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# Food Futures: The Challenge for Europe and Australia

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**FEAST - Europe Strategy Days**

**18 March 2008**

**Melbourne**



# History

- Researched Germany and UK
- Worked in Swiss Industry for 15 years
- CSIRO

# Working in Europe Company Perspective

- Participation driven by research – FMI
- Often many academic laboratories

## Issues for company participation:

- IP arrangements
- Agreements, time to conclude
- Chinese walls in laboratories (competing crops)

***SIMPLIFICATION***

## Agricultural biotech sector:

- Viewed as competitive from a cost R&D
- High visibility of science
- Relationships driven by individuals (company)
- Distance, quarantine and IP have been negatives
- On ground Australian company representation

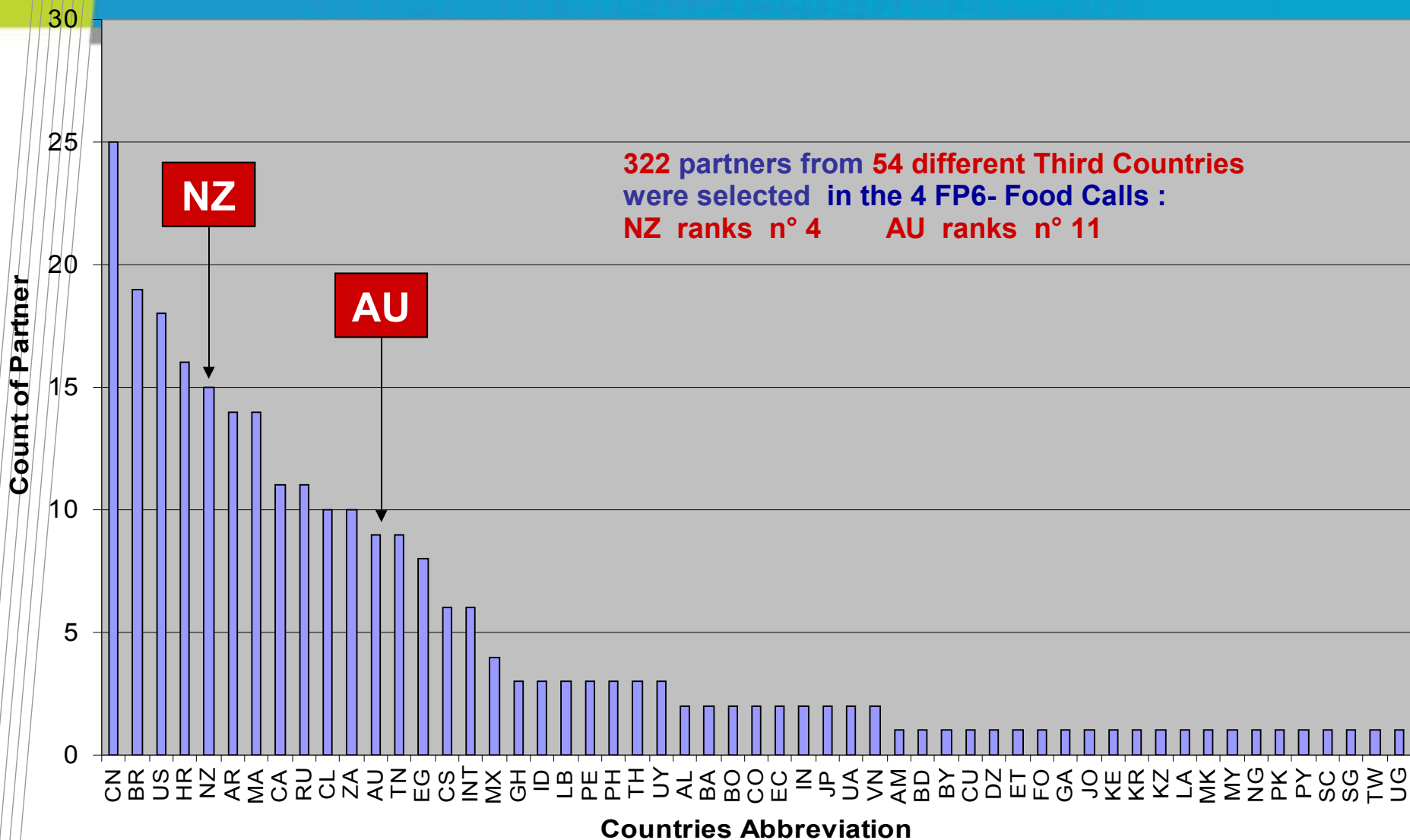
# Working in Australia with European Companies

- CSIRO relationship with French and German companies
- Eligible to be partners, but not to receive cash
- Need mechanisms to get matching support from Australia

## Major Issue:

- Transaction costs (complexity and IP)

## FP6-TP5 Third Countries: Count of Partners per Country in Selected Proposals Food Quality and Safety, all FP6 Calls, all instruments



# AUSTRALIA and EUROPE

Need mechanisms to facilitate access  
> **98%** world's scientific output

that is not carried out in Australia

# AUSTRALIA and EUROPE

What are we doing

and

What can we do?

# The Collaboration Fund

- To enhance collaboration with research organisations outside CSIRO (Australia and global)
- Launched in 2005. Now \$114.25 million over 7 years
- Four main activities:
  1. Clusters
    - Significant 3 year partnerships. Approx. \$1M p.a. (plus partner contributions)
  2. Projects
    - Shorter term, focussed collaborations. \$100,000 p.a. for 1-2 years
  3. Visiting fellowships
    - Academics from Australian and overseas universities
  4. Postgraduate scholarships
    - Joint university and CSIRO supervision

# The Collaboration Fund

## **Collaboration Fund activity to date:**

- \$50 million committed to date
- 10 clusters approved from rounds 1 and 2,  
3 clusters approved from round 3 – 4th round advertised 2008
- 13 projects now underway, with a further 10 applications approved
- 16 visiting fellowships underway or completed,
- 80 postgraduate scholarships to date, another round commencing 2008
- 21 Australian universities and 7 ARC Federation Fellows involved in existing clusters

# Current Flagship Clusters

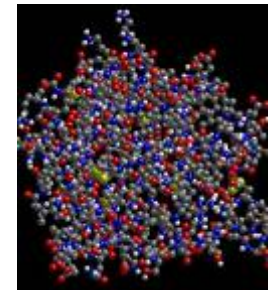
## Energy Transformed

- **National Hydrogen Materials Alliance**
  - University of Queensland, University of NSW, University of Wollongong, University of Sydney, Queensland University of Technology, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australian National University, Curtin University, Monash University, Griffith University, Newcastle University, ANSTO



## Food Futures

- **Concentration and Separation of Bioactives in Food**
  - University of Melbourne, Monash University
- **Learning the principles of olfactory pattern recognition from invertebrates**
  - University of Queensland, Australian National University, Monash University
  - Led by 2006 Prime Minister's Prize for Science, Professor Mandyam Srinivasan, UQ



# Current Flagship Clusters

## Food Futures

- **Redesigning grain polysaccharides**
  - University of Queensland, University of Adelaide, University of Melbourne



## Light Metals

- **Australian Partnership in Light Metals Research (lighter, more fuel-efficient cars)**
  - CAST CRC, Monash University, ARC Centre of Excellence for Design in Light Metals, University of Queensland, Deakin University, Swinburne University



# Current Flagship Clusters

## Preventative Health

- **Australian Imaging, Biomarker and Lifestyle Study of Ageing** (leading collaborative research in Australia into Alzheimer's disease)
  - University of Melbourne, Edith Cowan University, Neurosciences Australia, Mental Health Research Institute of Victoria



## Water for a Healthy Country

- **Advanced membrane technologies for water treatment**
  - Victoria University, Curtin University of Technology, Monash University, Murdoch University, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, University of Queensland, University of Melbourne, University of NSW, Deakin University



# Current Flagship Clusters

## Water for a Healthy Country

- **CLAMMecology (Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth)**
  - University of Adelaide, Flinders University, South Australian Research and Development Institute

## Wealth from Oceans

- **Human uses and impacts on Ningaloo Reef**
  - Murdoch University, Curtin University of Technology, Sustainable Tourism CRC, University of Western Australia, Edith Cowan University, Australian National University, University of Queensland
- **Subsea pipelines for reliable and environmentally safe development**
  - University of WA, Curtin University, Flinders University, Monash University, University of Sydney, University of Queensland
  - Led by 2007 Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year - Professor Mark Cassidy, UWA



# AUSTRALIA and EUROPE

- **Building on available schemes:**

- Institute of Food Research (IFR) – bilateral submission with DEST (DEST Postdoc funding & travel to UK)
- IFR submitting proposal with Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
- Kings College London
- Unilever Corporate Research

*“Understanding sensory perception to enhance the acceptance of healthier foods”*

- Pre-competitive

# AUSTRALIA and EUROPE

- **Building on available schemes:**
  - Swedish Institute of Biotechnology (SIK)
  - Framework 6 – Healthy food structuring
  - Collaboration DEST competitive grant
    - Joint workshops
    - Exchange information with EU industry
    - Train & develop young scientists using Framework 7 international exchange program for young scientists

# The Future

- Agrifood Directorate “Food for Life” – presentation March 19<sup>th</sup>
- EU-Canada Agricultural Bioproducts
  - Twinning arrangement FP7 “Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Biotechnology” theme and Canada’s new Agricultural Bioproducts Innovation Programme share objectives
  - Call for proposals, select either side Atlantic. If benefit seen from working together then additional funding provided for collaboration.
  - EU 1% Commission’s contribution to project budget to fund coordination with Canada; Canadian projects receive addn Can \$20,000

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# Thank you

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