

Food processing experts share their predictions for the next 3-5 years



"In the next 3-5 years we are going to experience significant changes in consumer behaviour and expectations (we already are), and thus food production, distribution, retail and consumption will adopt accordingly. We are already facing a challenge of producing sufficient amount of high-quality food, meaning we have to face challenges beyond "from farm to fork". Sustainability, clean label, free of, food origin, minimally processed, are just few of many drivers for changes and innovation. Some years ago food consumption was related with supplying the body with energy. Today it is much more than that. Alternative technologies as well as conventional will continue improving and finding new applications in creating new and better foods, finding and utilizing different natural resources, or utilizing the existing ones in a more efficient way."

Dr. Kemal Aganovic, German Institute of Food Technologies (DIL e.V.)

"In the next 3 to 5 years, a differentiation will appear between companies that really place food safety and quality first versus those that don't. The differentiation will not only be in market share, but also in profit levels. The factors driving this change are unannounced audits by certification scheme owners and customers, stricter and more powerful action from the authorities, and last but not least the (financial) impact of not having enough understanding of the entire food supply chain and managing risks accordingly. When food producers are insufficiently aware of potential risks in the food supply chain, the question is no longer if a recall will occur, but when."

Rob Kooijmans, co-founder and co-owner of FoodRecall



"In the next years, food industry's focus further on will be on the consumers demand for healthy and high quality food. Recent surveys among consumers clearly prove that health and healthy nutrition as well as high quality products are of major interest. To comply with this demand, food industry has to gain more and more insight – also with respect to new resource-efficient technologies - into food processing on a molecular basis. Our 14-C tracing approach will facilitate to obtain this knowledge, which finally helps to follow the consumers demand for healthy and high quality food products."

Bernd Gökener, Fraunhofer

"The food packaging market is expected to grow in the coming years. Since the food industry is driven by the consumer needs, it will face more and more challenges regarding the potent side effects of food preservatives/additives."

Aurélie Furiga Chusseau, Pylote



"There is strong need to move to energy friendly concentration technologies in order to reduce the carbon foot print of the food industry. In principle, all evaporations processes could be replaced by forward osmosis technology."

Lex van Dijk, BLUE-tec