institute's strategic objectives for the coming years are to:

- continue to ensure that the institute is among the three leading national food institutes in Europe which delivers independent scientific advice to public authorities,
- develop competitive scientific advice by focusing on those services which create the biggest societal value and clarify the long-term competency needs, and
- continue sharpening up the institute's consultancy services by further developing its quality assurance system and consulting its customers even more when balancing expectations.

Innovation

Innovation is established as an integrated part of the institute's research and education activities so that the institute's research results may benefit business and support the knowledge-based development of society. The institute's strategic objectives for the coming years are to:

- position and further develop the institute as a leading innovation partner,
- contribute significantly to job creation and growth in the food sector,
- integrate innovation in the institute's research culture in order to deliver value-adding solutions to industry, enterprises and public authorities, and
- increase commercialisation of patents registered by the institute.

One united institute

In 2015, the National Food Institute was restructured to ensure academic progress, establish better coordination of scientific advice delivery, strengthen interdisciplinary cooperation at the institute and create a better basis for ensuring sound finances for the institute as a whole.

In order to be able to deliver high-level research, consultancy, teaching and innovation services the restructured National Food Institute's organisation and activities are permeated by unique interdisciplinary and intra-departmental partnerships. The institute's strategic objectives for the coming years are to:

- develop strategic initiatives across the institute,
- co-locate the institute at DTU Lyngby campus,
- create a sense of community at the institute where one knows each other, makes use of each other and engages in joint professional initiatives across the institute, and
- have managerial consideration for the whole institute through cross-functional management responsibility for research, education and teaching, scientific advice delivery, innovation, finance and administration.

Dedicated employees

Dedicated employees are at the heart of a knowledge-based organisation. When employees know the direction in which the organisation is heading and are motivated by making a difference for society through their research and dissemination or supportive functions the organisation has engaged and happy employees. The institute's strategic objectives for the coming years are to:

- maintain well-being with a focus on the sense of being part of a bigger community, get inspiration, knowledge and motivation,
- clearly match expectations with all employees with regard to prioritisations, tasks, career plan, job description, if applicable, and competency development, and
- celebrate the institute's and the individual's success, thereby acknowledging employees for their goals and results.

Every employee must have the opportunity to enter into dialogue with management, and they are entitled to be involved in decisions affecting their job duties, either directly or through representatives.

Sound finances

The institute attains sound finances by focusing research and innovation efforts on its beacons, developing and targeting its teaching and consultancy services, being resource-conscious at all levels and making job expectations clear to all employees. The institute's strategic objectives for the coming years are to ensure:

- openness in the institute about the financial situation, thereby increasing resource consciousness,
- happy customers in general,
- support to future external funding,
- a robust bottom line which allows for investments and a certain room for manoeuvre by, amongst others, strategically assessing and adjusting teaching services offered by the institute and the research areas into which the institute invests, and
- continuous improvement of efficiency by doing things smarter to make time available for development.