



Food and Agriculture

Description

- Improving sustainability

Why attractive

- Entire food and ag value chain is over \$2T
- New consumption patterns, e.g. organics, plant based diet, alternative proteins
- Shift to sustainable farming
- Growth of non-chemical agri-inputs
- New generation of enhanced seeds

Chicago's Right to Win

- UIUC ranks #5 in biological and agricultural engineering¹
- Illinois is #1 in food and related companies; the next closest state has four²
- Chicago has 25% greater density in food and ag startups vs. the national average³
- Food processing and manufacturing cluster is #2 largest of US metropolitan areas by employment⁴
- O'Hare ranked #1 busiest airport in U.S. and #2 most globally connected in the world; Chicago #1 for rail hubs⁵

Key Gaps

- Limited startups and incubators focused on food processing, packaging, and distribution, despite strong end-users

1. US News and World Report; 2. Fortune; 3. Crunchbase; 4. FARM II report (2015);
5. OAG Megahubs International Index 2018, based on total flights in 2018; Trains Magazine