

Kick-off Meeting Summary

The Kick-off Meeting of the international ZIM-Innovation network “Food Systems” on the 22 February 2023 at the FIB in Finsterwalde was attended by both international and national partners. In total 15 of the network partners from industry and science took the opportunity to present their company focuses, interests, research areas, problems and cooperation ideas. Unfortunately, some national and international partners could not be present, but were able to broadcast live and thus also get involved.

Within the diverse circle of participants, it became apparent where the focus of the individual partners is and where possible connecting points of within the network arise. Looking at the food production, the first pillar of the network, changing climatic conditions were highlighted with chances for innovation in the improved water and nutrient management, as well as the interest in new solutions for the digitization and automatization of processes. Another recurring topic here was the recultivation of land. In the food processing, the second pillar, an interest in new processes that improve hygiene and save energy was highlighted. Another aspect is the development of food from new raw materials and therefore the strengthening of new business areas and distribution channels of innovative products. In the third pillar, waste recycling and recycling management, the potential and needs of regional processing was emphasized. Across all fields, the network partners from IT and data processing have an essential role in the digitalization and automatization and contribute with their expertise to search for new solutions.

The chances to gain broader access to knowledge, partners and market access opportunities due to the internationality of the network opens up new options for companies and research institutions. The international coordinator, Dr. Juliane Wolf (University of Queensland, UQ), gave in this regard further details on the scope of cooperation and projects in exchange with UQ and T+I.

To sum up, at the event the importance of nutrition for the Lusatia region also became apparent by the regional actors.