Nebraska Engineering is working to lead national efforts in the fight to end global hunger. Through a partnership forged with food industry leaders, the College of Engineering is addressing one of the truly challenging issues of our time – supplying the world with safe and nutritious food.

The opportunity to ensure a stable and sustainable supply of food is an enormous task, given that hunger kills more people each year than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. By 2050 the earth’s population is expected to reach eight billion people and, according to the United Nations, food processing and production will need to increase by 60%. Climate change, forced migration and disease are making it more difficult, not easier, to achieve food security.

Nebraska Engineering is taking the lead by organizing a private-public consortium to create an advanced manufacturing institute that will make food more plentiful and more affordable. This process began with a workshop in May 2015 (The Food Factory of the Future), attended by university faculty/researchers and industry professionals from the U.S. and worldwide. The participants focused on addressing the need for worldwide access to high quality food. To achieve this goal, advanced manufacturing technologies are critical.

The college, along with food growers and manufacturers, government officials and university administrators, is working to create a national food manufacturing institute to streamline food processing and production without compromising quality.

“This is what research universities should be doing. This is what should happen to really get people together to explore things and push the boundaries and begin to look at increasing the quantity and quality of food. I want to salute this university and the organizers of this conference and this community for everything you’re doing to help bring such a world about.”

Madeleine Albright
former U.S. Secretary of State, during her speech at the 2015 Food Factory of the Future Workshop in Lincoln, Nebraska