

## **Supporting Innovation in the Food Sector**

Cairo- May, 29. 2024



## Food Sector is undergoing a rapid transformation

#### **Main Drivers of transformation:**

- Advancements in technology
- Digitalization
- Easier Access to funds (start-ups)
- Change in Consumer preferences (Trends emerge or disappear)
- Pressure for more Sustainable production



A crucial enabler of this transformation is the modernization of the regulatory system

## Product Innovation is one of the main elements of a company's success.

- In the past, the food industry was considered to be a sector with a low innovative intensity, and a rather mature and slow growing one.

- Yet in the last decade, the food sector has undergone various social, economic and technological changes which have a relevant influence on the entire food processing chain



- Along with an extremely competitive environment that led innovation to become essential for the success of the companies.



#### **Examples of various Innovation Types**

- Developing new products or new categories

- Re-engineering or renovating existing products







#### **Innovation Stages**

Stage 1 Stage 2 Stage 3 Stage 4 Stage 5

Consumer Potential Peasibility Development Readiness Launch





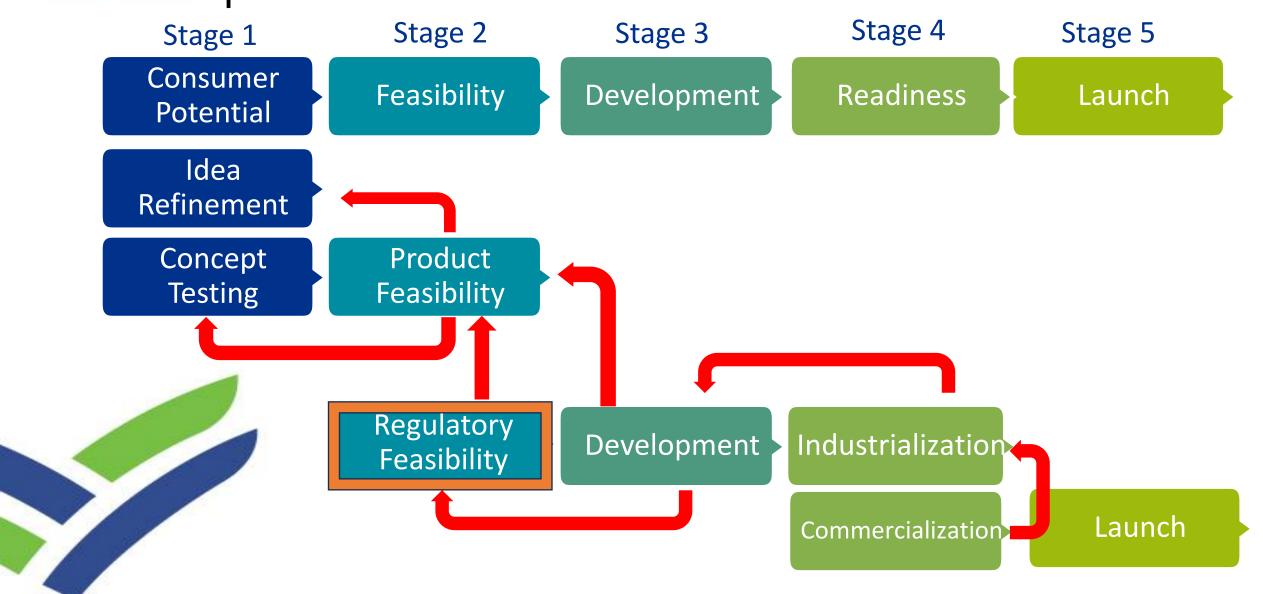
## A straightforward, one-way organized process ....







## NO! it's not...it is a lengthy complex and non-linear process





## Modernized regulations not only ensure food safety and quality, but also could act as a catalyst for innovation & investment





# The Regulation can be a Barrier or a Driver in the innovation process





### Regulation can be a barrier to innovation if:

- Leads to cost Increase
  - Compliance with regulations can be costly (ex. specifying a specific food additive or ingredient that has no alternative)
  - Giving no or short periods of compliance.
- Limits Scale
  - Different countries regulations and/or label requirement
- Creates barrier to trade
  - Vague regulations that requires Complex and lengthy process to comply to
- Prolongs the process
  - Long process kills innovation





## Regulation can be a driver to innovation if:

- Increases products' naturality and healthiness
  - Support better consumer health
- Creates consumer trust
  - Unified across countries
- Drives sustainability
  - More friendly packaging materials





## Joined Forces is the key to success

- Regulators across countries / Organizations need to work together for increased harmonization

Industry need to be more transparent and compliant





## Thank You