



Bilbao becomes the global epicentre of the foodtech sector and closes the second edition of Food 4 Future with 7,217 visitors

The international technology event featured 253 exhibiting companies presenting the latest innovations that are transforming the food industry

386 experts from all over the world debated the future of food at the Food 4 Future World Summit against the backdrop of sustainability, digitalisation and new consumer habits

Madrid, 20 May 2022.- Bilbao has become the world capital of the foodtech sector this week. A total of 7,217 visitors from more than 25 countries discovered the latest innovations and technological solutions that are transforming the food and beverage industry during the second edition of [Food 4 Future - Expo Foodtech](#) at the BEC in Bilbao. With an economic impact of more than 14 million euros for the Spanish city, Food 4 Future is consolidating its position as the international benchmark technology forum for the food and beverage industry, leading innovation in the sector in all its segments: meat, beverages, fisheries, dairy, fruit and vegetables, cereals, preserves and oil.

Precisely to promote this innovation and encourage the digitisation of the industry, F4F2022 has had more than 250 exhibitors, including Ibermática, Tecnalía, Chemometric Brain, BCC Innovation, TTAf, Eurecat, Basque Food Cluster, Blendhub, Lantern, Multiscan Technologies, IFR SAU, AZTI, Dassault Systèmes, BASF, Buhler, CEIN, Agrobank, Beaz, Sener, Icx, Infor Software Iberia, T-Systems, CNTA, EIT FOOD, Convertix and Pal Robotics.

In addition, the Netherlands has been the guest country in recognition of the leadership in food system transformation that the nation champions. With the presence of this country in Bilbao, the two territories have created synergies to strengthen relations and promote a real transformation in the agri-food industry to make it more digital, sustainable and automated.

Three days of shared knowledge and experience

Food 4 Future World Summit 2022, the largest European foodtech innovation congress, analysed during the three-day event, from 17 to 19 May, the new methods applied by the food industry in each of its categories; the establishment of plant-based products and the change in consumer factors; the relationship between health and food; the concern for sustainability and the reduction of food waste; and the transformation lever that technology represents to convert these challenges into business opportunities that help the sector to continue to be one of the main sectors in the world economy.

In addition, 386 experts from around the world addressed the main issues for redesigning business models in the food sector. Big names such as **José M. Ordovás**, Director Nutrition and Genomics at Tufts University; **Andoni Luis Aduriz**, chef and founder of Mugaritz; or **Dipika Matthias**, from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, shared the stage with consolidated organisations such as Coca-Cola,



Carrefour, Angulas Aguinaga, AZTI or Blendhub, to help the industry move towards more efficient and sustainable production systems, through the experience of real cases that are already succeeding today.

The edition with the greatest presence of emerging talent

Food 4 Future 2022 was the edition that brought together most international startups. In an exclusive space of more than 4,000 square metres, the main emerging companies of the foodtech ecosystem were able to present their latest innovations, disruptive products and services. More than 200 entrepreneurial projects took part in the **FoodTech Startup Forum**, where startups from Agrotech, Industry 4.0, Automation, Refrigeration and Climate, Food Processing, Food Packaging, and Food Science participated; and in **Get in the Ring Bilbao**, an initiative to promote emerging talent and learn about the scalability of proposals, which for the first time has been organised in the Basque Country by the Get in the Ring organisation and ICEX.

Food 4 Future - Expo Foodtech, organised by NEBEXT and AZTI, has enjoyed the collaboration of Bilbao City Council, the Provincial Council of Biscay and the Basque Government, as well as the support of strategic partners such as ICEX, EIT Food, ELIKA, Hazi, ILSI Europe, Food for Life Spain, Grupo Spri Taldea, Eatable Adventures, ERIAFF, FIAB, IASP (International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation) and the Santelmo Business School. The second edition of the congress was attended by other representatives of the Basque value chain, such as Neiker in agritech research, AZTI in foodtech innovation, the Basque Culinary Centre foundation in gastronomic research, as well as the Basque Food Cluster.

About Food 4 Future (F4F): Food 4 Future (May 17-19, 2022, BEC-Bilbao) is the innovation event for professionals of the entire value chain of the food sector. For three days, F4F will bring together, at Bilbao Exhibitions Centre (BEC), more than 7,000 visitors and 253 exhibiting firms to present the latest solutions in foodtech, robotics and automation, food safety and science, and processing and packaging techniques for the different segments of the food industry. In addition, it will host the Food 4 Future World Summit, the largest European congress in which to discover the latest trends, success stories and tools to transform the food and beverage industry from the hand of more than 380 international experts. Food 4 Future is organized by NEBEXT and AZTI.

About NEBEXT: Next Business Exhibitions (NEBEXT) is the largest private organizer of professional events in Spain specialized in technology, innovation and sustainability for different industries.

About AZTI: AZTI is a science and technology center that develops high-impact transformational projects and businesses with organizations aligned with the SDG 2030, specializing in marine and food, brings cutting-edge, value-added products and technologies based on sound science and research.