

P13 - Enabling innovation in the agri-food sector

Track chairs: Maria Elmquist, Chalmers University of Technology, Joakim Netz, Jönköping University and Thomas Lennerfors, Uppsala University

Summary

Recent geopolitical and economic crises underline the need for a transition towards a more sustainable agri-food system in Europe (Toffolutti et al. 2020; Vittuari et al. 2021; Behnassi and el Haiba 2022; Nchasi et al. 2022). Innovation has been identified as a critical challenge for development of food business models that acknowledge sustainability in (changing) the way value is created, delivered, and captured by firms (Barth et al., 2021). Despite the increasingly urgent need of the food industry to become more innovative, there are surprisingly few empirical studies addressing this challenging phenomenon.

The objective of this track is to gather researchers in the field of innovation to discuss the specific challenges and opportunities of the agri-food sector and encourage more empirical research that can develop knowledge relevant to much needed transformation of this sector. More knowledge is needed, both of value chain innovations and the role of networks, particularly with respect to the importance of the food sector (Tell et al., 2016). This track invites primarily empirical research on innovation in the agri-food sector and is open to qualitative and quantitative methods including simulations and mixed approaches. Suggested topics include but are not limited to,

- Digital transformation of the food sector
- Business model innovation in the food sector
- Food-tech and agri-tech entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship
- Urban farming and local food production
- Co-creation and collaboration in food sector (including public/private settings)
- The role of intermediaries and the emergence of new actors in the food system
- Crises driven innovation (short and long term, security, safety, preparedness)
- Sustainable transformation of the food sector