



# TRANSFORMATIONAL FOOD MANUFACTURING WORKSHOP



Washington, D.C. • May 10-11, 2016

## Overview

While great strides have been made over the past several decades to make food more affordable, safer, more convenient, of greater variety and higher quality, there is still more work to be done. As many as 15% of U.S. household struggle with food insecurity and more than 800 million are undernourished worldwide.

Global climate change, population growth, an expanding global middle class, competition from sustainable fuels, a move to lower efficiency farming practices, and greater water scarcity will all put tremendous pressure on the global food system. A small shift in each of these factors, compounded together, could have a huge impact and could manifest in a short period of time.

It is critical to our social, economic, and political security that the food industry step-change the level of technology and automation used in food manufacturing and distribution to help counter these forces and continue to make good food more affordable to the world. Currently, the food industry in the United States is under extraordinary cost pressures, with many of the major corporations recently making massive budget cuts and virtually eliminating any in-house technology research. We must move food manufacturing technology forward ahead of the many pressures our food supply will soon be facing.

Therefore, we recommend the creation of a pre-competitive public/private consortium where academia, industry, and government can pool resources, focus energies, and work together to unlock critical technological enablers toward this food industry future state.

The purpose of the workshop in May is to gather experts from industry and academia to define a clear roadmap of what technological unlocks are needed, which of those we expect other industries to advance and so we can just monitor, which of those we expect other industries to advance but we need to create a bridging or adaption strategy, and which are unique to our industry's needs and so must be advanced by our consortium.

The workshop will also have groups tackling what needs to be done for workforce development to begin building the workforce of tomorrow; industry codes and standard to better enable pre-competitive technologies to roll out across the industry; and academia to adapt food science and food engineering college curriculum to what will be a much higher technology industry.