



# IIS FOODBOOSTER

Wallonia, a hub for  
prebiotics, probiotics and  
bioactive peptides

## CONTEXT

Moving towards **healthy diets**, able to **prevent or postpone** diet-related **diseases**, has become a major societal challenge. In this context, healthcare professionals increasingly recommend the consumption of **functional food**, which, in addition to its nutritional aspect, can also **positively impact physiological functions** and **prevent dysfunctions**. The functional food market is rapidly expanding throughout the world, and constitutes a **key economic opportunity**. The **Walloon region** is a rich ecosystem constituted of **numerous agri-food companies** covering the **entire value chain** of the functional food sector: byproduct generators, functional ingredient producers, as well as ingredient integrators. However, the functional food industrial sector is highly dependent on its **innovation capacity**. The players in this sector therefore need to be **integrated and connected to a cross-sectorial network** of research partners, pilot centers, and other companies to **boost innovation, convert research into industrial applications**, and **create value**.

## THE IIS FOODBOOSTER

The Walloon Government has recently adopted the new **Smart Specialization Strategy (S3)**, aiming at **boosting innovation** in five selected **Strategic Innovation Domains (DIS)**, responding to key societal challenges. In particular, the DIS5 focuses on **agri-food chains of the future and innovative management of the environment**, and includes the Strategic Innovation Initiative (IIS) **FoodBooster**.

The main ambition of FoodBooster is to **federate a consortium of cross-sector players** into a **structured and integrated network** focused on the **entire value chain** of the **functional ingredients** sector. This will **support innovation** in agri-food SMEs, provide **assistance in European funding**, and promote the **development of this industrial sector**. FoodBooster is particularly focused on prebiotics, probiotics and bioactive peptides used in human and animal health.

## OUR PARTNERS

The IIS FoodBooster is currently composed of **about sixty members**, including companies **producing functional ingredients**, companies searching for solutions to **valorize their byproducts**, **R&D and training organizations** (universities, research centers, higher education research units), **competitive clusters**, **federations**, **consumer** representatives, **investment funds**, and others.



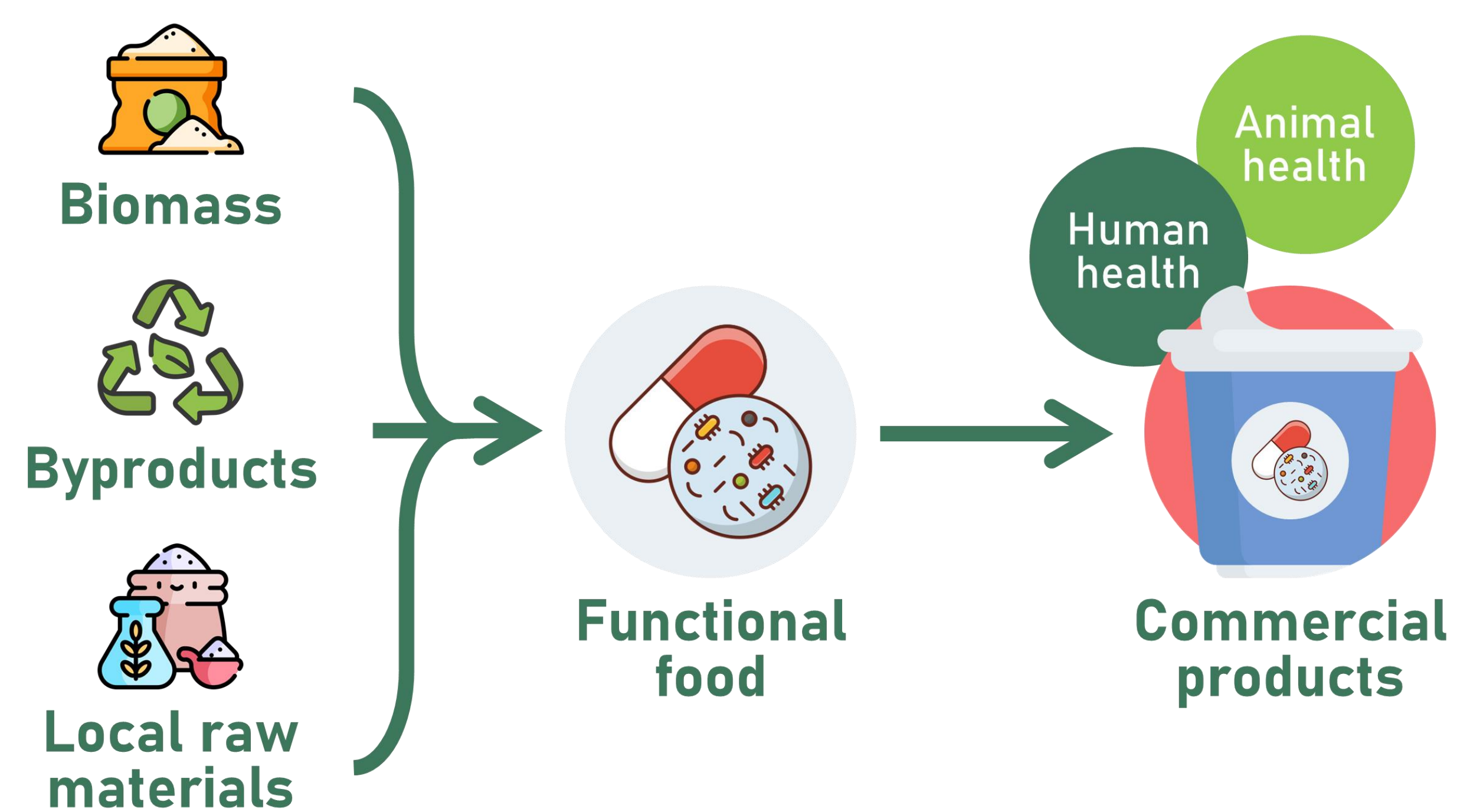
This initiative is  
supported by Wallonia  
#WallonieRelance



More information on:  
[www.foodbooster.org](http://www.foodbooster.org)



## TARGETED VALUE CHAINS



The targeted value chains extend from the **collection of byproducts** generated by the food industry to the **consumption of functional food**.

## WHAT FOODBOOSTER OFFERS:

- We support the **development of novel high-performance, environmentally-friendly processes** and **products**, meeting industrial needs and constraints.
- We facilitate **access to state-of-the-art equipment**, e.g., for **characterizing products** to position them in their **value chain** and meet **regulatory requirements** (food safety, health claims).
- We intensify **collaborative research** between different stakeholders.
- We provide assistance to companies to **obtain European funding**.
- We act as a **central point of contact** for the Wallonia's functional food industry, and we **promote its local and international visibility**.
- We promote the **valorization of byproducts** into new value chains and foster **local supply chains**, to improve the circularity and sustainability of Wallonia's agri-food industry.
- We help to ensure **training for qualified workers and young researchers**.
- We accelerate and secure innovation and decision-making processes for functional food (**fail early, fail cheap**).

(Accredited) Research Centres | Research Units



Public partners, non-profit organizations, federations, investment funds, incubators, competitive clusters, ...



Companies: By-product generators



Companies: Producers of functional ingredients



Companies: Others



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