



RESEARCH ASSOCIATION  
OF THE GERMAN FOOD INDUSTRY

# ***Facts & Figures***

***“We promote  
progress.”***



## FEI at a glance

<b>Organization</b>	Research Association of the German Food Industry, Bonn <i>Forschungskreis der Ernährungsindustrie e.V. (FEI)</i>
<b>Chairman</b>	Dr Jürgen Kohnke; Pfeifer & Langen, Cologne
<b>Manager</b>	Dr Volker Häusser
<b>Objective</b>	Promotion of practice-oriented food research to ensure the competitiveness of the food industry
<b>Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 60 companies</li><li>● 55 branch associations/organizations of the German food industry</li><li>● 120 research institutes in Germany and Switzerland</li></ul>
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Promotion of collective research projects (approx. 70 projects per year)</li><li>● Representation of interests/advisory service to the members in R&amp;D</li><li>● Arranging of contacts and cooperations between industry and science</li><li>● Organization of conferences and meetings</li><li>● Publication of reports, manuals, documentations, etc.</li></ul>
<b>Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● FEI annual conference (annually)</li><li>● FEI cooperation forum (annually)</li><li>● FEI workshops (not regularly)</li><li>● Meetings of the Scientific Committee (three times a year)</li><li>● Meetings of the project committees (70-80 times a year)</li><li>● Board meetings</li></ul>
<b>Publications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Documentation of the FEI annual meeting</li><li>● FEI manual</li><li>● R&amp;D report</li><li>● R&amp;D documentations (project reports)</li></ul>
<b>Umbrella organization</b>	AiF ( <i>Arbeitsgemeinschaft industrieller Forschungsvereinigungen e.V.</i> , German Federation of Industrial Research Associations), Cologne

## What is the FEI?

In all its activities, the Research Association of the German Food Industry (FEI) follows its objective to organize applied research projects across the competitive borders of individual companies.

The FEI was founded in 1953 on **initiative of research-focused companies**. It is the only industry-wide research organization operating on behalf of all parts of the German food industry.

**Ninety percent of the approx. 6,000 companies of the German food industry** as well as a major part of the food craft and the supplying industry are members of the FEI, either by direct membership or as members of a branch association. Sixty companies are direct members of the FEI and immediately involved in its activities.

The Research Association co-operates with a large number of well-established scientific institutions: research facilities at universities, federal and state research institutes as well as institutes from the public and private sector. **120 research institutes** represent the scientific, personal and structural base required to process application-oriented research.

The head office of the FEI is located in Bonn (Germany). Thanks to an EU liaison office in Brussels, the FEI is also represented on European level and is, therefore, capable of supporting the research activities of its members throughout Europe.



## *Service profile*

The FEI connects food industry and food science on German and European level. For research-oriented companies - in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – it facilitates the cooperation with renowned scientists. Also it gives these experts the opportunity to co-operate on a sustainable level with companies from the food industry.

### **The FEI offers in particular:**

- a network to realize innovative research ideas
- active participation in collective research projects and their public funding
- the arrangement of research contacts and cooperation partners
- professional project management including implemented success control mechanisms
- a pool of voluntary experts for project evaluation
- active support in the transfer of technology
- information on latest food research results
- participation in scientific events
- providing advice on national and international research programs
- lobbying of R&D interests



## Industrial Collective Research

Main focus of the FEI's activities is the coordination and promotion of projects of the Industrial Collective Research (IGF = *Industrielle Gemeinschaftsforschung*). IGF is promoted by the German Federal Ministry of Economy and Technology via AiF. It supports **long-term research cooperations among industrial networks** and allows, in particular, SMEs to gain access to research results of practical relevance. **Public funding** is subject to certain services that must be rendered by the industry.

Applications for new research projects can be submitted to the FEI three times a year. The topics of new products are not predefined, but focussed on products and processes. A quality competition based on the following criteria will decide on whether these projects will be accepted or not:

- innovative potential
- relevance to a specific practical application
- pre-competitiveness
- relevance to SMEs



*"Sometimes you are only one step away from an innovation – we help you to make this step, no matter how small or big it is."*



## *Collective research on EU level*

Through its own EU liaison office in Brussels, the FEI has been supporting and accompanying the research activities of its members on European Union level since 2001.



### **7<sup>th</sup> EU Research Framework Programme**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme funded by the European Union was launched in 2007 and started with a much higher research budget compared to the previous programme.

For the thematic priority "Food, Agriculture, Fisheries, and Biotechnology" alone 1.935 billion EUR will be available in the years of 2007 to 2013.

The FEI's EU liaison office always provides its members with up-to-date information on the contents and deadlines of calls and work programmes published by the Commission. For applicants, it offers specific "guidelines" developed in cooperation with EU evaluators.



### **European Technology Platform "Food for Life"**

European Technology Platforms (ETP) play a central role in the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme. They promote competitiveness and bring stakeholders together in key economic sectors. The ETP "Food for Life" develops a long-term vision of the sector and identifies research and innovation priorities.





The FEI has been working on the committees and working groups of the ETP from the beginning and represents the interests of the German food industry as a National Platform.



CORNET ("Collective Research Network") supports organizations to conduct collective research projects on a transnational level. This means German IGF projects can be expanded by parallel activities in other European countries. CORNET projects are financed by national funds.

**For information on European research topics,  
please contact:**

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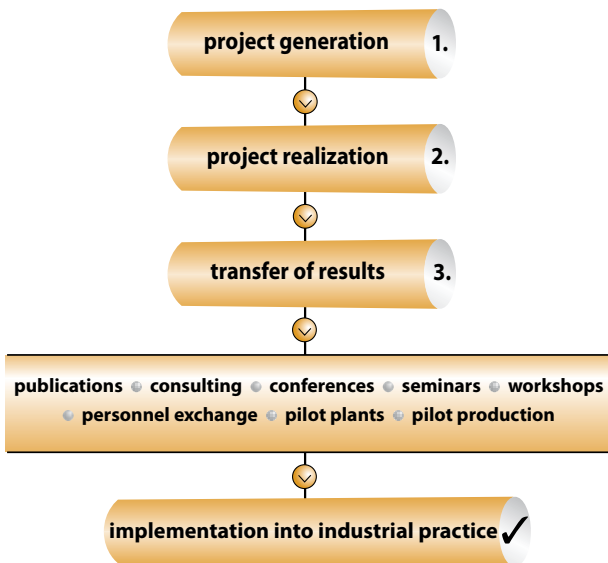
**Links to additional information:**

[www.fei-bonn.de/netzwerk/eu\\_forschung/](http://www.fei-bonn.de/netzwerk/eu_forschung/)



## *The FEI's role during the innovation process*

Due to its encouragement of research projects, the FEI acts as a catalyst in the industrial innovation process. It creates the institutional framework – from project generation to implementation into practice.



## *Research for the food industry*

The topics and objectives of the FEI's research projects are defined by the industry ("bottom-up approach"). They result directly from industrial applications and their requirements.

### **Central subject areas are:**

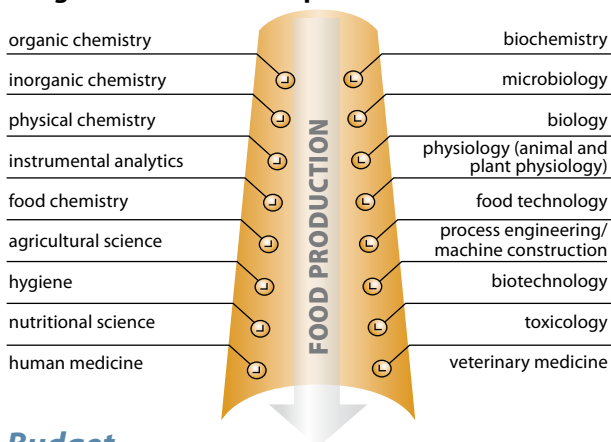
- process development and optimization
- analysis methods and measurement procedures
- product behaviour during processing
- new technologies



## Interdisciplinarity

Application-oriented food research requires a high degree of interdisciplinary cooperation and networking within the industry. The FEI ensures this by integrating a large number of different scientific disciplines.

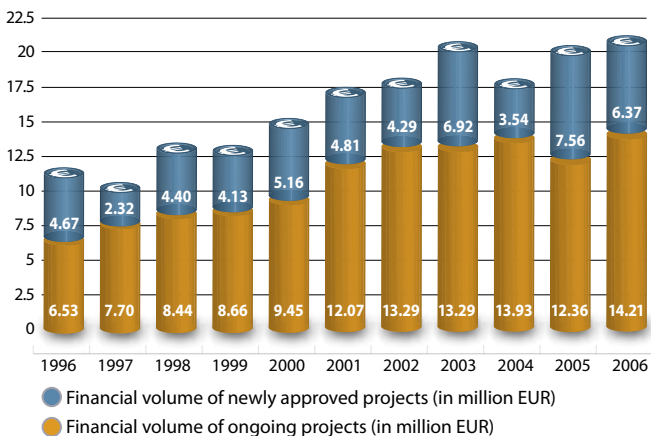
### Integrated scientific disciplines



## Budget

The annual budget allocated to the research projects coordinated by the FEI is more than 20 million EUR. This budget increased by more than 80% between 1996 and 2006 – a development that serves the competitiveness of SMEs in the food industry.

### Budget development (over a period of 10 years)




## *The FEI innovation network*

The FEI has established a network for innovation which encourages progress in modern food production on a broad interdisciplinary basis by linking industry and science. The results are used to develop new products and processes, to improve the quality of food products, and to increase the efficiency and environmental sustainability of food production.

The collective research pursued by FEI is documented by more than 700 successfully completed research projects, which were conducted at the 120 research institutes associated with the FEI in research facilities at universities, federal and state research institutes, and institutes from the public and private sector.

In fact, many companies use the results of FEI projects today without being aware of where they originated. Important results have now become the recognized state-of-the-art as well as common knowledge and have found applications in industrial practice. The research efforts undertaken by FEI make an important contribution to the competitiveness of the German food industry.



*"The future of the food industry is shaped today – our research and development ensures a safe future."*

# Location of FEI research institutes





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