



**Food Valley**

**Food sector ecosystem in Eastern Finland (Northern Savo)**

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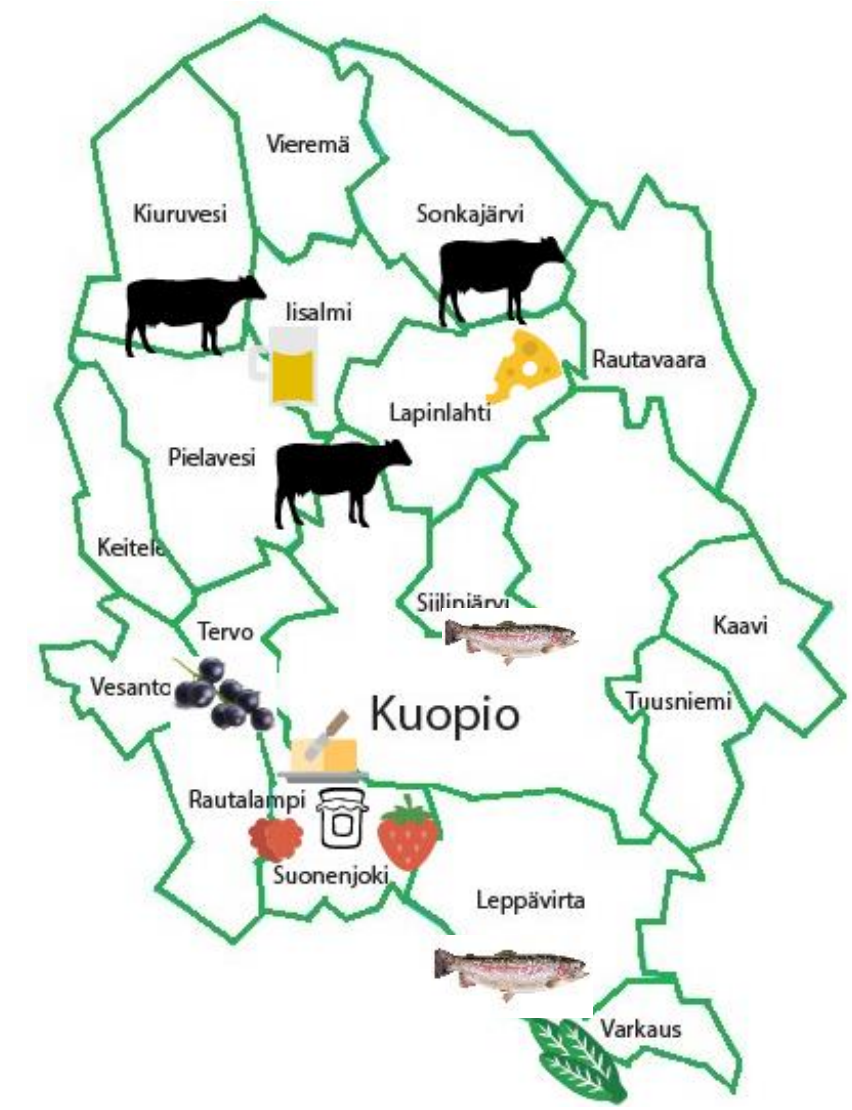
**Vipuvoimaa**  
**EU:lta**  
2014–2020



# Background

## Recognized need for a coordinated network in Northern Savo region

- There is prosperous food industry (SMEs and big companies) in the region as well as research, education, and services, but no established cluster for operational network and efficiency
- Nutritional know-how and research at the University of Eastern Finland had concentrated on fats and carbohydrates; companies and partners had required for research platforms for proteins and a gut model including studying microbiota-related effects
- Know-how in food technology should be strengthened in the region



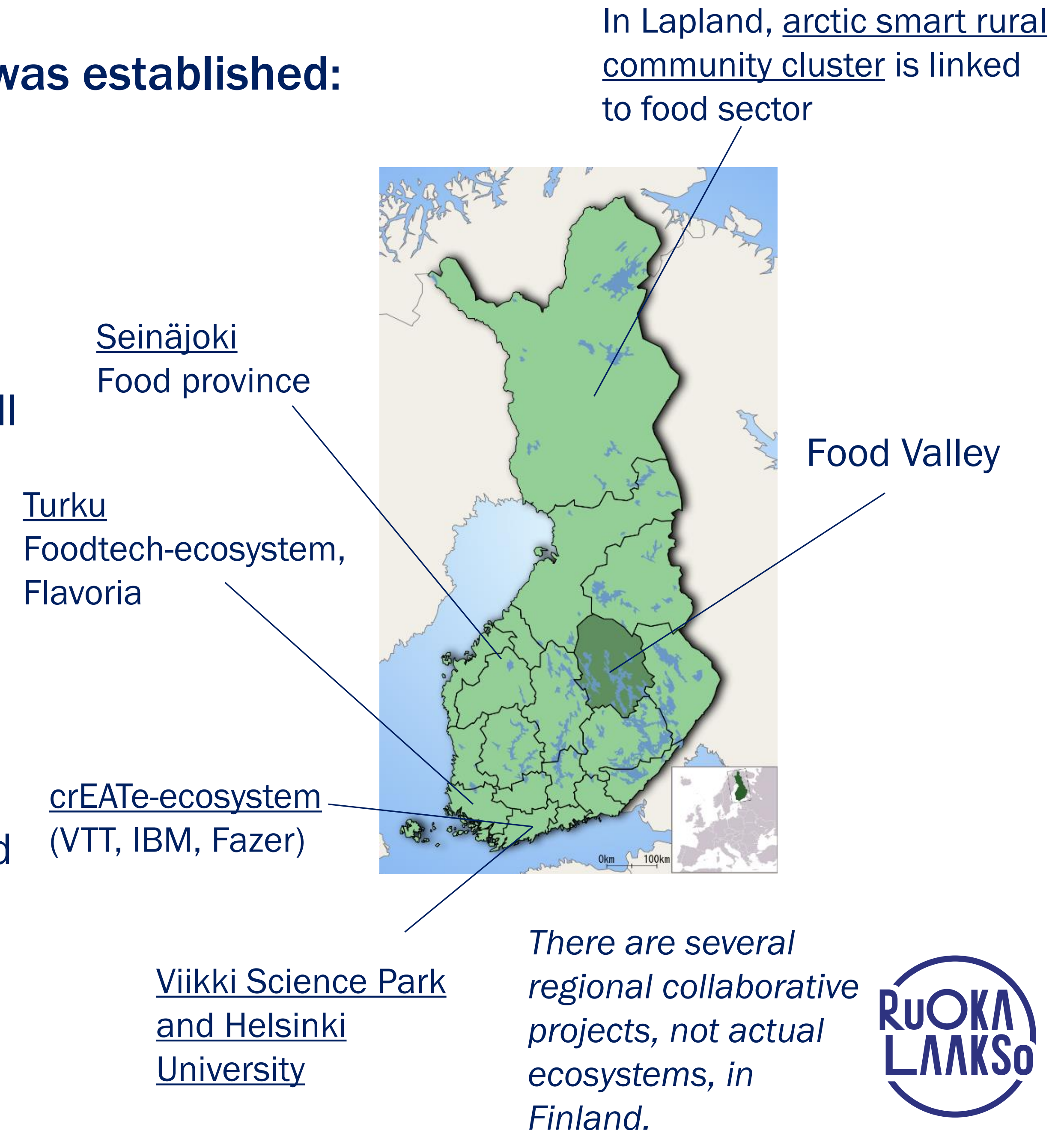


# To act on the recognized lacks, Food Valley was established: **Ruokalaakso / Food Valley**

## Food Valley project (2018-2020)

1) An established regional and nationally linked network in food sector (ecosystem/cluster) will be created during the project

➤ Food Valley will complement the other ecosystems/networks/clusters in Finland. Support services of food development are highlighted in the value chain of Food Valley, including smart specialization in new protein sources and gut health and fermentation. Food Valley's regional network also includes specialization in vertical farming, berry production, and sustainable milk production.



# Ruokalaakso / Food Valley

## Food Valley project (2018-2020)

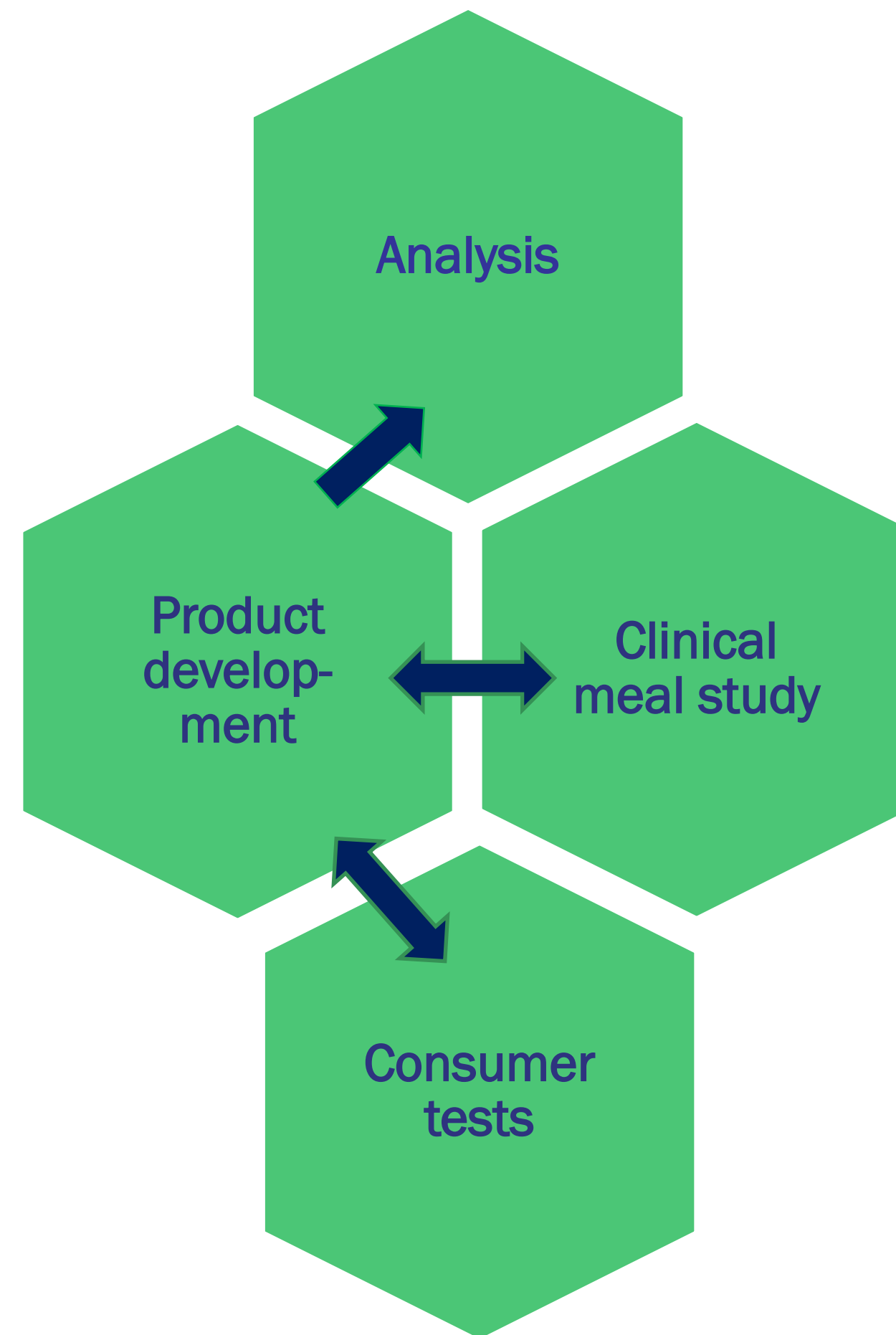
- 2) Food Valley is also improving collaboration, and highlighting know-how and services of the regional food sector
- 3) Food Valley is building up new research platforms when the following can be studied:
  - Structure, safety, and bioavailability of new protein sources
  - Gut mediated effects of foodstuffs, probiotics, prebiotics, other functional foods, and interactions between the host and gut microbiota
  - Identification of potential new probiotics and evaluation of their stability during industrial process and self-life
- 4) A food technology service to help local SMEs with food premises, machinery, and processes is developed
- 5) An online education in food technology is organized to strengthen know-how in food sector





# Berry pilot

*Goals:*   **Piloting collaboration in Food valley network**  
**Promoting berries and berry products**



## Piloting collaboration in Food valley network

- Learning to know each others know-how and facilities
- Modelling the local professional network for supporting food product development
  - Design products based on consumer needs and taste
  - Product development facilities
  - Showing the health effects

## Promoting berries and berry products

- Literature review (master thesis) about effects of berries on glucose metabolism
- Testing blackcurrant and developed blackcurrant-quinoa product in the clinical meal study
  - If the MAQUA results are convergent between earlier studies, there is possibility to apply health claim for blackcurrant
- Evidence-based development of a 'berry concept'







# Ongoing actions on platforms

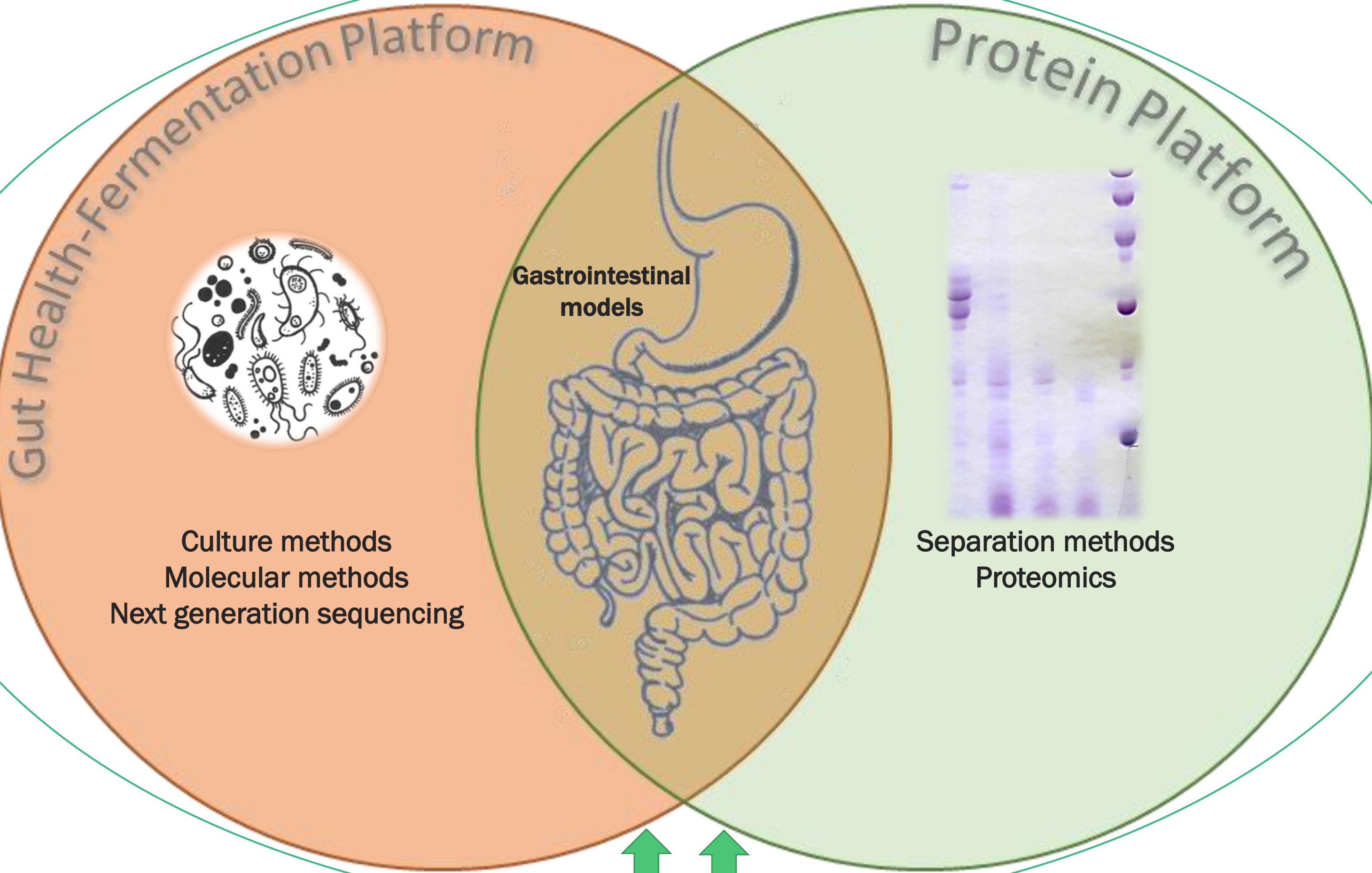


UNIVERSITY OF  
EASTERN FINLAND

VTT  
Department of Chemistry  
Department of  
Environmental and  
Biological Sciences

Local, national  
and  
international  
networking

Complementary  
expertise  
linkage



DuPont  
Valio Ltd

Viking Malt Ltd

Reviews of the recent  
evidence-based knowledge

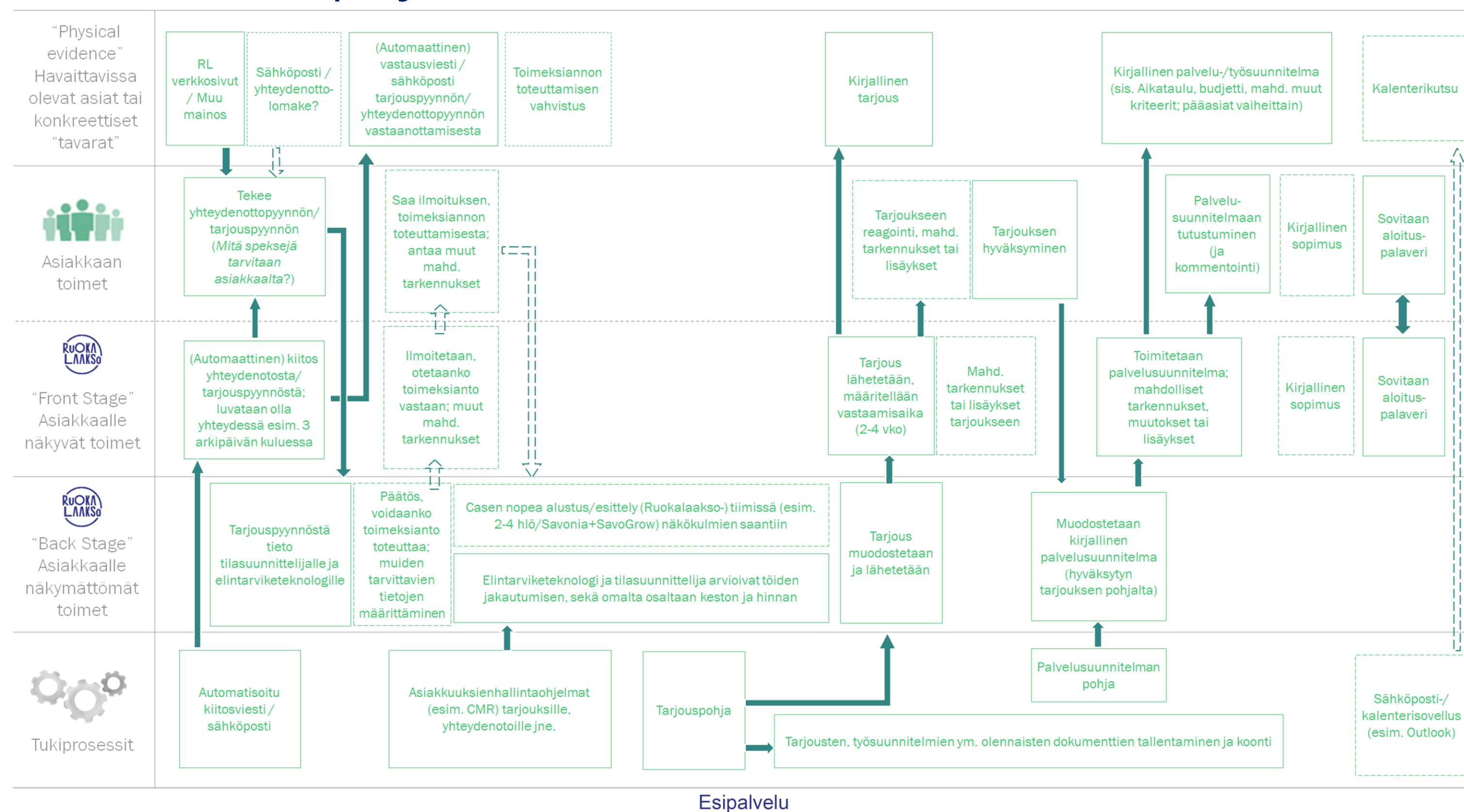
Evidence-based health  
ingredient/food developments





# Development of a food technology service

- Food Valley's food technology assists project companies with solving challenges (with food premises, machinery, processes)
  - With the help of these company pilot cases, the service is being developed to be continuous after the project





# Further training in food technology (autumn 2019 – spring 2020)

- Further training in food technology is organized in collaboration with Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences. The trainers are lecturers of bio- and food technology in Seinäjoki.
- The training is a pilot for getting experiences and needs for possible further trainings in the future
- <https://www.ruokalaakso.fi/verkosto/koulutus/>



**RuOKA  
LAAKSo**

**ELINTARVIKETEKNOLOGIAN  
TÄYDENNYSKOULUTUS**

- ✓ Työn ohessa
- ✓ Verkko-opintoina
- ✓ Käytännönläheisesti



# Food Valley connects people from science, education, development, and industry

