

EU - SOUTH KOREA – Joint Researchers Forum on Semiconductors



1.4 Digital Technologies for Agri 4.0 Applications

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European Commission





Deep-Tech Innovation for Ireland

Commissio





Nanotechnology, electronics, photonics, quantum engineering, wireless & energy



Application Areas







Why AgriFoods? Societal Impact







The Nitrates Directive



Water Framework Directive The way towards healthy waters



Climate Change



Competition for land



Loss of Biodiversity





PEN Group - Research Focus





- Developing new advanced nanosensing platforms to digitalize the agri-food sector to enhance food security, reduce losses, increase sustainable production & economic return while also protecting biodiversity.
- Digital technologies will transform the traditional based agriculture industry to a knowledge based one.



Electrochemical Nanosensor







- Demonstrated increased sensitivity arising from enhanced analyte mass transport
- ✓ Significantly reduced signal noise (background noise)
- ✓ Enable direct electrical signal readout
- ✓ Very low analyte depletion
- ✓ Rapid Sensing
- ✓ Bi-potentiostat (2 Working electrodes)
- ✓ Multiplexed detection

Key Challenges

- Reference electrode drift
- Need to add chemical reagents
- Specificity, selectivity and sensitivity
- Need to calibrate every sensor
- Temperature Sensitivity



System Integration













Plant Pathology- Seed potato sector







- A key challenge to producing high-grade potato seed is the continued prevalence of Potato Virus Y (PVY)
- A surveillance strategy requires rapid and pre-symptomatic diagnosis in the field
- Absence of a field-based test that both detects and provides real-time information on the incidence of PVY within a potato crop.
- → Solution Digital Technology-based Portable Biosensor





Surface functionality – Spectral

characterisation





Raising the TRL - In-field Diagnostics



Minimum Viable Product





Technology Benchmarking



SAMPLE		ELISA (Absorbance)			PCR		Impedance (MQ)	
ID	Variety	PVY	PVS	PVA	PVY	Ct RT-PCR	rRct (MΩ)	PVY Presence
155A	T8247/04	0,326 (P)	0,231(P)	0,2 (N)	Р	14,515	32	LP
155B	T8247/04	0,114 (N)	1,72 (P)	0,189 (N)	Ν	29,505	27	Ν
156A	T8304/08	1,232 (P)	0,125 (N)	0,154 (N)	Р	14,875	70	MP
156B	T8304/08	0,114 (N)	1,817 (P)	0,303 (P)	Ν	30,715	23	Ν
157A	T8310/03	1,897 (P)	0,191 (N)	0,144 (N)	Р	14,755	100	MHP
160A	T8472/05	0,102 (N)	0,141 (N)	0,415 (P)	Ν	29,42	25	Ν
161B	T8486/02	2,538 (P)	0,108 (N)	0,2 (N)	Р	14,505	250	HP
161A	T8486/02	0,232 (P)	0,19 (N)	0,208 (N)	Р	15,63	35	LP
164A	T8560/07	0,977 (P)	0,111 (N)	0,166 (N)	Р	14,995	57	MLP
165A	T8561/01	1,593 (P)	0,262 (P)	0,312 (P)	Р	13,895	77	MP
166A	T8597/02	0,101 (N)	0,146 (N)	0,133 (N)	Ν	30,95	20	Ν

Abbreviations: P (Positive), N (Negative); LP (Low Positive), MLP (Medium-low Positive); MP (Medium positive), MHP (Medium-High Positive); HP (High Positive); PVY (Potyvirus Y) PVS (Potyvirus S); PVA (Potyvirus A) Ct-PCR (cycle threshold PCR), Rct (Charge transfer resistance)



Calf wellbeing – animal welfare







Interdigitated electrodes for pH control





Reduction: $2 H^+(aq) + 2e^- \rightarrow H_2(g)$



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Saliva Sensor - approach

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Saliva Monitoring





Table 2. pH and glucose concentrations found in real saliva samples.

Samples	рН	Glucose Concentration (μM) (pH control off)	Glucose Concentration (µM) (pH control on)
Calf-1	8.2	1.7 ± 0.1	120 ± 6
Calf-2	8.6	0.8 ± 0.1	110 ± 6
Calf-3	7.6	6.5 ± 0.3	100 ± 5
Calf-4	7.3	14 ± 1	190 ± 9
Calf-5	5.3	460 ± 23	1420 ± 71

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Conclusion





- Global Population has surpassed 8 Bn people, urgent need to produce more food sustainably and/or reduce food losses.
- Silicon chip-based chemical and biochemical sensors are being developed that can provide input into digital support systems.
- Significant commercial opportunities exist for new and disruptive technologies in the Agri-Food sector
- Biosensor were developed for detection in saliva and both plant and animal sera
- Time to result of Between 2 30 minutes → real-time decision-making capacity to stakeholders





THANK YOU





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Shiga toxin-producing E. coli









Chitosan Gold Deposition







Fluorescence Characterisation







DNA - Electrochemical Detection







Quantitative Detection







Cell Lysate - Selectivity





Nanosensor Platform

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