

On today's menu: trust and innovation

September 2018



Dear reader,

Main terms used in this report:

- **Agri-food:** to simplify matters, the term "agri-food" as used in this report refers to the entire chain, from farm to fork, and therefore includes agricultural production as well as distribution
- **Historical players:** established businesses in the agri-food industry (e.g., collectors, manufacturers/processors and distributors) of any legal form (private companies, cooperatives, etc.)
- **Food tech:** all start-ups in the agri-food industry that use new technologies to offer innovative products and services

We are pleased to present the new PwC report on today's agri-food industry. This year, we have chosen to focus our work on the challenge of dwindling consumer trust in food and the historical players of the agri-food industry. In particular, we have analysed the ecosystem of innovation which is developing to better meet consumer expectations and restore trust in products and businesses.

Companies are working on innovative ways to enhance their ranges, such as offering products with health or nutrition benefits, a guarantee of local origin, or that are environmentally friendly, take into account animal well-being or ensure fair pay for producers. Agri-food players are also focusing on adapting to changes in consumption habits (with renewed demand for home-made food, for example) with the products and services they provide. Lastly, all information relating to products and their journey through to distribution is becoming key data for company supply chains and for consumers, who now more than ever want to know the history of the products they buy.

To take all these changes into account, historical players need to fundamentally adapt the roles they play, and innovation is a key part of this transformation.

A number of innovative techniques are being leveraged to meet new consumer expectations, mostly driven by food tech start-ups. To bring these innovations on board their business models, the major historical players in the agri-food industry are seeking to involve the start-up ecosystem in their innovation strategies. This is not all plain sailing, however: start-ups often lack maturity, and there are various obstacles in the way of big groups and new companies alike.

Nevertheless, the willingness of historical agri-food players to join forces with start-ups is an opportunity to ramp up innovation, and shows a real shift in the way they want to position their products for consumers. For historical players, this means putting in place a clear innovation strategy, repositioning their internal innovation departments and defining a coherent project management framework.

To better understand the areas of innovation that will restore consumers' trust in food and agri-food players, we interviewed some 15 players and surveyed around 50 food tech start-ups. Thanks to the interviews and survey, we were also able to measure the maturity of the relationships between historical players and start-ups and identify opportunities for development. We were also able to draw upon other sources of information, as well as the knowledge and research of PwC experts in agribusiness, consumer goods, the consumer market, supply chains and change management.

We hope you enjoy reading this report.

The PwC/Strategy& team responsible for the report

Summary: five key points of this report

01 Consumers are losing trust in what they eat

- Only **28% of French people** say that they **trust their food** today. This figure even drops to **18% for people aged 25-34**. ⁽¹⁾
- This loss of trust is fuelled and exacerbated by the **extensive media coverage of food scandals**.
- French consumers are looking for products that are healthier, more respectful of the environment and social issues and, above all, **traceable**. Most of them are **prepared to spend more** to ensure this.

02 To restore consumers' trust, historical players need to change

- The six main focus areas relate to **quality, proximity, traceability, consumption habits, marketing and food vigilance**.
- To restore consumer trust, players in the industry will need to fundamentally adapt the roles they play in line with these six areas.

03 Innovation is an important tool to transform the roles of players and meet consumer expectations

- Quality:** providing natural and simple products or customised products.
- Proximity:** helping consumers feel connected to agriculture, **bringing production closer to consumers** (new production methods).
- Traceability:** centralising information about products' **origins** and value chain, implementing **real time, automated controls** (e.g., packaging, handling).
- Consumption habits:** meeting renewed demand for **home-made food, customised diets** and a desire from consumers to play a **more active role** in what they eat.
- Marketing:** strengthening **companies' commitment** and **communication** to consumers, positioning ranges and guarantees through **labels**.
- Food vigilance:** **100% of the players asked** say that **transparency** is the **key component** in fostering consumer trust.

04 Innovation to promote consumer trust is mainly driven by food tech start-ups

- 70% of the start-ups** asked think that **innovation** in the agri-food industry **would help improve consumers' trust in their food**.
- The food tech industry in France is made up of **nearly 500 start-ups** and more and more companies are launched each year (**44% growth in start-up rate** between 2013 and 2016). ⁽²⁾

05 Historical players will benefit from developing an open innovation strategy working alongside start-ups

- Interactions between major players and start-ups are on the rise, although only **19% of companies invest in start-ups**⁽³⁾.
- The **initial results observed are mixed** (41% of the start-ups asked are not satisfied with their relationships with historical players) due to numerous obstacles and **innovation strategies** from major players sometimes **lacking in structure**.

Sources: (1) KEEDN FOOD report – November 2017; (2) DigitalFoodTech and PwC analysis; (3) PwC Digital Benchmark 2017, statistic for the packaged food & beverages industry

Our sincere thanks to all of our contributors

Interviews

Collectors, processors, distributors, investment funds and incubators



Survey

Food tech start-ups





PART 1 – Contributing to consumer mistrust



PART 2 – Innovation to promote consumer trust



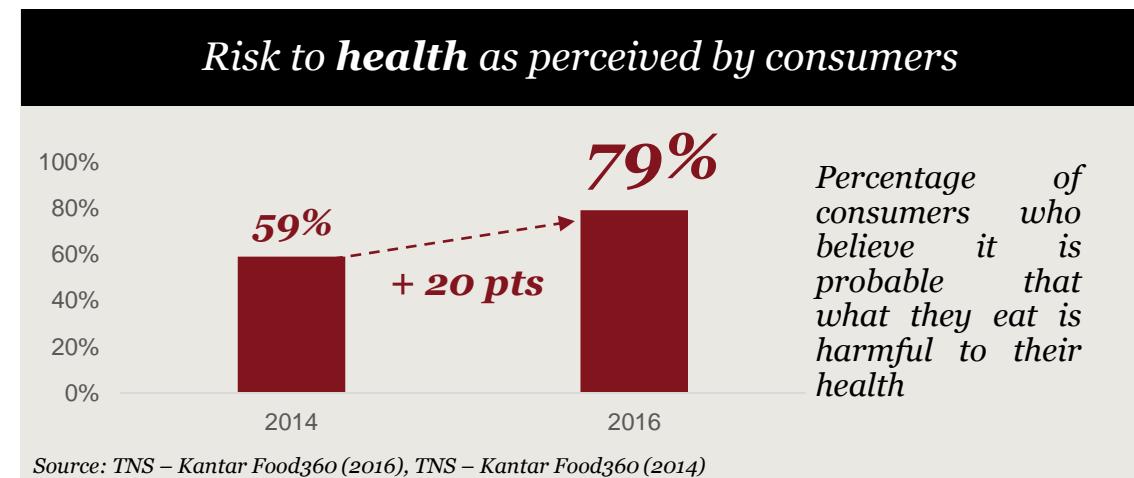
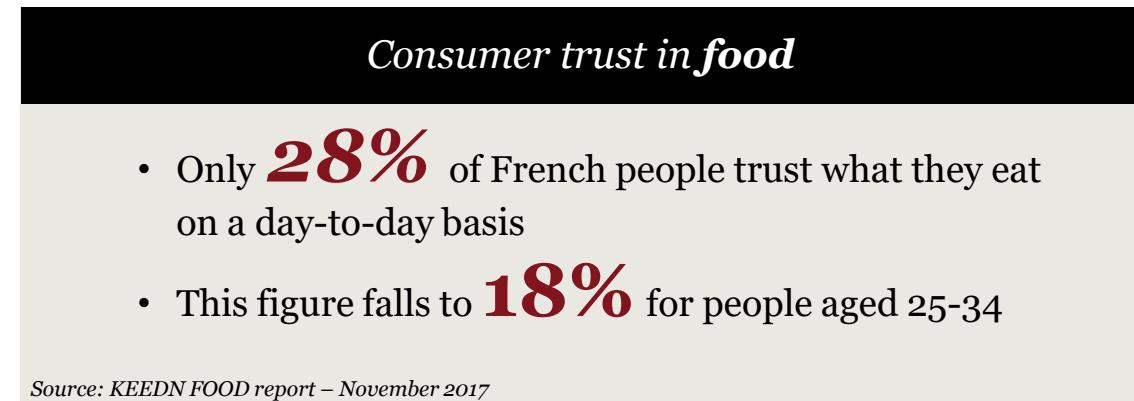
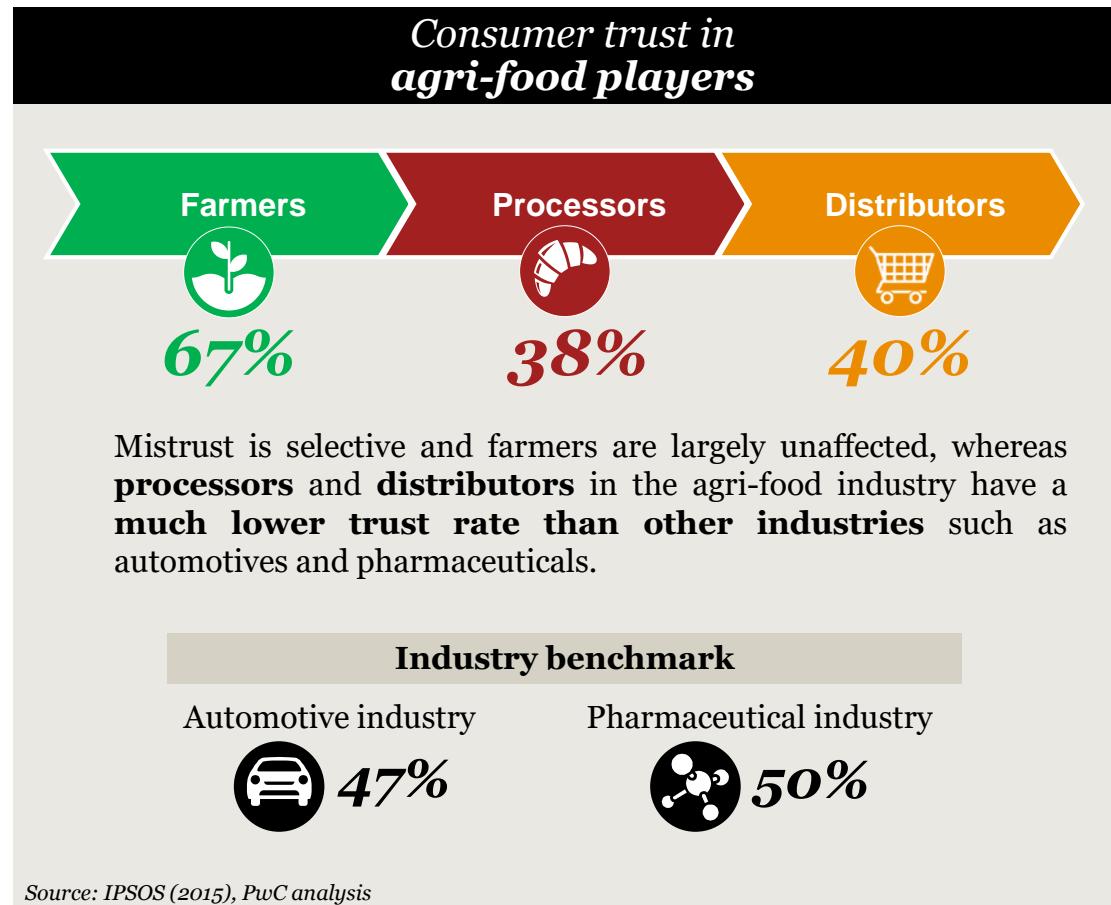
PART 3 – Relationships between start-ups and historical players



PART 1 – Contributing to consumer mistrust

What are the factors contributing to mistrust from consumers and in what ways can agri-food players change to address them?

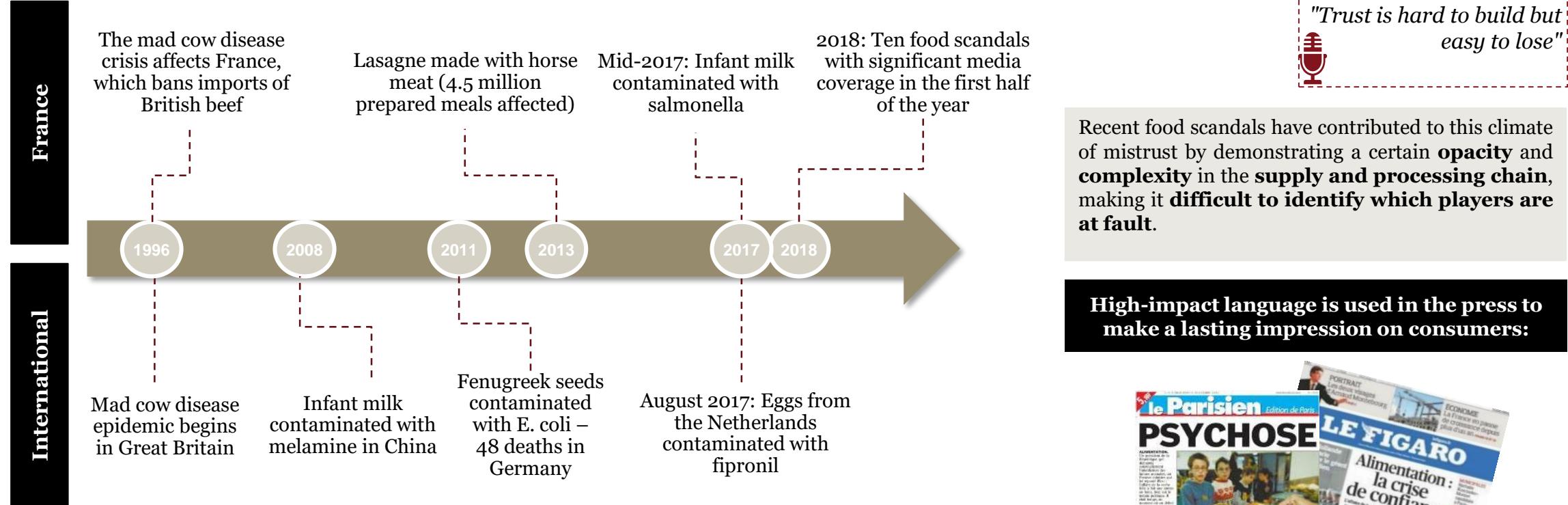
Various French consumer surveys indicate that they have lost trust in their food and agri-food players





This lack of confidence is exacerbated by the extensive media coverage of food scandals and alarming publications about certain farming practices

Recent major food scandals



Source: Press, PwC analysis



French consumers need reassurance about where their food comes from and how it is produced

Information that reassures French people about their food:

Topics

Product quality

Product origin and sustainability

Clarity of the value chain

Knowing where the ingredients have come from

85%



Understanding the quality control and ingredient traceability approach

83%



Products made in France

82%



Ingredients grown in France

80%



Ingredients from environmentally-friendly farming

78%



"Consumers needs to know where their food comes from and how it was produced"

Consumers want reassurance about the **quality of the food** they eat, where it comes from and the **impact it has on the environment**, as well as a **more transparent value chain**.

Source: Ipsos (2015) report on sustainable well-being and brands, PwC analysis

French consumers are increasingly concerned about product quality and are looking for labelled, less processed products using simpler recipes

79% of French consumers believe that what they eat is harmful to their health, so they are looking for:

Less processed products

83% of French consumers express an **interest** in **natural products**

70% of French consumers prefer **simple food** that has not been highly processed

53% of French consumers prefer **food with no colourings** and **preservatives**, or with fully natural colourings and preservatives

40% of French consumers say they consider the **list of ingredients** to be a purchasing criterion (criterion no. 5 of 15)

"Technical and crude terms should be removed from labels"

Labelled products

75% of French consumers are **reassured** by **labelled products**

These labels⁽¹⁾ are considered

49% of French people often or systematically buy products with a quality label

Examples of labels:



(1) Labels that guarantee French farming and processing, respect for the environment and fair pay
Source: IPSOS (2015), TNS – Kantar Food360 (2016), IPSOS (2016) report on sustainable eating, PwC analysis

They are also attentive to the environmental impact of their food, particularly the distance between where it was produced and where it is eaten

77%

of French consumers express an interest for ecology and respect for the environment

"If there is no explicit guarantee on product quality, consumers find it reassuring to buy local products"

Geographical proximity

62% of French consumers prefer food produced in **their region/near where they live**

56% of French consumers regularly buy food produced **near where they live**

Geographical proximity makes it possible to:

- **Limit transport and storage time**
- **Reduce the number** of intermediaries
- Keep production in line with **the country's standards**

Product seasonality

75% of respondents are prepared to eat **locally produced food** whenever possible

42% of French consumers buy **seasonal fruit and vegetables** more or less **systematically**

Product seasonality makes it possible to:

- **Consume products rapidly after harvesting**, thereby avoiding the need to add preservatives
- **Avoid transporting** products
- **Cut energy costs** in the production stage

Waste awareness

96% of French consumers think it is important to **reduce food waste**

85% of French consumers think it is important to buy food with less **packaging/wrapping**

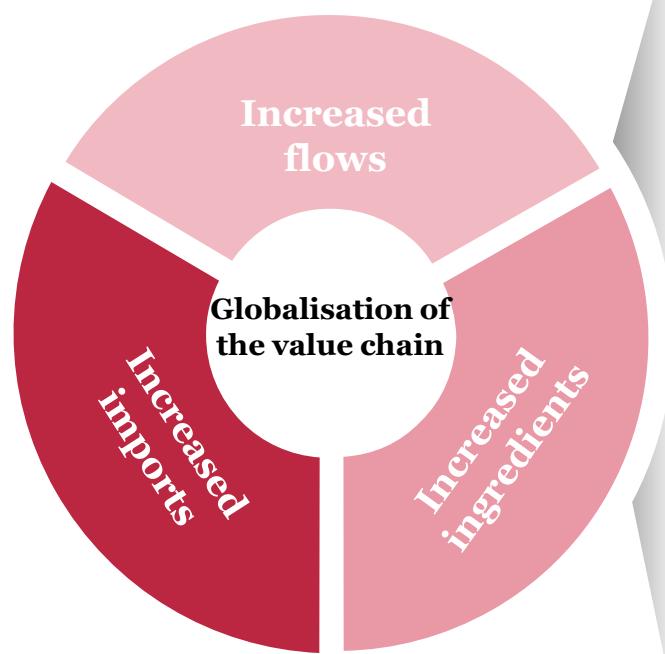
Waste awareness makes it possible to:

- **Adjust inventory** throughout the value chain by removing intermediate storage points
- **Reduce packaging and plastic pollution**, for example, from unnecessary packaging

Proximity, seasonality and natural production reassure consumers
about the safety and nutritional benefits of their food

Complex and highly segmented, the food value chain is considered opaque by consumers, giving rise to mistrust

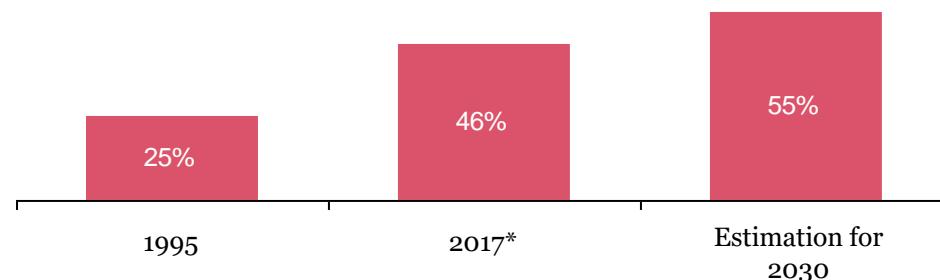
Reasons for the food value chain's increasing complexity



The food value chain is becoming increasingly complex due to several main trends:

- Agri-food players are locating and adjusting their activities to capitalise on comparative advantages (labour costs, cost of capital, proximity to target markets, sourcing facilities, etc.)
- Countries are diversifying their supplies according to their dependency and food security strategies
- The number of ingredients used to make a given product is increasing

Percentage of countries trading food products with more than half of the other countries in the world



"Communication issues have created a discrepancy between the reality of factories and consumers' perceptions of them."

In 2017, **46%** of countries imported agricultural and food products with more than half of the other countries in the world versus **~25%** in 1995

This means that more steps and countries are involved in producing the same product, creating opacity and confusion for consumers

*Note: * 43% exported and 46% imported
Source: UNComtrade, PwC analysis*



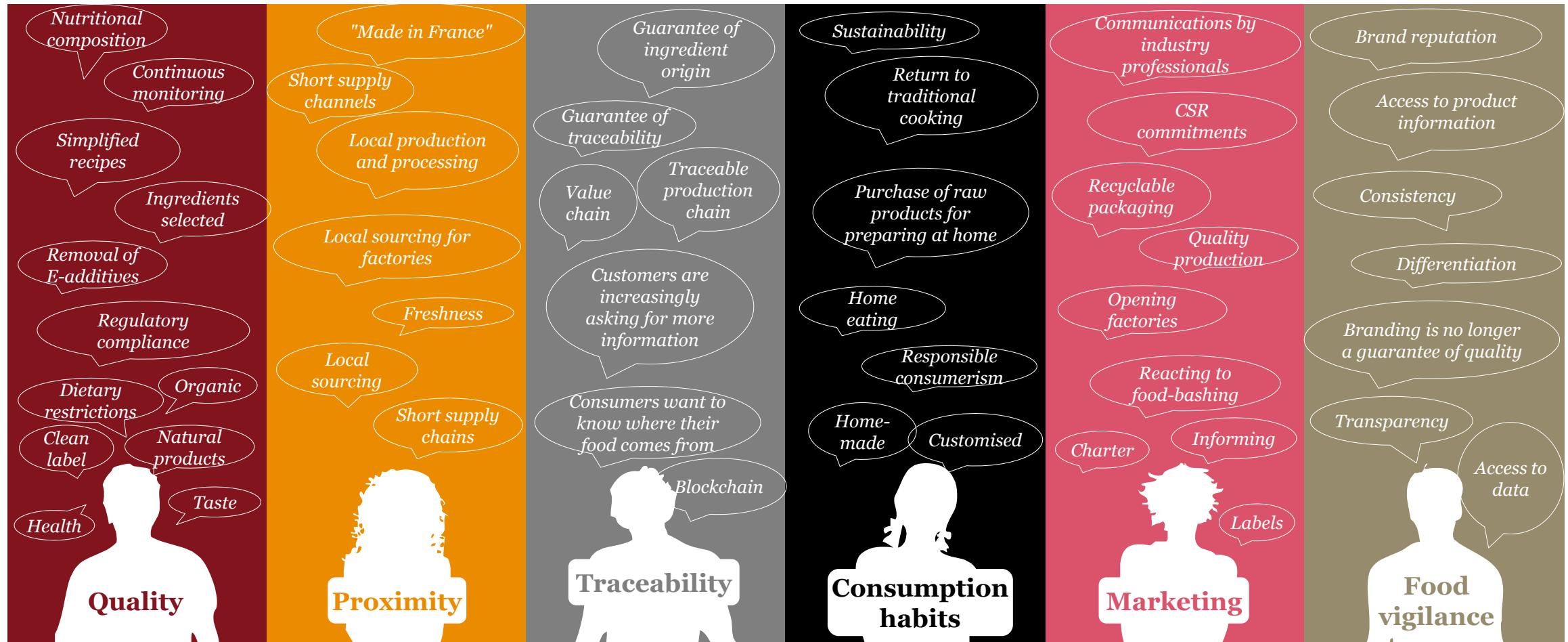
Faced with this concern, historical players have identified a number of ways to restore consumer trust...



Source: Quotes from interviews conducted by PwC with historical players in June-August 2018



... which can be sorted into six main themes



Source: Quotes from interviews conducted by PwC with historical players in June-August 2018

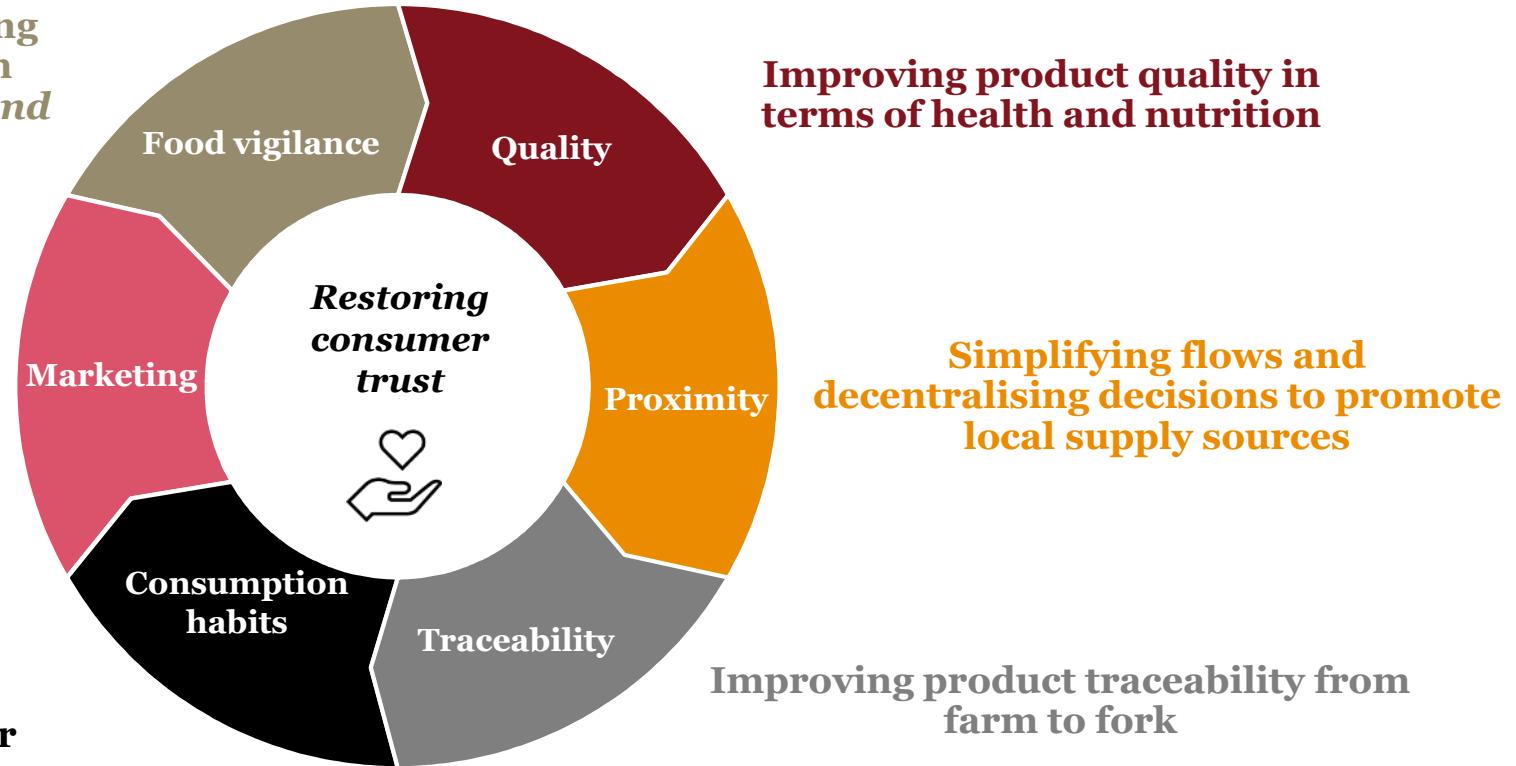


Historical players can restore consumer trust by fundamentally adapting the roles they play in these six interdependent key areas

Increasing transparency and ensuring consistency for consumers between words and actions: *say what we do and do what we say*

Adapting brand image to meet consumer expectations: CSR targets and access to information

Adapting to changes in consumption habits (e.g., renewed demand for home-made food)



To restore consumer trust,
companies are innovating around all six key areas



PART 2 – Innovation to promote consumer trust

What innovations can be leveraged to restore consumer trust?

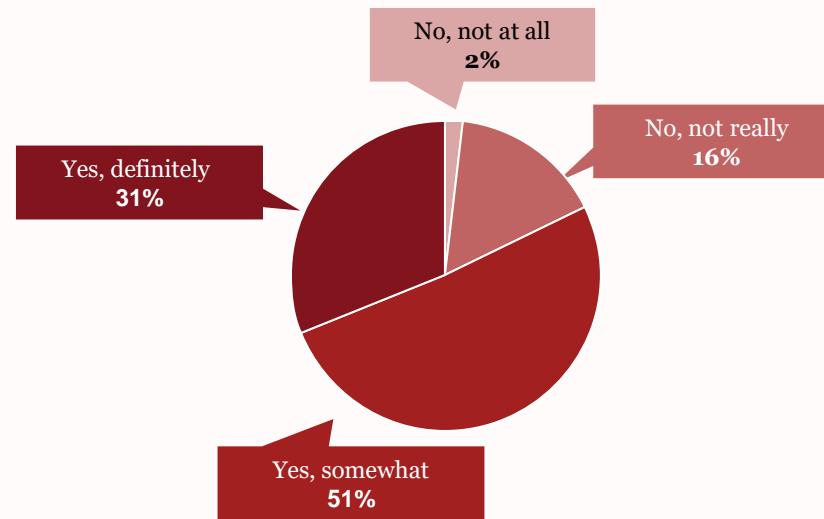
Quality – Proximity – Traceability – Consumption habits – Marketing – Food vigilance



The first means of restoring consumer trust in food is through quality

75% of consumers say they pay more attention to the quality of the food products they buy than they did five years ago

"Do you feel that you pay more attention to the quality of the food products you buy now than you did five years ago?"



Quality covers two types of expectations:



Food safety

French consumers assess **food safety** based on the **non-natural inputs** used in the production process (farms and manufacturers) and the way the product looks. Manufacturers and distributors take care to keep products **wholesome**.



Nutritional value

Nutritional value is increasingly important for consumers. They are paying more attention to the **dietary characteristics of the products** they buy and, more broadly, to the importance of eating a **balanced diet**.



Innovations to improve consumer perceptions of food safety focus around freshness and eliminating non-natural ingredients or residues

Innovation segments:



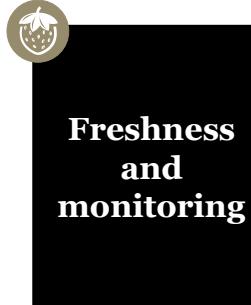
Natural products

- **Reduction in number of ingredients:** changing recipes (to decrease additives, in particular)
- **Replacement of non-natural additives with natural equivalents:**
 - Natural gelling agents (e.g., agar or pectin)
 - Natural thickeners (e.g., arrowroot or starches)
 - Natural colourings (e.g., turmeric or spirulina powders)
 - Natural flavour enhancers (e.g, miso or essential oils)



Reducing farming inputs

- **Bio-control:** replacing chemical inputs with natural additions
- **Precision agriculture:** limiting the use of inputs through specific targeting and prediction of needs
- **Modification of production methods,** such as using **conservation agriculture** to naturally regenerate soil
- **Creation of autonomous production ecosystems**



Freshness and monitoring

- **Reduction of transport and storage time; centralising supply chain management** for the whole value chain, helping to **limit intermediate holding stages** and therefore **ensure that products are fresh** for as long as possible
- **Automated and continuous quality control** of products being produced and **exclusion of products that are unfit** for consumption

Case studies:



To replace the use of additives, Limagrain Céréales Ingrédients (LCI) develops natural ingredients that combine specific varieties, thermal processes and blends. For example, LCI has created **pulse flours** (made from peas, lentils and beans) to replace modified starches.



Advantages: reduced microbial development and a plant-based protein supply



Development of X-ray machines that **scan fruit** to **identify poor quality products** (on the outside and inside, with or without packaging) and **automatically withdraw them from the distribution chain**.



Advantages: automated and continuous monitoring, exclusion of defective products, preservation of food safety and freshness



Innovations to improve nutritional value and balance the composition of each food product

Innovation segments:



Compensating for deficiencies

- Food supplements ("Fortified with...") to ensure a **deficiency-free diet**
- **Products customised by:**
 - age category
 - pathology
 - type of physical activity
 - and more



Reducing unhealthy content

- Focusing on **free-froms** to address specific **diets** or food **intolerances**:
 - no added sugar
 - no salt
 - fat-free
 - gluten-free
 - lactose-free
- **Diversifying** children's diets



Developing new ingredients and recipes

- **Nutritional benefits of new foods** (e.g., insects, algae, kale or moringa leaves)
- Replacement of animal proteins with **plant-based proteins**
- **Complete/balanced and individual meals** in drink form that cover all nutritional needs
- Foods with an **appetite-suppressing effect** (e.g., chia, konjac or agar)

Source: Press, interviews, PwC analysis

Case studies:



CÉRÉLAB[®]
Centre de Recherche & d'Application



G-Nutrition brioche bread is a **food supplement high in energy, proteins and vitamins**. It is designed for elderly and/or malnourished people with an illness (cancer, HIV, etc.) or muscle wasting. The result of ten years of research and development with a number of public and private partners, this bread is now **reimbursed by the French social security system**.

Advantages: compensates for deficits and deficiencies in elderly or malnourished people



Jimini's is a start-up that markets insect-based products that are rich in proteins, sources of minerals (iron, zinc and calcium) and that contain all essential amino acids.

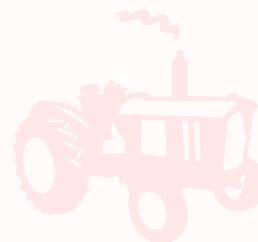
Advantages: appealing products with nutritional benefits



Proximity to producers (either geographically speaking or through a short circuit arrangement) is also an important factor for reassuring consumers

► To recreate links with producers and farmers...

*"[Short circuits are] a response to ever-increasing demand for local products, **tradition** and **authenticity**, restoring the **social link** between consumers and producers, enhancing the freshness, innovation and nutritional benefits of production, and helping consumers **learn more about products and the way they are produced**"⁽¹⁾*



"We shorten the chain by creating integrated channels"

► ... consumers are increasingly turning to local products

80%

of French consumers say they give preference to local products⁽²⁾

34%

of French people believe they would be more inclined to consume local products if this information was more visible on the packaging or if they were in direct contact with the producer⁽²⁾

Innovations to improve proximity between producers and end customers, both geographically and in terms of the value chain

Innovation segments:



Increasing geographical proximity

- Solutions to **improve the geographic proximity of producers** to consumers
 - Urban farms: on-site sale and/or consumption, both B2C and B2B (e.g., collective catering)
 - In consumers' homes: connected and autonomous indoor vegetable gardens
- **French production**
- Renewed demand for **regional products** and **seasonal** (therefore local) produce



Simplifying the value chain

Reducing the number of intermediaries

- **Solutions to reduce the producer-consumer value chain**
 - Development of short circuits
 - Products sold directly at the farm
 - Proximity of distributors to farms
 - Community-supported agriculture baskets
- Implementation of **short circuits** for B2B trading (e.g., direct contact between farmers and self-managed collective catering companies)

Source: Press, interviews, PwC analysis

Case studies:

Agripolis



Agripolis designs and runs **urban farms** on roofs and flat surfaces using **aeroponics** technology. The **products** are **sold on-site** (hypermarkets, baskets for employees) or **consumed on-site** (collective catering)

Advantages: urban production, short circuit, proximity



E.Leclerc

LES ALLIANCES LOCALES *



Finding that **consumers** were more attracted to local products, E. Leclerc developed **short circuits** through its **Les Alliances Locales** brand, which brings together 5,500 producers through 10,500 store/producer partnerships. The farm or production site must be located within 100 km of the store.

Advantages: short circuits on a large scale, limited transport



* The *Les Alliances Locales* initiative, created in 2011, was **recently relaunched**, demonstrating a return to local supply sources by major distribution players.



Innovative techniques have sprung up around traceability, allowing consumers to know more about products, producers and the supply chain

► **Initially a response to regulatory requirements, traceability has become a service offering and a way for companies to provide consumers with transparency about the origin, processing and distribution chain of the food they eat**

59%

*of consumers consider that **product origin and traceability** are important choice criteria*



In 2004, the Codex Alimentarius (FAO, WHO) defined traceability as "**the ability to follow the movement of a food through specified stage(s) of production, processing and distribution.**"

Guaranteeing traceability requires solid technical innovations from agri-food players

Main challenges:

- Ensuring reliability of input data
- Preventing fraud
- Incorporating the systems in place by all players
- Tackling the risk of losing information at the various product processing or distribution stages
- Recovering final data
- and more

Source: Harris Interactive study, "Les pratiques alimentaires d'aujourd'hui et de demain", January 2017; Codex Alimentarius of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), 2004

Traceability approaches are generally initiated by three types of players:



Agri-food manufacturer with brands



National/regional authorities



Consortium of producers

A traceability system is implemented to monitor the manufacturer's **supplier ecosystem**. Producers are **required to be included in the traceability programme** to preserve their relationship with the manufacturer.

A traceability system is created for all producers in a given region for a sourcing channel or product type (certification, designation of origin, etc.). Public authorities fund the creation and maintenance of the system and certifications. Producers pay to use it.

Several producers are brought into contact within a consortium to invest in implementing a platform to ensure the **traceability of their products and market them to large manufacturers**. The consortium is certified and sets its member farmers apart from competitors.



Traceability innovations make it possible to gather information from players in the chain and guarantee the continuity of conservation and handling precautions

Innovation segments:



Tracing the entire value chain

- System for **certifying product origin** (e.g., name and location of producer)
- Tools recording **production conditions** (e.g., production/breeding method, inputs used/feed received, use of antibiotics)



Ensuring the traceability of processing, conservation and handling conditions

- Platforms for **recording and tracing**:
 - the **number and type of players** involved in production
 - the **number and type of processing stages**
 - the distribution system
- Tools to monitor **conservation conditions in real time** and visualise any disruptions
- Systems to ensure **compliance with regulations** and general safety requirements
- Environment for **capturing and exchanging data** between trading partners in the processing chain

Source: Press, interviews, PwC analysis

Case studies:



Integrated system for **tracing products from origin to consumption**



Carrefour

Carrefour has developed traceability for its **chicken sourcing channel**. Thanks to a **QR code**, consumers can access various information such as where and how the chicken was bred, fed, and whether it received antibiotic treatment.



Advantages: consumers can access information easily



Topcryo is a **temperature-sensitive microbiological label** that can be affixed to products to **guarantee the cold chain**.



Advantages: ensures that products are properly conserved



Blockchain, a leading traceability technology

Blockchain in a nutshell:



a database



shared between members

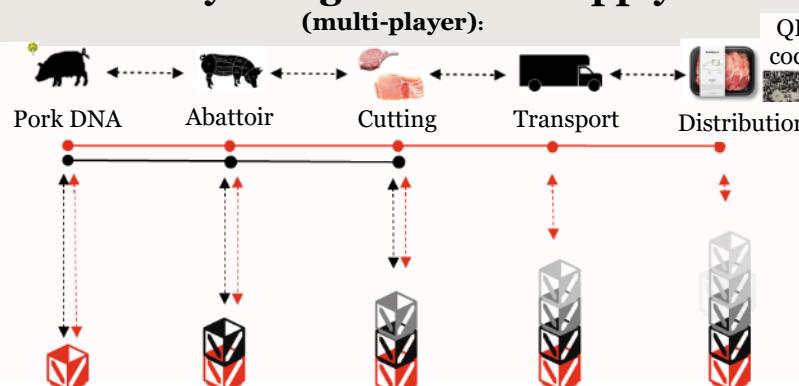


that saves modifications to data according to rules set by its members

A blockchain is a **chronological sequence of transactions**. It is used to store data and share them with various players

All members of the network (the players) have a **copy** of the register (a node)
The **sequence** of transactions is **confirmed** by all players or a defined majority

Traceability along the entire supply chain (multi-player):



Several blockchain options exist and it's important to choose the right one.

Distribution*	Advantages	Disadvantages
 (Open source)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Leverages a number of developments made by a wide communityMany developers are able to program smart contracts on Ethereum	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Transaction data are not privateNumber of transactions per second is quite limitedProof-of-work algorithm, high energy consumption
 (IBM software solution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">High scalabilityImplementation and maintenance support offered by IBMIBM is a leading player in the field	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Possible reliance on IBMA complex tool that can be difficult to accessDoes not integrate cryptocurrency; not optimised for managing tokens
 (R3 software solution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Implementation and maintenance support offered by R3R3's reputation is reassuring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Its architecture is difficult to implementData are only shared between nodes that participated in the transaction; data partitioningA distributed solution that ensures data monitoring at the cost of putting in place a governance system

* Distribution in a private blockchain. Other technologies exist and are worth examining according to the desired applications (e.g., Stratum, Quorum and Iota).

Our recommendation: Choosing the right technology at the inception of the project according to the business model and desired user experience avoids a complex and costly process to change the tool when it is rolled out on a large scale. *For more information, scan the QR code:*



Source: PwC



Consumers want to play an active role in the selection, customisation and preparation process to regain trust in their food

► The expectations consumers have for their food are multiplying

- **Dietary regimes**
- **Allergen-free diets**
- **Specific nutritional requirements** (fortified foods, whole foods, etc.)
- **Environmental impact** (organic farming)
- **Societal impact** (fair pay for producers)
- and more

► And yet consumers are spending less and less time on their food

61% of French people say they want to save time in their lives

51% of French people feel that they are wasting time when they take care of household tasks, including cooking

Between 1986 and 2010, the average daily time spent cooking decreased by 18 minutes, falling from 1 hour 11 minutes to 53 minutes.



Changing consumption habits helps consumers regain **control over what they eat** and **save time**



A number of innovations help consumers with limited time to spare take control over their diet and its impact

Innovation segments:

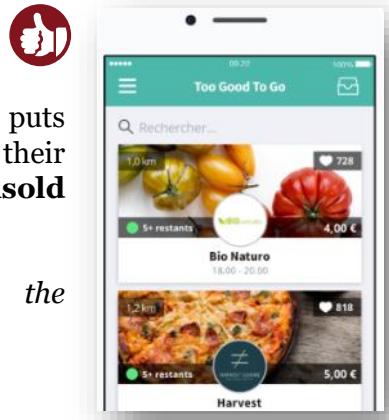
- Renewed demand for "home-made"**
 - Cooking kits
 - Cooking lessons
 - Increase in **kitchen appliances** (food processors, juicers, etc.)
- Personalised diets**
 - **Nutritional assessment**, follow-up, and **recipes suitable for**:
 - Illnesses
 - Allergies
 - Specific dietary regimes (vegetarian, vegan, etc.)
- Saving time without losing out on quality**
 - **Home or work delivery** of fruit and vegetable baskets or **meals prepared** using fresh produce
 - Development of **catering stands (e.g., salad and pasta bars)** in supermarkets where the food is prepared as you wait
- Positive externalities of food**
 - Environmental impact: local, seasonal products, sale of unsold goods and prevention of **food waste, products sold loose**
 - Societal impact: **fair products** that guarantee fair pay for producers

Case studies:



Too Good To Go is an application that puts consumers in contact with sellers in their neighbourhood to **organise the sale of unsold goods** to help prevent food waste.

Advantages: positive impact on the environment by preventing food waste



Quitoque provides **easy-to-cook recipes** using seasonal produce and delivers the ingredients directly to consumers. Carrefour increased its interest in Quitoque to a majority stake in March 2018.

Advantages: time saved through the delivery of the right quantities of ingredients for the chosen recipe



Acting on clearly-defined commitments is vital in (re)establishing trust in a given company as a choice criterion for consumers

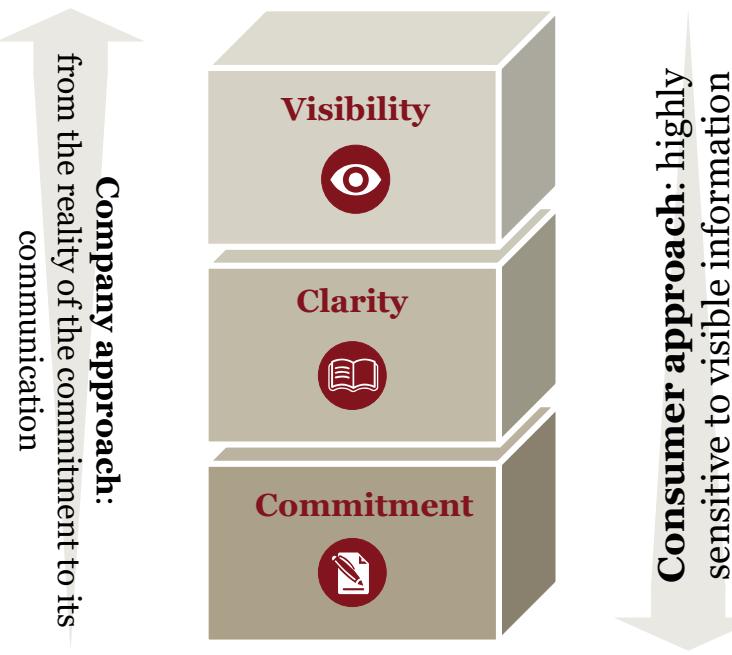
100% of the players asked say that transparency is the key component in fostering consumer trust



- **Unclear** company commitments
- **Sometimes limited information** on where products have come from and how they were processed
- **Confusion** from too many labels and designations

Consequence:
consumer trust in the company, brand or label no longer plays a key role in deciding whether or not to purchase

In order to have a positive impact on consumers, companies must work not only on their **commitments** but also on **how to communicate them to their consumers**: to help restore consumer trust, commitments must be **clear** and **visible**.



Visibility

- Bringing company commitments to the attention of consumers
- Standing out from other agri-food players

Clarity

- Informing consumer choices (e.g., through product information and comparative analyses)
- Making company commitments easier to read (e.g., through labels)

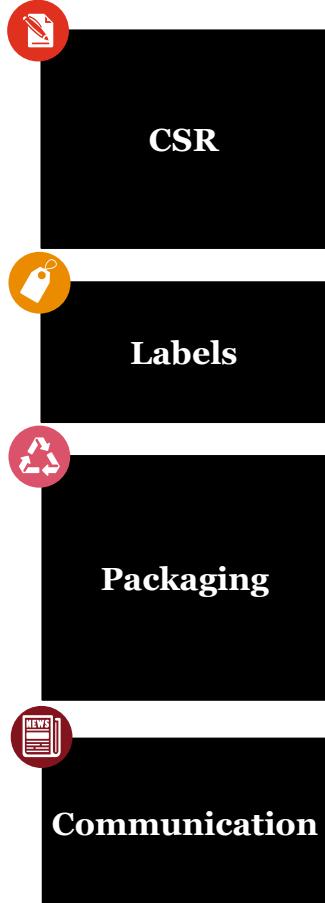
Commitment

- Fulfilling consumer expectations in line with company values
- Complying with regulations



Industry players are adapting their communications to restore consumer trust by being more transparent with consumers

Innovation segments:



- Strengthening of CSR approaches by historical players, internally and/or through external acquisitions
- Emergence of players with an inherently strong CSR footprint
- Emergence of **new labels** to help consumers find their way around the products available
- Growing interest from consumers in **alternative packaging** to help reduce the environmental impact of plastic food wrapping
- Development of packaging in formats suitable for individual consumption (smaller packets, products sold loose, etc.)
- Development of **new ways for companies to communicate** with consumers:
 - Factory visits
 - Social media

Case studies:



Launched in 2014 to provide greater transparency, the "Venez Vérifier" (come and check) initiative gives consumers the opportunity to visit five Fleury Michon factories producing deli meats, prepared meals and seafood products. The third season of #VENEZVERIFIER was launched in April 2018.



Advantages: a strong image of transparency associated with the company and brand



In 2018, Axéréal launched Cultiv'up, a sustainable development charter certified by an independent body. Through this charter, Axéréal's agri-food manufacturer customers can use the concept of sustainability in their product communications and use visuals on their packaging to show that products are from cooperatives, made with French grains, or guaranteed to be free from a certain component.



Advantages: clear communication of CSR production commitments throughout the value chain



Product information innovations are aimed at enhancing the clarity of the product offering so that customers can make an informed decision

Innovation segments:



Clarity of information on product composition

- Applications to inform customers **in real time** about **product characteristics** (e.g., nutritional characteristics, impact on health, allergens)
- **Product comparisons**, recommendations of the most suitable products



Information on products and how they were produced

- Consumer information on how the product was produced and the **level of hygiene** at the production, processing and distribution sites
- **Creation of a database** assembling available information on food products, accessible to consumers, public authorities and professionals (via a website, application, etc.)



Consumer review forums

- Use of new media to discuss products or catering establishments (e.g., restaurants) within a community of friends, family, etc.

Case studies:



Alim'confiance

A mobile application from the French Ministry of Agriculture where users can consult the results of official checks on the hygiene of catering establishments, food trades, supermarkets and hypermarkets, abattoirs, industrial sites, etc.



Advantages: direct information for consumers about the product and how it was produced



by Consumer Physics

A pocket scanner for consumers to instantly obtain details of products' molecular composition on their mobile phones

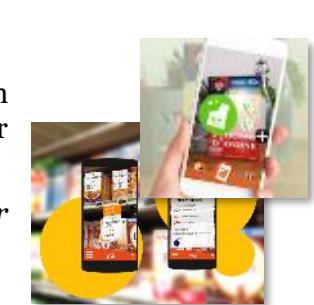


Advantages: consumers can instantly consult the exact characteristics of each product



far

When the product packaging is scanned, the application advises consumers on food and recipes suitable for their individual diets



Advantages: gives consumers points of reference for their needs and the products available



A number of innovations to promote consumer trust are driven by food tech start-ups

Consumers' trust in their food is the number one innovation objective for start-ups

70%

of the start-ups surveyed think that innovation in the agri-food industry would help improve consumers' trust in their food...

... more than new products, a reduction in environmental impact and changing food habits



The advantages of start-ups in promoting consumer trust:

- **Innovation as their *raison d'être*:** innovation is the *raison d'être* for start-ups, while historical agri-food players have to bring innovation into their existing strategies
- **"Trusted third party" image for consumers:** in a climate of consumer mistrust of historical agri-food players, start-ups are seen as trusted third parties with a more positive image for consumers
- **Agility:** more flexible structures compared to the size and organisation of historical agri-food players in France
- **Rapidity:** development times tend to be shorter in start-ups than in traditional companies. This is because, since start-ups are specialised and entirely dedicated to innovation, they can devote all their effort and resources to quickly bringing their innovation to the production stage
- **High financing potential:** start-ups offering a promising solution with a clearly identified market can count on significant financial support from external partners (such as funds), whereas historical agri-food players would not be able to invest a similar amount to diversify into such a highly targeted area (except corporate venture capital structures)



PART 3 – Relationships between start-ups and historical players

3.1. Food tech start-ups in France

3.2. Innovation strategies implemented by historical players

3.3. Relationships between historical players and start-ups



	2015	2016	%Growth
Kategorie	20.775	24.760	15.550
Product A01	846.579	237.699	1.876
Product A02	861.910	861.910	0.000
Product A03	431.300	431.300	0.000
Analyste	161.771	161.771	0.000
Product A01	185.779	226.985	21.853
Product B01	4.567.280	7.380	15.985
Total	4.567.280	4.567.280	0.000

3.1. Food tech start-ups in France





What is a food tech start-up? (1/3)

Maturity, revenue and financing

- Numerous young start-ups, at a creation rate that's still growing

 **472** food tech start-ups identified in Q3 2017⁽¹⁾

44% annual growth in the number of new food tech businesses launched between 2013 and 2016⁽¹⁾



42% of the start-ups which responded to our survey (July 2018) were founded in 2017 and 2018⁽²⁾

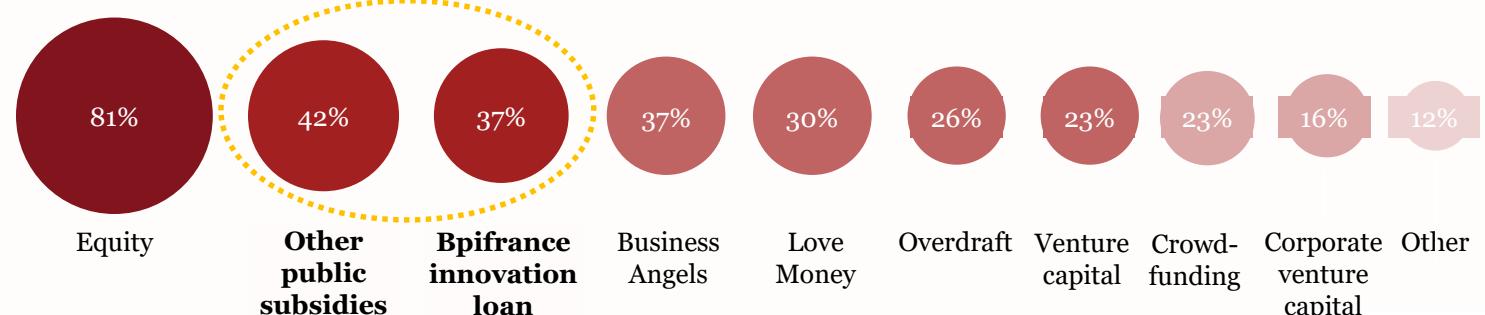
(1) Source: DigitalFoodTech, PwC analysis
 (2) As reported, 43 respondents

- 49% of start-ups in the industry generate less than €100 thousand in revenue⁽³⁾



(3) As reported, 43 respondents to this question (88% of survey total). See appendix

- Financing based mainly on equity and public subsidies⁽⁴⁾



56%⁽⁵⁾ of start-ups on average use public subsidies, which is in line with the age of these young companies. Public subsidies are mainly provided at the early stage ([see PwC study \(in French\) on financing start-ups](#)).





What is a food tech start-up? (2/3)

Breakthrough innovations beyond the agri-food industry

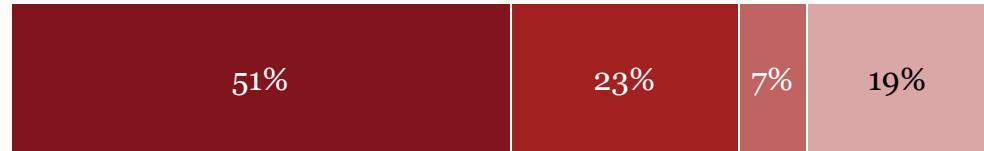
▶ Innovations for the agri-food industry and other industries



81% of food tech start-ups consider agri-food to be their priority industry

Positioning of food tech start-ups in industries other than agri-food

Results based on a survey of 43 start-ups (see appendix)



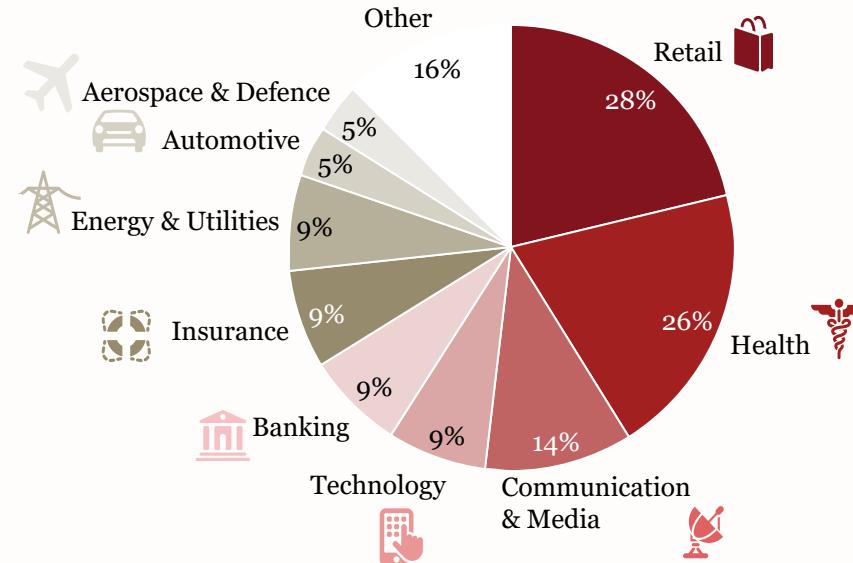
- Solution exclusively dedicated to the agri-food industry
- Solution dedicated to the agri-food industry but expansion planned into other industries
- Multi-industry solution, with the agri-food industry as the main target
- Multi-industry solution



49% of food tech start-ups have developed a solution that is (or will be) used in other industries

Percentage of food tech start-up activities in other industries

Results based on the 43 start-ups which responded that their solution is or will be used in other industries. The total is higher than 100% because respondents could select more than one industry.



Source: PwC analyses and survey

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Summary: 28% of the start-ups who responded to our survey also operate in the Retail industry



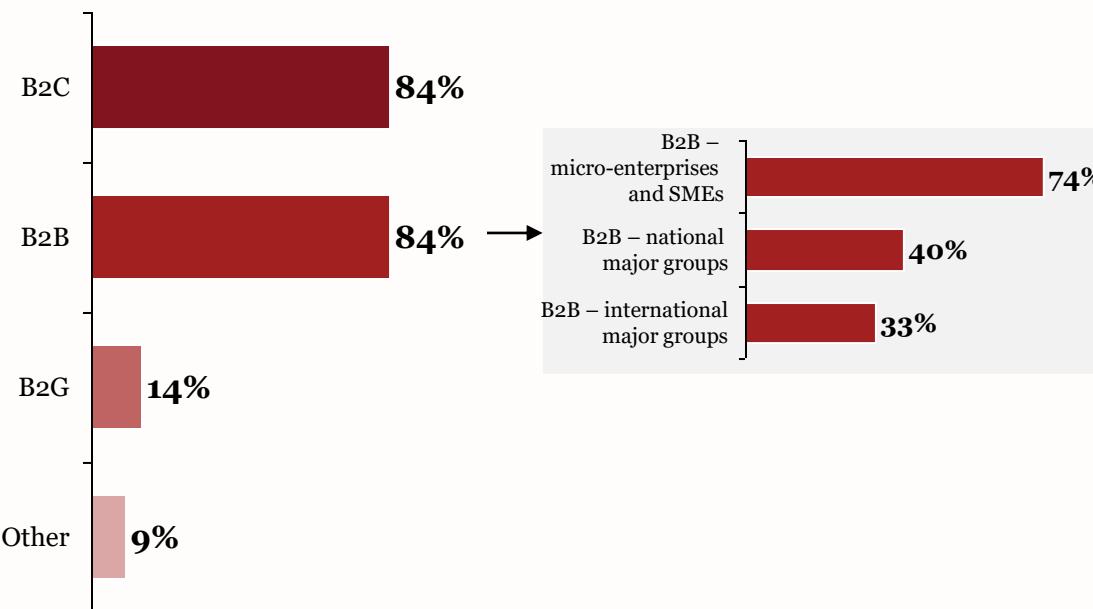
What is a food tech start-up? (3/3)

Customers and international presence

- A balanced customer base between B2B and B2C, but still very few institutional or government customers



More than **8 in 10 start-ups** provide B2B solutions

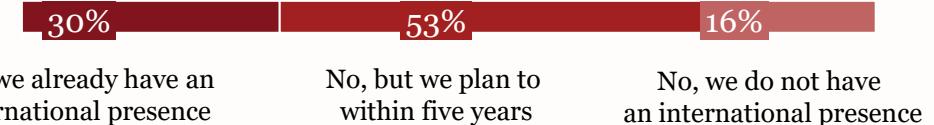


"Other" includes, in particular, sole trader B2B and start-ups, as well as B2B2C solutions

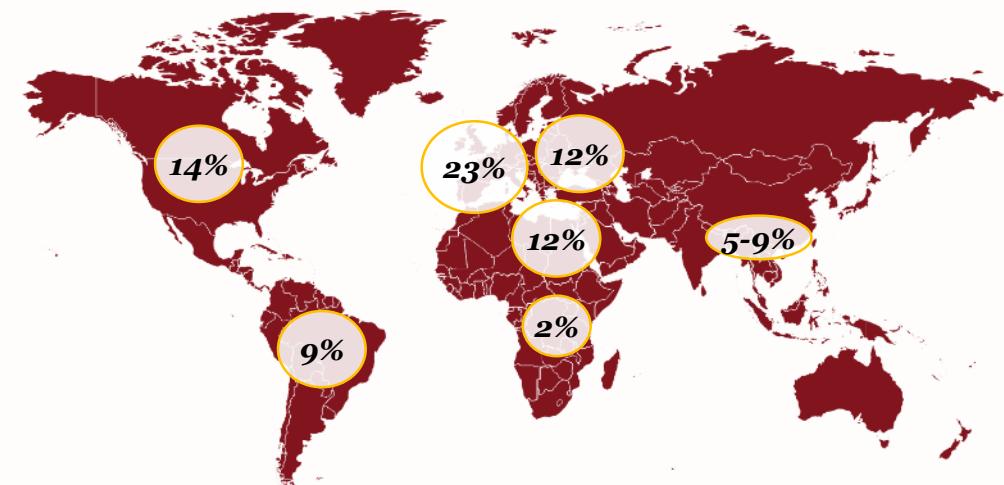
Sources: Results based on a survey of 43 start-ups (see appendix)

Strategy& | PwC

- International activities in 30% of cases



- Majority presence in Western Europe (around 400 million consumers) and limited development in Asia (4.5 billion consumers)



Results based on the 43 start-ups which responded that they had an international presence. Percentage in relation to the 43 start-ups which took part in the survey.

3.2. Innovation strategies implemented by historical players

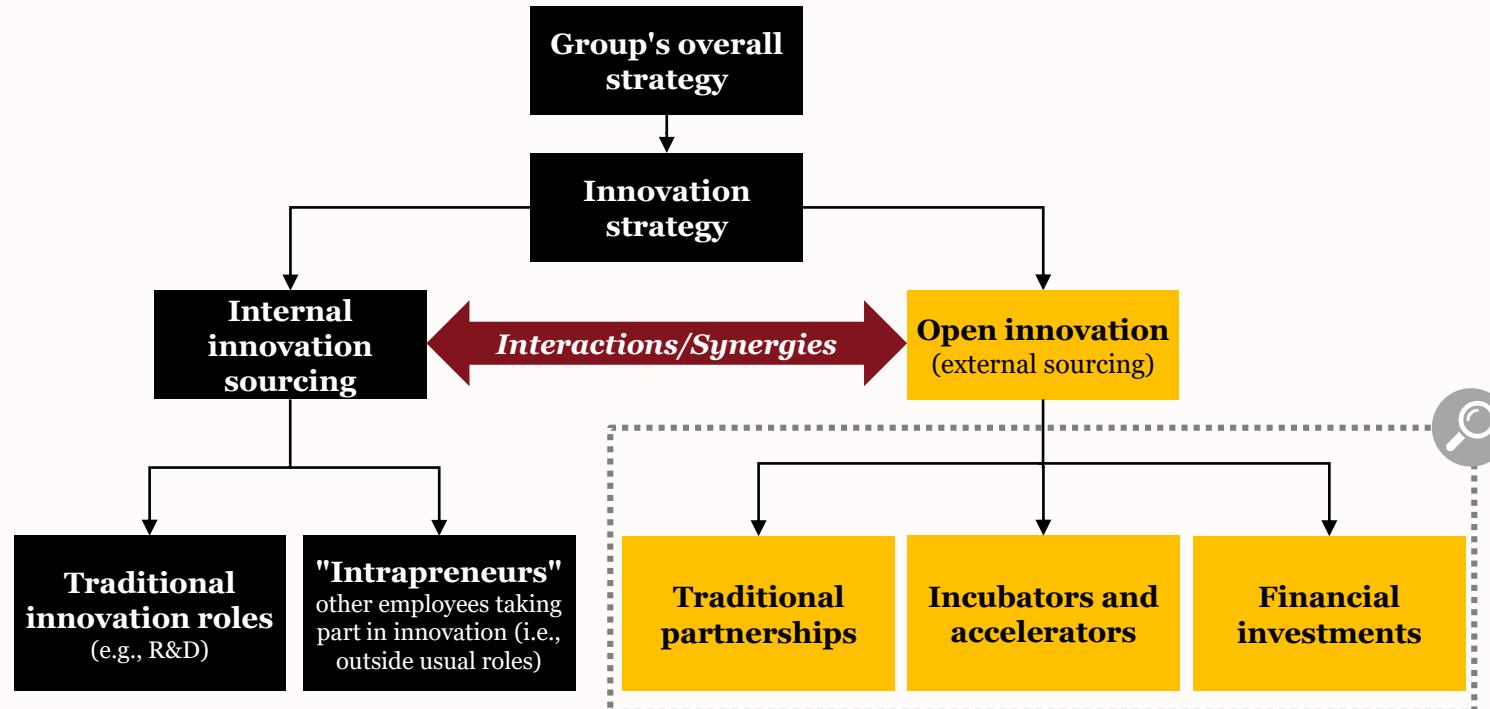




For their innovation needs, agri-food groups rely on internal resources and a deal of external support

► An innovation strategy that is both internal and external

51% of companies in the industry **decentralise part of their innovation** through partnerships, universities, external incubators, etc.⁽¹⁾



Key motivations for cooperation between major groups and start-ups:

- For **start-ups**: validating their business model and developing the solution on an industrial scale
- For **major groups**: sourcing innovation to boost their own initiatives

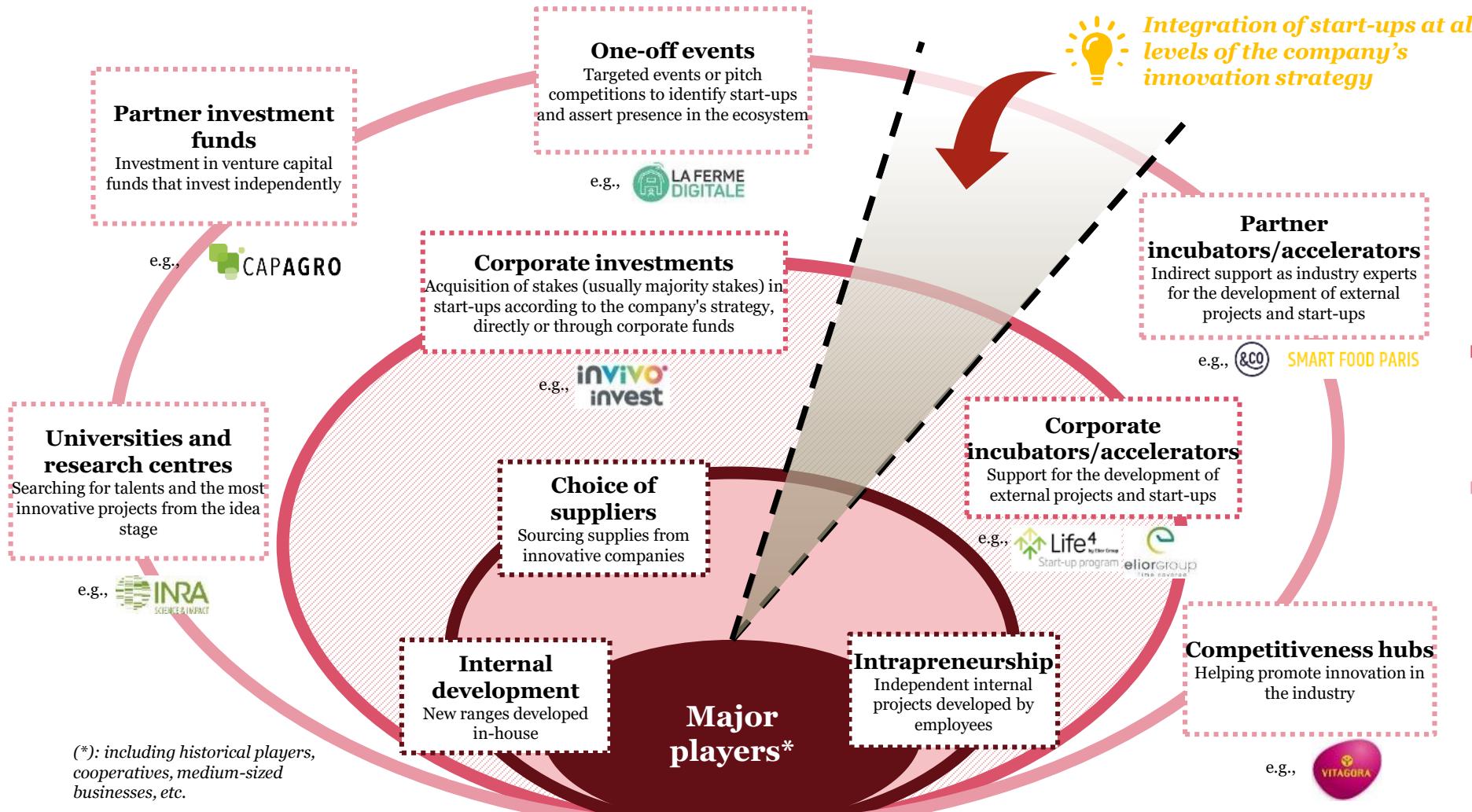


The next part of this report focuses on the **relationships between historical agri-food players and start-ups for innovation purposes**.

These relationships may take the form of partnerships, investments, or cooperation through start-up incubators or accelerators.



To benefit from the many innovations in food tech, major players are adapting to bring start-ups on board



Source: PwC analyses and survey

Strategy & | PwC

Innovation strategies put in place by players in the industry can be broken down into three different levels:

- Internal level:** all innovation projects developed in-house are driven by company employees
- Intermediary level:** the company develops structures dedicated to supporting external projects (e.g., incubators)
- External level:** the company establishes partnerships with non-corporate players in the ecosystem, such as research centres, event organisers, etc.

Innovation departments are set up by historical players to centralise their first contact with start-ups and **link them up with the company's business lines**.



A clear strategy and appropriate governance and project management are the keys to a successful innovation approach

► Establishing and presenting a clear innovation strategy:



Innovation strategies should address **various complementary focus areas**:

- **External:** Agile development of new solutions, support for innovation as it becomes mature/lean start-up method
- **Internal:** Support for internal innovation in each business unit (BU)
- **Financial:** Management of investments
- **Visibility:** Partnerships, events, publications
- **People:** Acculturation, skills development, attractiveness

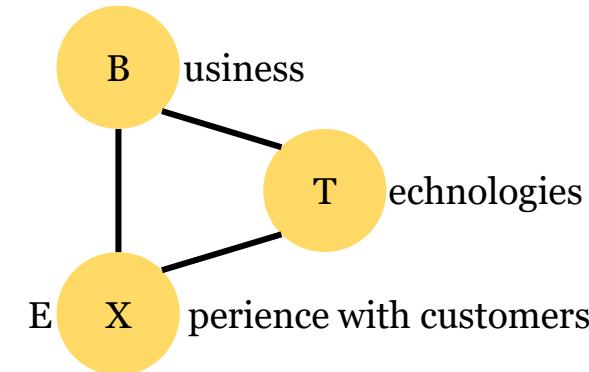
► Redefining the innovation department's role in the company:



Increasing the visibility and attractiveness of innovation in-house:

- Ensure it has a **direct link with the executive committee** and general management
- Build a **limited talent team** at the central level
- Adjust (if necessary) the **company's open innovation culture**
- Promote **attractiveness**
- Maintain internal/external **visibility**

Three pillars around which to build projects:



Start-ups are divided on the role played by innovation departments in decisions made by groups

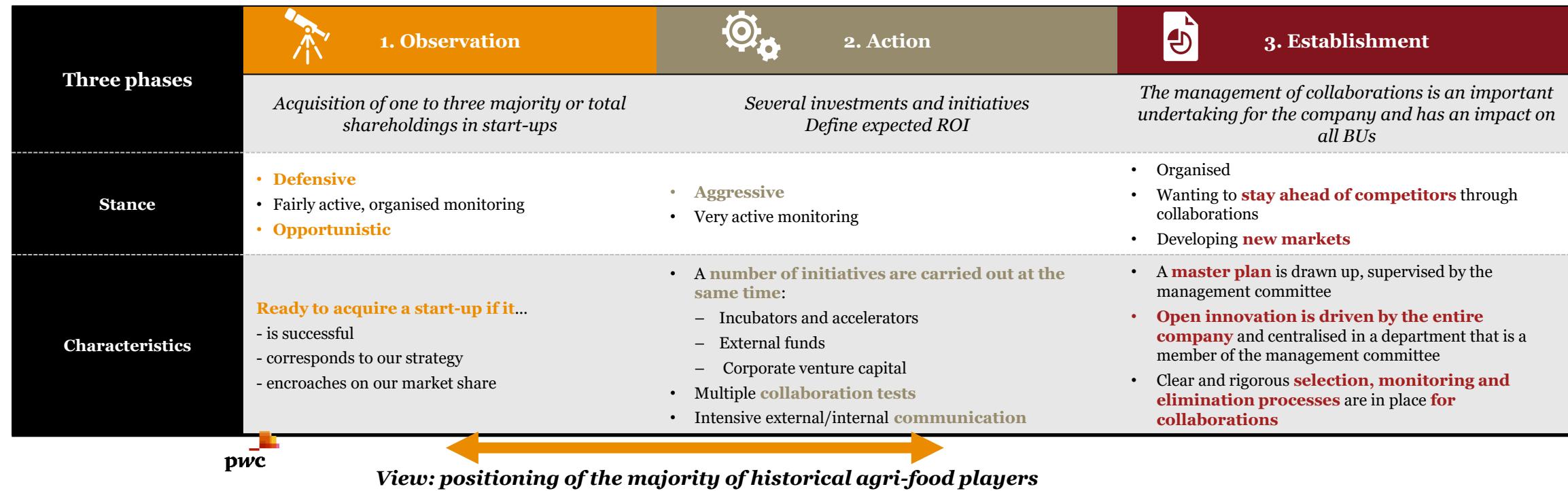
"Do you think that innovation departments (or their equivalent) in agri-food groups play a significant role in decisions made by the groups' business lines?"





The majority of agri-food players have not yet established a strategy for collaborating with start-ups and are in an active monitoring phase

Collaboration strategies reach a mature phase in three phases:



 "We only work with start-ups in which we have a majority interest"

 "Our innovation is divided between marketing and R&D"

 "We are in the process of structuring our open innovation approach in a broad sense"

3.3. Relationships between historical players and start-ups

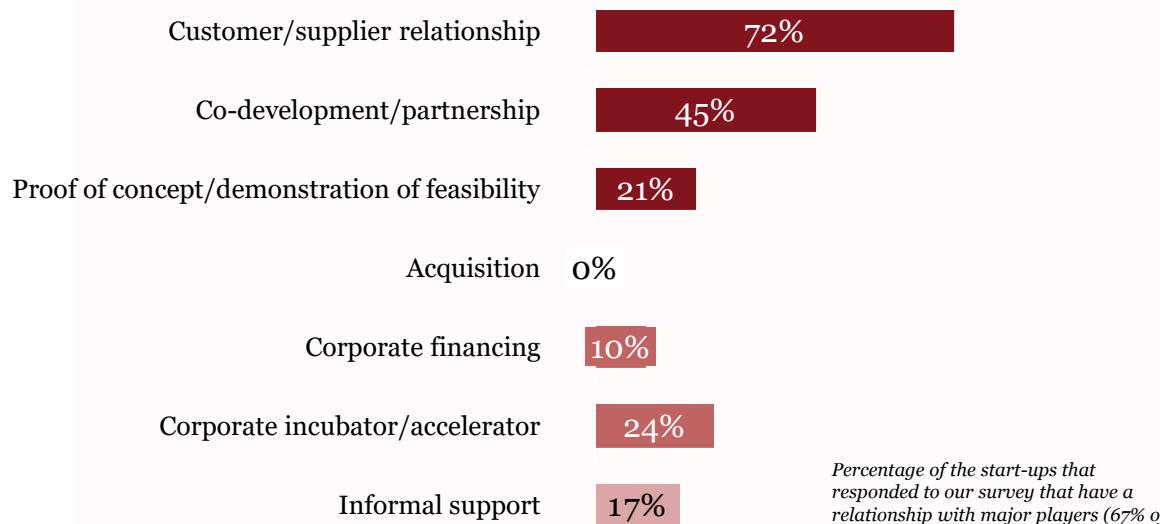




Interactions between major players and start-ups are on the rise, but developing these into business relationships is still often difficult and is mainly carried out in a traditional way (customer/supplier relationship)

► **67% of the start-ups surveyed are developing or have developed relationships with historical players**

Types of relationship with major players, according to the start-ups surveyed:



► **Most interactions with major players are still "traditional", i.e., customer/supplier relationships, partnerships**

► **100% of the players surveyed are developing or have developed relationships with start-ups...**

... but only 19%⁽¹⁾ invest in start-ups, and they all accept that maturity is lacking in their identification and confirmation of business relationships or investments

*"We are acquiring a few **majority stakes**, particularly with a view to strengthening our presence in certain markets"*

*"Working with start-ups is a **defensive approach** to make sure we don't let an innovation slip through the cracks"*

*"We have an active approach as a **member of a regional incubator**"*

*"Start-ups can **serve as a stimulus** and an accelerator in some cases"*

*"We invest in start-ups **through an external fund**, which also helps us **monitor the industry**"*

*"We carry out targeted research to **obtain specific skills**"*

*"Our collaboration strategy is opportunistic, based on **skills contribution**"*

*"We collaborate with start-ups through minority stakes via funds, with a **short-/medium-term disposal objective**"*



On the whole, start-ups and historical players seem to be aware of their respective strengths and weaknesses when they collaborate...

► According to start-ups, the length of historical players' processes is the major obstacle to collaboration...

... but the sharing of values and major groups' three innate qualities (brand image, product quality and expertise) are key facilitators

Classification of criteria as obstacles or facilitators for collaboration:

Obstacles	Neutral	Facilitators
66% Length of processes in major groups	55% Sharing of intellectual property	62% Brand image of major groups
	55% Decentralisation of major groups	52% Sharing of values
	55% Minimum volumes in major groups	55% Customer perception of the quality of group products/services
	55% Sharing of data between start-ups and groups	55% Expertise of major groups
	55% CSR strategy of groups	
	52% Price of start-ups' solutions	

Source: based on responses to the question "Are these 14 criteria obstacles or facilitators for collaboration between start-ups and historical players?"

Summary: 55% of the 43 start-ups that reported collaborating or having collaborated with historical players do not think that the start-up's intellectual property is an obstacle or a facilitator for collaboration between start-ups and major groups

Note: the responses do not show a trend for three criteria: (i) Centralisation of major groups, (ii) Digital culture of major groups, (iii) Differences in company culture and values

Source: PwC analyses and survey

Strategy& | PwC

► The players surveyed are careful in the way they manage their relationships with start-ups...

... so as not to slow down the start-up's innovation momentum or hinder their development potential

"Thanks to our **strong culture of decentralisation**, the start-ups with which we work appreciate the **autonomy** they are given"

"We give them autonomy while still taking part in **strategic decisions**"

"One of our success factors is **defining the expected objectives and operating methods** with the start-up from the outset, as well as establishing **mutual trust**"

"One of the risks is that, once integrated into the group, the **start-up loses its DNA**"

"One success factor is **thoroughly understanding the start-up's business model** and discussing the **sharing of values** from the outset"

"To coordinate our respective objectives, we ensure that the **start-up's assumptions are in line with our historical business lines**"

"We are aware of the importance of **not locking in** the start-up (e.g., not granting exclusivity rights for too long a period) to maintain its momentum"

Note: Quotes taken from interviews.

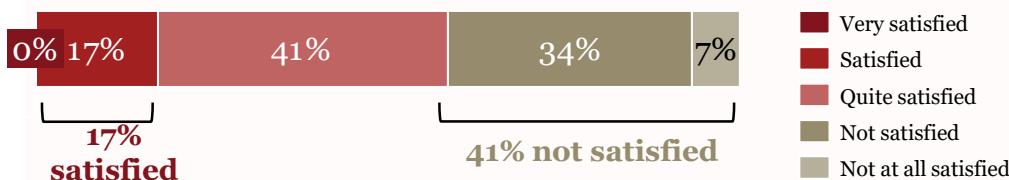


... but operational implementation is complicated, with the various players expressing reservations as to the collaboration's success

► Only 17% of start-ups are satisfied with their relationships with major players...

... while more than 40% of start-ups say they are not satisfied

Satisfaction levels of start-ups with their collaboration with major players



Success factors:

- #1 A co-construction approach between start-up and group (60%)
- #2 An influential point of contact within the group (53%)
- #3 Sufficient maturity of the start-up, and risk-taking by the group (27%)

Failure factors:

- #1 The group's response time (69%)
- #2 A non-influential point of contact within the group (54%)
- #3 Risk aversion from the group (38%)

Sources: Results based on a survey of 43 start-ups (see appendix). Percentage of the start-ups that responded to our survey that have a relationship with major players (29 start-ups).

Source: PwC analyses and survey

Strategy& | PwC

► Major players are still dubious as to the success of a collaboration with a start-up...

... but some encouraging feedback is emerging from players who have already structured their innovation approach

"Start-ups are **very far away from mass production** at reasonable prices"

"It is **difficult to measure the externalities** of a collaboration"

"The **return on investment** does not live up to expectations"

"We find it **difficult to decode the start-up environment**, but we concede that **they are a threat**"

"Start-ups are **not yet mature enough**"

"The **contract of trust was fulfilled** and the initial business plans delivered"

"After a lot of communications and financial investments, we have entered into **very few concrete collaborations**"

"The **expectations** of both parties are **too high**"

Note: Quotes taken from interviews.



Historical players are increasingly incorporating start-ups into their innovation approaches, using collaboration methods that are still being developed

Food tech is now clearly identified as a source of innovation by historical players, who use it to ramp up their innovation policies and improve their image

► **Collaboration with start-ups: an essential part of the innovation policies of historical players**

- All the historical players surveyed said that they work with start-ups, with most of them saying that **they had not yet sufficiently developed the collaboration**
- Collaboration with start-ups is most often **prompted by**:
 - **Monitoring** by major groups
 - **Often limited in-house innovation resources** (specific skills, budgets, etc.)

► **Yet collaboration is still often fragile and poorly structured**

- **Major group/start-up relationships are often weakened by the group's lack of agility** (decision-making/response times, non-influential points of contact, risk aversion)
- Currently, **customer/supplier relationships are the preferred form of collaboration**, as they allow the start-up to retain its autonomy and agility and limit risk for the group



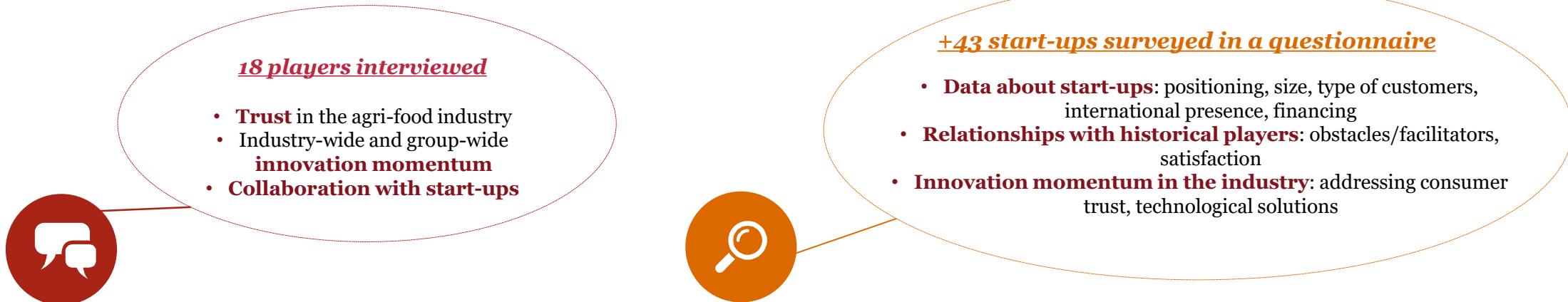
Appendix 1

Methodology



Methodology used for the study

- This study was carried out by the **PwC and Strategy& teams in France**, with support from various industry and technology experts from the international PwC network
- In order to gain a thorough and broad understanding of the issues, **we interviewed 18 players in the agri-food value chain in France: cooperatives, processors and distributors**. The people interviewed were mainly from innovation departments. The purpose of these interviews was to analyse their **perception of consumer trust and how this perception is taken into account in their innovation strategies**. The interviews were also used to establish an overview of collaboration between historical agri-food players and start-ups in the industry, as well as the key success factors in these collaborations
- Alongside this, some **45 food tech start-ups in France replied to an online survey**. The results were used to determine the **typical profile of start-ups in the industry**, the way they **collaborate with historical agri-food players**, their perception of these collaborations, key success factors and obstacles
- We also **interviewed** other players with a link to food tech in France, such as **incubators/accelerators** (SmartFood Paris, ShakeUp Factory), a food tech **investment fund** (Capagro), and a player that monitors and facilitates relationships between start-ups and historical players (DigitalFoodLab)



Appendix 2

*Other examples of
innovation around
the six key areas for
transformation*





Innovations to improve consumer perceptions of food safety focus around freshness and eliminating non-natural ingredients or residues

Examples of innovation

Company	Innovation
Nestlé Herta	Nitrite-free ham, reduced-salt ham
Sonneveld inspiring bakery solutions	Sonneveld has developed two "Clean Label" additive-free preservatives
Ynsect	Production of insect-based products, particularly for aquaculture, to provide aquaculture farms with natural nutrition
ALKION BIO INNOVATIONS	Production of natural food additives, natural flavourings, essential oils and biopesticides
MyEasy Farm	Tool for visualising input prescription per plot and mapping weather conditions to prevent unintended propagation
PRECIFIELD	Scanners to measure organic matter and generate inter-plot maps
ecorobotix	Completely autonomous machine for ecological weeding of crop rows

Company	Innovation
Carbon Bee	Sensors to detect weeds and optimise weeding
AIRINOV L'avenir de vos terres est dans le ciel	Using drones, Airinov technology can map fields with a high level of accuracy and check production quality
CitizenFarm	Production system using aquaponics for individuals in the form of an aquatic vegetable garden: herbs, fruit and vegetables can be produced without chemicals through this fish-bacteria-water-plants ecosystem
elementum	Software for real-time management of inventory levels for multiple players (a single safety stock point for the entire chain to limit intermediate holding stages)
E K I M Robots in the city	Development of a robot capable of autonomously preparing and cooking a pizza, thereby preventing health problems linked to handling by humans
PAYET & RIVIÈRE LA RÉUNION	Use of an old method of producing sugar (galabé) without additives, colourings or preservatives

Natural
products

Reduced inputs

Freshness and
monitoring



Innovations to improve nutritional value and balance the composition of each food product

Examples of innovation

Company	Innovation
 •gula•	Healthy snack subscription service
 MonGrillon	Products made from crickets (which are highly nutritious), free from pesticides, GMOs, colourings and preservatives
 Les Nouveaux Affineurs	Les Nouveaux Affineurs are launching a range of gourmet cheeses that are 100% vegan
 INSTITUT DANONE	Design of a documentary kit to raise awareness among parents of the importance of diversifying their children's diets
 	A number of brands offer plant-based (soy) drinks with added calcium to help compensate for deficiencies

Company	Innovation
 TRY3Ü	Vegan protein blends and superfoods
 Nestlé	Development of plant-based prepared food (e.g., sausages) that still taste good thanks to the use of natural additives (e.g., herbs)
 ALGAMA <small>made from microalgae</small>	Food products made from highly nutritious microalgae (e.g., spirulina, algae containing 65% protein)
 AFINEUR	Afineur selects and prepares suitable microbes for use in a controlled natural fermentation process that can improve product characteristics and enhance nutritional value
 Danacol	Danone has created a range of Danacol dairy products enriched with plant sterols to reduce cholesterol



Compensating for deficiencies



Reducing unhealthy content



Developing new ingredients/recipes

Innovations to improve proximity between producers and end customers, both geographically and in terms of the value chain

Examples of innovation

Company	Innovation
	With Localizz, the producer and distance from the consumer are indicated for each product so that consumers can buy products that were produced or processed in their region
	Community where users can purchase local products via a short circuit from nearby producers and craftspeople
	Monthly subscription box containing seeds, fertilisers and tips on how to garden and grow ingredients in the best conditions, on balconies and terraces or in gardens
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2016: the Objectif 100 hectares charter aiming for 100 hectares of green space in Paris, with one third devoted to urban agriculture. In 2017: launch of the Chapelle International project to develop an urban farm of 0.7 hectares, including a 1,200 sq.m greenhouse for hydroponics, a permaculture area and a local distribution network in the 18th arrondissement of Paris through local Franprix convenience stores

Company	Innovation
	Chapeau de paille is a coalition of farms where consumers can directly pick their own vegetables, fruit and even flowers
	Collaborative search engine that indexes and geolocates all sustainably farmed local food solutions by product category and type of solution for B2B customers (farmers and self-managed collective catering companies) to promote local short circuits
	Carrefour runs urban agriculture projects, such as installing vegetable gardens on the roofs of its stores
	Creation of collective gardens at companies' premises, managed by employees to help them reconnect with nature



Geographical proximity



Simplified value chain



Traceability innovations making it possible to gather information from players in the chain and guarantee the continuity of conservation and handling precautions

Examples of innovation

Company	Innovation	Company	Innovation
  OSITRADE Agri Blockchain	Ositrade is an online marketplace for grain trading , launched in September 2018. Thanks to blockchain and its variations (e.g., smart contracts), it can digitally draw up trading contracts and ensure optimum traceability for all parties in the chain (collectors, storage operators, traders, processors, etc.)	  ePROVENANCE	Eprovenance is developing a solution (sensors + algorithm) to manage storage conditions for high-end products (e.g., exceptional wines)
  MyEasy Farm	For traceability purposes, the data recovered for each plot can be used to map out input prescription (maps of sowing density and the modulation of fertilisers or plant health products)	  Transparency-One	Platform for modelling the entire supply chain , keeping track of compliance certifications and generating analyses to actively manage company risks, in particular by reducing fraud, the number of non-compliant sites, CSR risks and unknown sources
  BUREAU VERITAS	Bureau Veritas provides supply chain traceability certification using blockchain technology. The tuna supply chain was traced in this way, from fishing to the end consumer		





A number of innovations to help time-limited consumers take control over their diet and its impact

Examples of innovation

Company	Innovation
 Care eat	Blog where consumers can consult dozens of recipes made using out-of-date ingredients
 buyfresco tu personal shopper de la alimentación	Weekly service delivering five recipes and organic, high-quality, seasonal ingredients to make them
 far	The application scans the product packaging and uses augmented reality to advise consumers with a selected or personalised diet
 Allergobox.com	Web portal where users with allergies and food intolerances can identify products and recipes that are compatible with their dietary restrictions
 KITCHEN TROTTER	Subscription to a monthly box containing the ingredients and recipe to make a meal from a different destination each month

Company	Innovation
 FRICHTI	Frichti delivers meals prepared by chefs in its own kitchens, using seasonal ingredients , to customers' homes
 Avec Plaisir	Platform where consumers can find places to eat allergen-free meals , for people with food intolerances, diabetes, or a vegan diet
 GOODMIX Manger & bouger plus sain	Platform for personalised health plans : users can determine their health profile and evaluate their food habits and the platform then suggests suitable recipes
 Ma Yummybox	MaYummyBox is a baking box for children aged 4-12. It includes dry ingredients, baking accessories and recipes to learn how to bake
 hoplabon	Consumers choose a recipe on the application and specify a number of portions (the quantity of ingredients is calculated automatically). This is then delivered to their home, where they can cook the meal using explanations from the application. Seasonal ingredients are used



Home-made



Personalisation



Saving on time



Positive externalities

Industry players are adapting their communications to restore consumer trust by being more transparent with consumers

Examples of innovation

Company	Innovation
	In 2018, the French Economic, Social and Environmental Council voted in favour of creating a new official sign of the quality and origin of food products with a new organic, local farming and traceability label
	In the 2016 French Health Act, the French government recommended introducing information on the nutritional value of food products. 73 food manufacturers and distributors have already committed to displaying the Nutri-Score logo on their products
	Day by Day is a network of greengrocers selling products loose, so that consumers can buy just the quantity they need, with an environmentally friendly approach (no packaging)
	Launched in 2017, the "C'est moi qui fabrique" (make it myself) initiative aims to introduce consumers to the commitments made by the Nestlé group and its brands. Nestlé has opened up five factories for consumers to visit and take part in production alongside employees

Company	Innovation
	Created in 2017, the purpose of the Ferme France association, founded by historical agri-food players, is to set up a labelling system assessing products' societal characteristics based on five themes: traceability, health and nutrition, animal well-being, the environment and fair pay
	The brand aims to protect pay for producers and develop products with specifications requested by consumers
	Un Air d'ici offers a range of self-service "Juste bio" (simply organic) products by providing equipment, bags and loose products for supermarket chains
	On e-RSE's online CSR index, companies share their CSR approaches in a conversational format within communities. e-RSE supports companies in their corporate and CSR communications, from strategy to image management



CSR approach



Labels



Packaging



Communication

Product information innovations aimed at enhancing the clarity of the product offering so that customers can make an informed decision

Examples of innovation

Company	Innovation
	Web portal where users with allergies and food intolerances can identify products and recipes that are compatible with their dietary restrictions
	In its "1000 jours pour manger mieux" (eating better in 1000 days) manifesto published in May 2018, the French National Association of Agri-food Industries (ANIA) undertook to develop a digital platform bringing together available information about products for consumers, public authorities and professionals. The roadmap will be finalised on 31 October 2018
	Open Food Facts (a not-for-profit citizen project) is a database on food products that anybody can contribute to or consult
	With this shopping list application, consumers scan product bar codes to see their Nutri-Score, allergens, additives, etc., as well as equivalent healthier products. The list generated can then be shared with family and friends

Company	Innovation
	Digital word-of-mouth application to find trusted restaurants based on the opinions of friends, family or the community, rather than a generic online review
	Launched in 2017, the application Yuka can be used by consumers to scan products and analyse their impact on their health. In the blink of an eye, it automatically deciphers the labels to show consumers which products are healthy and which should be avoided. When consumers scan a product with a negative health impact, Yuka recommends an equivalent, better quality product. The application recently reached 4 million downloads
	Kwalito helps consumers understand food product labels so they know exactly what they're eating and can find suitable products



Clarity

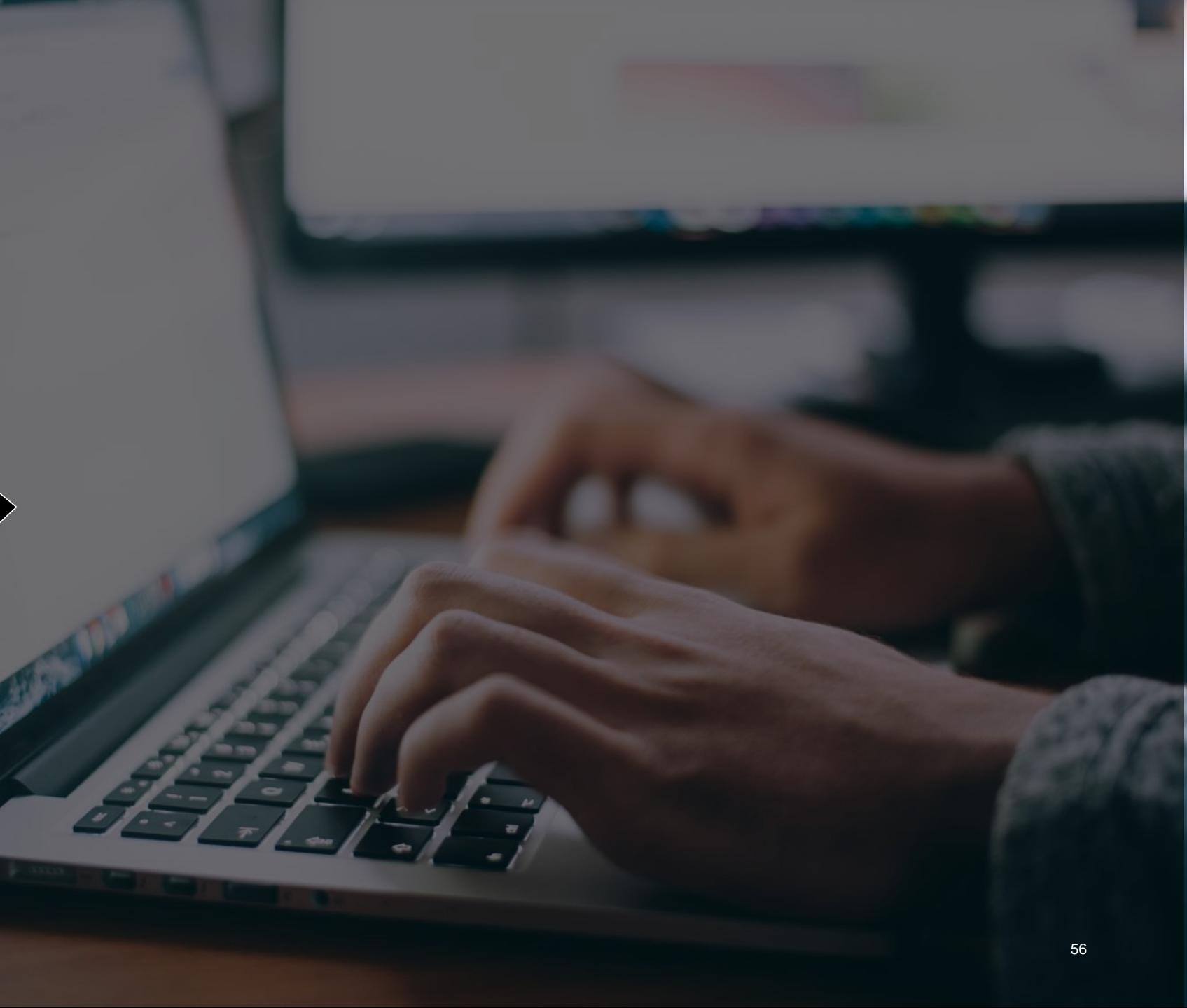


Information



Sharing

Appendix 3 *The authors of this* *report*



Authors



Sabine Durand-Hayes

Partner

Consumer Goods sector leader
sabine.durand@pwc.com



Baptiste Bannier

Director

Agriculture & Cooperatives sector leader
baptiste.bannier@pwc.com



Vincent Espie

Director

Strategy&
vincent.espie@pwc.com



Nour Tekaya

Associate

Business Development &
Marketing
nour.tekaya@pwc.com



Julien Bellynck

Senior Manager

Agriculture & Cooperatives expert
julien.bellynck@pwc.com



Julien Léveque-Claudet

Senior Associate

Strategy&
julien.leveque-claudet@pwc.com



Claire Décamp

Senior Associate

Agriculture & Cooperatives
claire.decamp@pwc.com



Sylvain Alias

Senior Associate

Strategy&
sylvain.alias@pwc.com