# Plant-based foods – a growing market

Photo: Wicked Kitchen

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# How much is the market worth?

- The global plant-based meat market is currently valued at \$12.1 billion and is predicted to grow at a CAGR of 15% over the next six years, reaching almost \$28 billion by 2025.<sup>(1) (5/2019)</sup>
- In fact, Barclays analysts predict the meat alternative industry will soar to a value of \$140 billion by 2029.<sup>(2) (4/2019)</sup>
- In 2017, globally, frozen meat alternatives were more popular than refrigerated or shelf-stable variants, with a market share of 77.2%, while TVP, with a market share of 35.8%, was the most popular of the plant-based proteins.<sup>(3) (9/2019)</sup>
- Since 2012, the plant-based market in Western Europe has doubled in size, with Europe as a whole accounting for **38.5% of total global revenue** in 2017, and per-capita meat consumption having decreased.<sup>(4,5)</sup> (2017) (9/2019)

#### Plant-based Meat



Source: Markets and Markets (1), Barclays (2), Allied Market Research (3,5), Euromonitor (4)

- The plant-based fish and seafood market is in its infancy, with annual sales of only \$10 million in the US, versus \$800 million for plant-based meat in the same market.<sup>(1) (2019)</sup>
- However, high-profile investors from the meat industry are betting on plant-based fish and seafood, with German poultry producer PHW having invested in Good Catch <sup>(2) (8/2019)</sup> and Tyson Foods having recently invested in New Wave Foods <sup>(3) (9/2019)</sup>, signalling their conviction that this category will be the next big thing.
- Moreover, a growing number of products are appearing in retail locations. For instance, Tesco launched its own-brand plant-based range, which is to include battered fish-free fillets, while Aldi in Germany offer own-brand fish fingers.

#### Plant-based fish and seafood



- According to Research and Markets, revenue from the global **non-dairy milk** market is set to reach more than \$38 billion by 2024, growing at a compound rate of more than 14% between 2018 and 2024. (1) (3/2019)
- The global vegan cheese market is expected to reach a value of almost \$4 billion by 2024, growing at a CAGR of 7.6%.<sup>(3) (12/2017)</sup>
- Sales of vegan yogurts are predicted to exceed \$10 billion by 2029 (4) (11/2019), while the vegan ice cream sector is expected to reach a value of \$2.45 billion within the next decade.<sup>(5) (7/2017)</sup>
- Food and beverage launches with vegan claims have increased by 21% (Global CAGR 2015-2019).<sup>(6) (2/2020)</sup> The dairy category accounts for one-third of plant-based launches. (6) (2/2020)
- The **dominance** of the dairy category is driven by the growth in dairy alternative drinks such as soy, nut, coconut and other plant-based milks, as well as non dairy yogurts.<sup>(6) (2/2020)</sup>

#### Plant-based Dairy



- The global value of the egg alternative market is expected to exceed a value of \$1.62 billion by 2025, with a CAGR of 5.8%.<sup>(1) (2/2019)</sup>
- Eggs' versatility, breadth of function, and the frequency with which they are consumed, as well as the comparatively low levels of competition in the plant-based egg space, combine to present an **opportunity for innovative companies** to enjoy strong growth and substantial profit margins.
- In baked system, raw materials such as Nouravant, Alpha-dextrin and pulses like chickpeas and fava beans have shown great texture and mouthfeel, living up to an egg's array of functionalities.<sup>(2) (2/2020)</sup>
- Consequently, egg replacements have the potential to disrupt the egg market by providing a great economic alternative and an improved production process. <sup>(3)</sup> (2/2020)
- JUST Egg is a prepackaged wet egg alternative for omelettes and scrambled eggs. Being available in 22 out of the 23 largest retail stores in the US, it outsells almost half of chicken egg products at a top retailer.<sup>(4) (10/2019)</sup> Just Egg is the second most bought premixture among traditional eggs and substitute products. <sup>(5) (6/2019)</sup>

Source: Zion Market Research (1), Foodingredientsfirst (2-3), Lebensmittelzeitung (4), Veg World Mag (5)

#### Plant-based Egg Alternatives



- The global value of the plant-based snack market is expected to grow from a value of \$31.8 billion in 2018 to \$73 billion by 2028, at a CAGR of 8.7%.<sup>(1) (11/18)</sup>
- The global vegan baking ingredients market size was valued at \$1.1 billion in 2018 and is expected to register a CAGR of 5.6% from 2019 to 2025.<sup>(2) (7/2019)</sup>
- Greggs, the largest bakery chain in the UK, attributes the 58% profit rise they enjoyed in the first half of 2019 to the success of their vegan sausage roll.<sup>(3)</sup> (7/19)
- A number of food manufacturers and retailers have woken up to the opportunities presented by plant-based baked goods, a hitherto largely underdeveloped category, with Tesco ever expanding its range of sweet and savoury cakes and pastries under its Wicked Kitchen brand, Premier Foods launching its Plantastic brand and Sainsbury's, Waitrose and coffee chain, AMT offering plant-based croissants.

Plant-based snacks and baked goods

#### A closer OOK at the US market

- Grocery sales of plant-based foods that directly replace animal products have grown by 29% in the past two years to reach \$5 billion, while total U.S. retail food dollar sales grew just 4% over the past two years.
- Plant-based milk is the most developed of all plant-based categories, accounting for almost half the total plant-based food market, while sales of conventional milk were flat over the past year.
- Plant-based meat, which is reminiscent of the plant-based milk category when it was in its early stages of rapid growth, grew 38% over the last two years. The top-selling forms of plant-based meat are burgers, followed by sausages, hot dogs and patties.
- Of all U.S households, 14% purchase plant-based meat compared to 41% who purchase plant-based milk, underlining the growth potential of the former.
- The popularity of plant-based milk has increased consumer acceptance of other plant-based dairy products, with plant-based creamer (+93%), yoghurt (+95%), cheese (+51%) and ice cream (+34%) all experiencing strong growth over the past two years.<sup>(1) (3/2020)</sup>





# Who is buying plant-based food?



# This means that there is room for a number of different Strategies, targeting subsets of this larger group and their varying needs

Let's take plant-based burgers as an example:



Close imitation in terms of both appearance and taste

Target: meat lovers



Organic, unusual ingredients

#### Target: environmentalists



Vegetable-led, emphasis on seasoning Target: health enthusiasts under time pressure



#### What's new in the plant-based market?

#### Greater raw material diversity

Only an estimated 10% of plant protein sources are currently being utilised. With the rise in demand for plant protein, along with the move towards allergen-friendly ingredients, it's likely that a greater variety of plant sources will be used.



#### Greater category transcendence of raw materials

We are starting to see commonly-used raw materials **no longer being confined to a specific product category**. For example, **oats** have long been used for milk and are accepted in this category, but are now being used in plant-based meat from Finnish brand, Gold & Green.

**Pea protein**, on the other hand, has mainly been used in meat alternatives thus far (e.g. in Beyond Meat burgers) but is now **increasingly finding its way into plant-based dairy** applications. Vly is a Berlin-based startup comprising nutritionists, scientists, and management consultants that uses yellow pea protein as a base for milk and yoghurt. Ripple uses pea protein to create plant-based Greek yoghurt.

**Fava beans** have so far mainly been used in meat alternatives but are now also **used in low-fat ice cream**.

We predict that this will continue to happen with all kinds of raw materials. Off flavours are often a key issue when using peas as a product base, and this is a problem, to varying degrees, for pea protein in many applications. There are already some good solutions in the market but we expect that in the future companies will make use of **economies of scale** and **ensure return on R&D investment** by finding as many applications as possible.



#### New category penetration: sweet baked goods

Plant-based pastries and cakes are just **taking off in retail and foodservice locations**. Now is the time for companies to enter and secure a large piece of the pie. **Retailers in the UK are waking up to the opportunity**, with Waitrose and Sainsbury's now stocking vegan croissants and Tesco's Wicked Kitchen boasting indulgent vegan brownies. Meanwhile, cafe chains such as Starbucks and Pret a Manger are also **responding to the demand** for vegan everything with compelling offerings.

Volatility in the egg market, coupled with demand from consumers with allergies and consumers who are vegan, etc., makes **plant-based baked goods an excellent business choice**.

Similar observations can also be made with regards to savoury baked goods, with UK bakery chain Greggs having launched a vegan sausage roll with great success.

**Ulrick & Short**, with its product Ovaprox, offers a great clean-label solution to replace eggs in baked goods and sauces. The product has been developed to provide the same volume, texture, mouthfeel, and overall function of eggs. Additionally, in 2017, Austrian food company **Agrana** launched AgenOVUM®BIO, an organic egg replacement.



# Category **EXPANSION:** yoghurts in convenient formats, with diverse positioning

The plant-based yoghurt market is expanding, with more types of yoghurt appearing, from low-fat to Greek, and with more convenient pack sizes becoming more commonplace. Increasingly, there's a plant-based something for everyone (for the time-pressed, the foodie, the health freak, the busy mom, etc.), and, as long as the products are well-marketed, visible, and taste good, they tend to do well.

Ehrmann	Freaks	Ripple	Good Plants	Califia
Decadent dessert	Thick & natural	Greek yoghurt	Low in calories	Drinkable yoghurts with live cultures



#### Layering of multiple CONSUMEr trends

Increasingly, we're seeing plant-based innovations satisfying multiple consumer needs and reflecting a number of wider consumer trends.







### What will the future bring?

# Many elements of plant-based meat and other alternatives can be further optimised



**Now:** Crops such as **soy and pea**, used in plant-based meats, tend to have **off-flavours** 

**Future:** Develop a mechanism to **remove or mask off-flavours** for better-tasting products.





Now: Apart from omega-3s, very few companies have attempted to replicate animal-based fats using plant, fungal, or algal sources, in terms of taste, functionality, and nutritional profile.

**Future:** Produce plant-based fats that mimic animal fats, e.g. by **using underutilised crops** as fat sources or producing **plant-based fats from by-product streams**.



**Now:** Plant-based meats **do not have the same mouthfeel** as animal-based meats.

**Future:** Develop **encapsulated plant-based fats** for **improved mouthfeel** of plant-based meats.



TRENDS TOWARDS NATURE

Now: There is evidence that consumers are increasingly choosing freshly prepared foods and seeking clean-label products, yet most plant-based meats and meals are frozen and very few are clean label.

**Future: Develop refrigerated prepared meals and meats** that are centred around **whole-food ingredients** that **naturally** resemble meat, such as mushrooms and jackfruit.

#### Translating unmet CONSUMEr NeedS into profits

There are very few market segments, especially in the food and beverage industry, that present the opportunity for companies to be up against so little competition or where demand is so much higher than supply.

**PRICE:** more affordable options in any product category

**NATURAL:** whole-food ingredients, clean-label products

**PROTEIN:** protein-rich products that are soy- and gluten-free

**SNACKS:** healthier options for snacking

**CONVENIENCE:** tasty and easy ready-meals

**SENSORY EXPERIENCE:** improved flavours and mouthfeel

**APPEAL:** improved messaging



# On the cusp of food disruption



#### **Global** Meat market forecast



#### The transformation of beef and dairy in the US

- 1. **By 2030** the production volumes of US beef and dairy products is predicted to to **decline by more than 50%**, by 2035 nearly 90%.
- 2. **By 2030** the demand for cow products will have **shrunk by 70%**, by 2035 around 80%-90%. The livestock market such as for pig, chicken and fish will follow a similar path.
- 3. **Modern food** is predicted to be **cheaper** (at least 50%) and **superior to animal-based foods**. The reduction in food cost has various economic benefits: individuals save food costs and modern food technologies will create a bigger industry.
- 4. **Half of the 1.2 million jobs** related to the production of beef and dairy **will be lost by 2030**, reaching about 90% by 2035.
- The rising modern food technology industry (precision fermentation industry) will create 700,000 jobs by 2030, climbing towards one million jobs by 2035.

Impossible Burger shortages hit restaurants as themeat-free firm races rivalsLos Angeles Times

KFC Beyond Chicken Sells Out In 5 Hours: Described As 'Kentucky Fried Miracle' Beyond Meat rockets in early trading on Nasdaq, reaching a valuation of over \$3 billion

#### **UK: Vegan KFC Sold Out in Four Days**



Source from top to bottom, from left to right: LA Times (6/2019), Plant Based New (8/2019), Techcrunch (5/2019), Vegconomist (6/2019)

#### **Consumer research plant-based proteins (US)**

- 46% of Americans agree that **plant-based proteins are better** for you than animal-based options and 76% claim that plant-based foods are **healthy.**
- Top reasons of US adults to consume plant-based proteins are taste (52%), health (39%), the environment (13%) and animal protection (11%).
- 3. Less than half (46 %) of Americans say they trust the functional claims made by plant-based foods
- 67% agree that meat is essential to a balanced diet, although vegetarian, vegan and free-from foods have grown to be **regarded as** the healthier option.



Source: Mintel (2018)

#### **Consumer research**

#### 1. International

The **number of people** around the world who have completely switched to plant-based alternatives for sustainability reasons **grew by 44%** between 2014 and 2017

2. Europe

**39% of consumers** across Europe **buy plant-based products**. These products are asked for due to climate and health reasons.

3. UK

**41%** of UK processed meat consumers **agree to reduce the amount of processed meat** because they want to increase their sense of well-being.

#### 4. Germany

29% of Germans eat less meat to help the environment and climate.





Most first time eaters of plant-based alternatives decide to try a product again because of **taste**, close behind comes **naturalness** and **protein content**.







Source: NAMI 2019, Waitrose, Kepler Cheuvreux 2018, Rabobank 2019



#### **About us**



ProVeg is an international food awareness organisation working to transform the global food system by replacing conventional animal products with plant-based and cultivated alternatives. ProVeg helps food producers, retailers, and caterers to develop more plant-based products and make them more accessible. In turn, this allows organisations to financially benefit from the growing demand for plant-based options.

## **Get in touch!**



#### Verena Wiederkehr

International Head of Food Industry & Retail, Corporate Engagement

corporate@proveg.com



#### **Dirk Liebenberg**

Food Industry & Retail Project Manager, Corporate Engagement

dirk.liebenberg@proveg.com