

BIM EMFAF Work Programme Project Report 2023

BENEFICIARY:	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER:	23/SPIS/DIS-BG011-BR060
NAME OF PROJECT:	Innovation Advisory Programme
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:	1 st January to 31 st December 2023

Project Scope

Innovation policy is the interface between research and technological development policy and industrial policy and aims to create a conducive framework for bringing ideas to market. The Commission for Research, Science and Innovation said that third level partnerships contribute directly to EU competitiveness and policy goals. The key strength of the partnerships is their ability to engage major industry partners and to overcome fragmentation in sectors. The European Commission in 2017 at the Gothenburg Social Summit, suggested that education and culture are essential to develop a more inclusive, cohesive, and competitive Europe. The European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation through the Research, Innovation and Science Expert (RISE) Group details the need for R&I policy to work with education and employment policy to secure high quality jobs for citizens and the need for European policy and funding to be aligned with national, regional, local, and even global ambitions.

Leading on from the policies on linkage with third level institutions, BIM invited and subsequently received applications from third level institutions for specific Innovation Advisory Services across several disciplines. The innovation advisory service during 2023 included three themes of food sciences, financial commerce, and marketing sustainability. The applications for innovation advisory services were received from registered third level institutions and the services applied to seafood category issues within the seafood sector and results were disseminated to the industry.

Objectives

The project objective was to utilise third level institutions as a wealth of expertise to the application on several technologies including, seafood nutrition, food science, culinary NPD, financial assessments, and market insights. This expertise was used to support the delivery of specific projects to include:

- Innovation advisory support on the application of shelf-life enhancer packaging technologies to support fresh seafood to export markets and affect reduction in product waste, to include materials, equipment, and costs.
- Innovation advisory support on the economic assessment on implementation of green financing for the seafood processing sector.
- Innovation advisory support on the application of automated packaging solutions to build sustainable and competitive solutions business solutions.
- Innovation advisory support on the implementation of functional seafood to consumers to meet market drivers as part of a health and nutrition agenda.
- Innovation advisory support on the application of communicating and knowledge transfer to seafood processors to enable the implementation of Innovation structures and skills within an SME.



Outcomes

The specific progress includes:

- Report on trials of shelf-life enhancer packaging technology on fresh seafood with the aim of reduction in product waste, to include materials, equipment, and costs. The report showed marginal benefits, however when weighted against the additional process step and increasing costs, it did not transpose into a commercial opportunity.
- Report and toolkit on informing the consideration on implementation of green financing for the seafood processing sector.
- Report on the application of automated packaging solutions building sustainable and competitive solutions. Based on the technology demonstrations some seafood companies continued to invest in the technology to support efficiencies and competitiveness.
- Nutritional information manual and leaflets for seafood retailers to communicate functional seafood nutrition to consumers, as an aide to meet market drivers as part of a health and nutrition agenda. The project has been highly successful and further support was requested from the seafood sector.
- Design of innovation mentoring structure, to develop innovation knowledge transfer to seafood processors enabling the implementation of Innovation structures and skills. The programme was highly successful with client companies stating that it was important in building their in-house capability.

Summary of Project Spend

Summary of Spend	
Total Approved Costs	€165,000
Total Eligible Expenditure	€156,237
EMFAF Eligible Expenditure	€78,118
Exchequer	€78,118

Report by: Paul Ward

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an Aontas Eorpach

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