

Sustainable Food

The EU Farm to Fork Strategy at the heart of the Green Deal emphasises the role that science is playing in the development of sustainable food systems. Companies are developing a range of innovative approaches to address the ever increasing consumer demand for more sustainable food sources.

Techniques taken from a range of life science disciplines are being employed by Disrupters, Manufacturers, Suppliers and Retailers to find solutions. Concepts including synthetic biology, genetic engineering and computational biology can create solutions such as producing food molecules from microorganisms to cultivated meat and growing other alternative protein sources. Science can be harnessed to validate the growing health and wellness product sector. This innovation raises a number of legal considerations, from protecting intellectual property in the technology developments, to regulatory and compositional considerations for placing novel products on the food market, as well as other corporate and commercial matters, such as fundraising and entering collaborative agreements.

CMS is uniquely placed to advise companies operating in the sustainable food technology sector. We have experts in biotechnology in our Intellectual Property team, working alongside food sector regulatory experts, within a broader group of corporate and commercial life sciences and consumer products specialist lawyers.

Technical Expertise

Our patent attorneys have degrees and PhDs in many disciplines relevant to the innovative food sector including microbiology, genetics, plant sciences, genetic engineering and AI.

With these scientific backgrounds, our team has spent many years working with companies providing patent advice for transgenic technology, gene editing techniques, cell culture, synthetic biology and AI technology implemented in life science contexts. Our team is experienced in advising in highly competitive areas, often drafting and obtaining protection for platform technologies, working with companies to establish strong IP positions and assisting in navigating competitor's rights.

Relevant Experience

Lab-cultured Meat Company — working with an innovative start-up to establish a patent position at an early stage of development. Advising on Novel Foods requirements for both EU and UK markets. Recommending early consideration of preparation of Novel Food dossier to assess and manage levels of risk and compliance in a novel arena constrained by an existing but not a bespoke regulatory regime. Devising a strategy to ensure that the product finally developed is already fit for authorisation and thus avoiding any delay entering the market.

Fortified Foods — working with a multinational client on developing a New Product concept, considering potential for lobbying and thought leadership to pave the way to market and establishing levels of contemporaneous due diligence. This allowed the business to assess commercial risk and prepare for potential regulatory pushback before engaging in New Product Development that might otherwise be inhibited by regulatory hurdles to market.

A Multinational Food and Beverage Manufacturer — in relation to the client's entry into the nutraceuticals market, advising on food contact materials, packaging, and applicable legislation including additives and food safety.

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