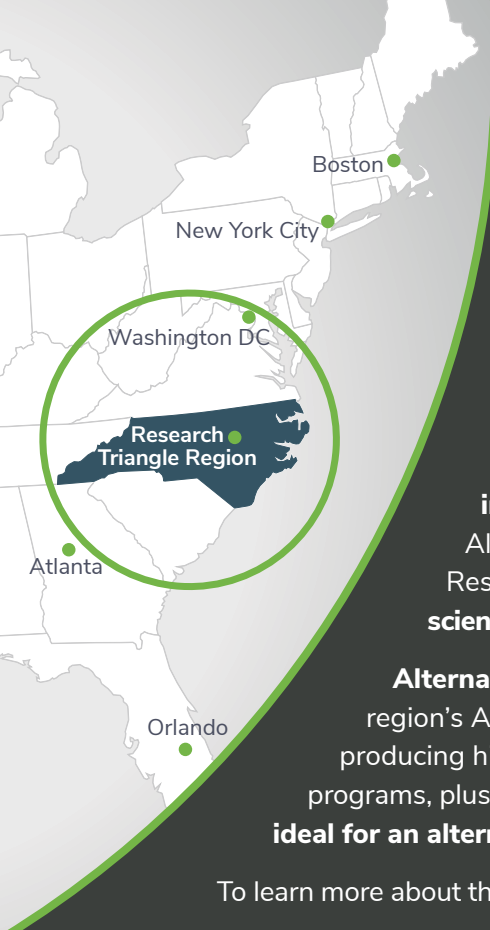




RESEARCH TRIANGLE
AGTECH CLUSTER



North Carolina is one of the most diversified agricultural states in the U.S. Agriculture is the state's top industry, with +48,000 farms producing over 80 different commodities and contributing \$103 billion annually to the local economy.

The North Carolina agricultural industry thrives due to the many partnerships forged with local government and academic institutions. In addition, North Carolina Agtech **companies create and launch some of the most advanced and innovative technologies responsible for revolutionizing agricultural production.** All of this occurs in the heart of the state in the Research Triangle region. The Research Triangle region is home to the **Agtech cluster, known for advancing plant science, food technology, agriculture data science, and animal health.**

Alternative Protein is quickly becoming one of the fastest-growing sectors within the region's Agtech ecosystem. Thanks to proximity to world-renowned research institutions producing high-caliber talent and offering agriculture, biotechnology, and food science programs, plus access to a wide range of industry partnerships, the **Research Triangle region is ideal for an alternative protein company to hire, scale, and create.**

To learn more about the Research Triangle Agtech Cluster, please visit researchtriangleagtechcluster.org



BELIEVER MEATS

The current system of raising and processing animals to eat is not sustainable enough to meet the growing global demand for meat. Believer Meats is focused on developing the world's most efficient cell-cultivation technology, to make safe, healthy cultivated meat available and accessible to everyone—without harming animals or the planet.



“There's a lot of focus on food here in the Triangle region, I really think it is the hub for alternative protein and for biotech and new food innovation.”

– Gustavo Burger, CEO of Believer Meats



IMPROVED NATURE

Improved Nature is on a mission to feed the growing population with better protein. To achieve this, the company provides nutritious, non-GMO, 100% plant-based protein that replicates the experience of eating meat, while being more sustainable and scalable.



“The quality of education, innovation in technology, brainpower, support from universities and state government make the Triangle region of North Carolina one of the best places to live AND manage a food tech company.”

– Rody Hawkins, Ph.D., President and CEO of Improved Nature



ATLANTIC FISH COMPANY

Atlantic Fish Co. is using cellular agriculture to develop sustainable, cultivated seafood. We're focused on premium wild-caught species that are greenhouse gas intensive, overfished, and also can't be raised easily via aquaculture.



“The Triangle was the ideal place to launch our startup after looking all over the US. The combination of technical talent, investors, and low cost to operate is unmatched.”

– Doug Grant, CEO of Atlantic Fish Co.

RESOURCES



BEZOS CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE PROTEIN

In May of 2024, The Bezos Earth Fund awarded North Carolina State University \$30 million over five years to create the first of its kind center of excellence focused on the R&D and manufacturing of alternative proteins. The center will engage partners from academia and industry to research, create, and commercialize new technologies, provide training for the emerging industry workforce, and gauge consumers' protein preferences. The grant funding will support research on three types of sustainable proteins: plant-based products; precision fermentation and cultivated meat.

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NC FOOD INNOVATION LAB

The NC Food Innovation Lab is a state-of-the-art product development and pilot plant facility that has the latest in food processing equipment, expert food scientists and partners from across the state to help food companies and entrepreneurs get their products to market quickly and effectively. It includes core technologies in wet processing, thermal processing, extraction, extrusion, drying, particle size reducing and blending. These capabilities enable the Food Innovation Lab to develop and produce plant-based and alternative protein products at pilot scale. In addition, there is a 2000 sq.ft. protein lab to assist with analysis and characterization of alternative proteins.

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FIRST FLIGHT VENTURE CENTER

First Flight Venture Center is one of the nation's largest, most stable incubators with a proven record of success. Their mission is to propel early-stage science companies through the delivery of comprehensive resources and to empower innovators to transform good ideas into great successes. First Flight Venture Center supports the development of innovative technologies and economic growth by providing early-stage businesses with affordable laboratory and office space, management guidance and counseling, as well as shared business and technology support services.

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ALEXANDRIA LAUNCHLABS AT THE ALEXANDRIA CENTER® FOR AGTECH

Alexandria LaunchLabs at the Alexandria Center for AgTech offers early-stage companies a world-class home base and state-of-the-art amenities on Alexandria's premier mega campuses in the heart of Research Triangle's dense agtech and life science cluster.

With two neighboring locations, Alexandria LaunchLabs provides move-in ready office/laboratory space, shared equipment, and dedicated services, with first-class greenhouse space for agtech-focused companies.

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BTEC

A unique, cross-disciplinary instructional center, the Golden LEAF Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center (BTEC) provides educational and training opportunities to develop skilled professionals for the biomanufacturing industry and create the best-trained, most industry-focused workforce possible. BTEC also collaborates with various partners from a variety of technical fields including NIIMBL, BioMADE, CESMII, and the U.S. FDA to provide training opportunities, technical support, research collaboration, and testing services. BTEC's state-of-the-art facility features industry-standard equipment at pilot scale capable of fermentation and animal cell culture operations along with purification of proteins, nucleic acids and viral vectors.



The **RESEARCH TRIANGLE AGTECH CLUSTER** is an industry-led initiative of business, government, academic and nonprofit leaders focused on accelerating Agtech innovation and North Carolina's Agtech economy.

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