

Case Study

Knowledge Transfer Partnership: Tims Dairy



Key Facts

- Tims Dairy is a privately owned SME producing dairy products.
- Knowledge Transfer Partnerships is a government subsidised scheme to encourage the transfer of expertise between research organisations and businesses.
- Tims Dairy aimed to develop a new range of dairy products.
- Production modifications of existing products.
- Greater application of scientific approaches to commercial problems.
- Development of several novel dairy products.
- Improved shelf-life control and reduced wastage.

The Partner

Tims Dairy Ltd manufactures fresh cultured dairy products and supplies major retailers, food service outlets, food manufacturers, cash and carries and independent retailers in the South East and Midlands. It's accredited under the British Retail Consortium (BRC) auditing scheme and by the Soil Association for the manufacture of organic dairy products.

The Challenge

To develop a new range of dairy products using organic and non-dairy ingredients, such as soya yoghurts.

Solution

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships is a government subsidised scheme to encourage the transfer of expertise between research organisations and businesses through employing an Associate to work on a business challenge under the guidance of University experts.

The work of the KTP Associate successfully contributed to the development of several novel dairy products, including gelatine free products, organic toddler yoghurts and cultured creams, as well as improvements on existing products.

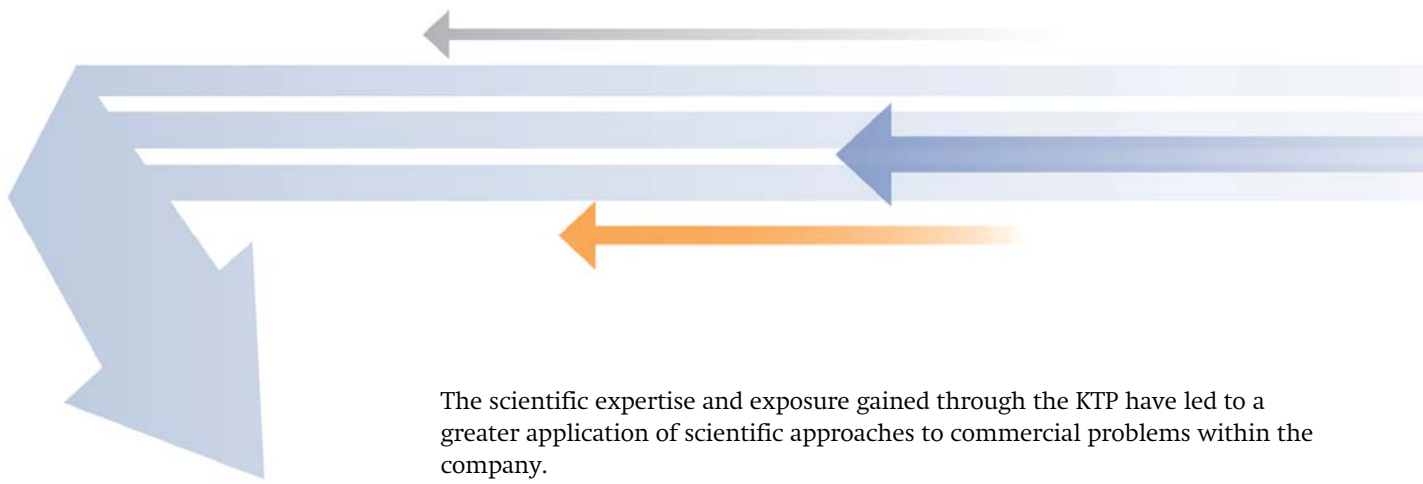
Benefits to the Partner

The KTP project has delivered real and commercial results to Tims Dairy, including new products, new customers and increased sales.

Beneficial production modifications were made to existing products.

Increased understanding of the application of thermisation heat treatment on the growth of micro-organisms has led to improved shelf-life control of bio-yoghurts and reduced wastage. This new understanding may be exploited in the future development of other dairy products.

Implemented improved quality assurance systems that in turn led to higher-level accreditation of BRC standards boosting the company's external commercial credibility with its customers.



The scientific expertise and exposure gained through the KTP have led to a greater application of scientific approaches to commercial problems within the company.

Benefits to the University

The University was able to provide industry relevant research projects for both MSc and BSc students.

The KTP has created opportunities for further projects and raised the academic profile of the University of Reading.

Involvement with up to the minute industry developments has allowed academics to update their teaching practices with leading edge techniques and knowledge.

The KTP also provided the University with extensive experience of commercial product development for staff and students.

Data and ideas generated within the project will lead to future publications and research proposals.



'The KTP project was extremely valuable to us as a small company. It enabled us to leap forward quickly in our technical department and expand into NPD by having a qualified Associate dedicated in this area.'

Chris Timotheou

Managing Director Tims Dairy

Benefits to the Associate

The Associate developed a full knowledge of the UK dairy industry, including commercial and QA systems, together with sound knowledge of science manufacture of cultured dairy products.

The Associate gained a NVQ Level Four in Management as well as continuous access to training through the company.

As a result of the success of this KTP project, the Associate was offered a full-time position in Quality and New Product Development.

University of Reading

The University of Reading is a world-class research-intensive university covering a broad spectrum of disciplines across the Life and Physical Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences and Henley Business School. Areas of particular strength include: Climate Systems Science, Preventative and Therapeutic Health Sciences, Sustainable Construction and Environments and Computational Science and Informatics.

The University works with businesses providing support for research and development, as well as access to expertise and equipment to solve business challenges. To find out how you can access the leading minds at the University of Reading please contact our Knowledge Transfer Centre.