Bringing manufacturing back to N.C.
In 2014, the North Carolina General Assembly funded this initiative to diversify and add value to agricultural-based businesses through food processing. The goal is to expand the economic impact of agriculture and agribusiness in our state by 22 percent — to $100 billion — by 2025.

A greater bread basket
Increases in food and beverage manufacturing — entirely possible given North Carolina’s highly diverse variety of crops, livestock, soils and climate — will be the cornerstone of this initiative. To this end, we are conducting a feasibility study and an economic assessment.

Collaborative partners
We will focus the strengths of our university, government and industry entities towards a common goal — an enhanced food entrepreneur assistance program centered on job growth.

Innovation and entrepreneurship
Our university develops and transfers new technologies and research to startup and commercial enterprises. These new technologies drive innovation and efficiencies that will result in entrepreneurial development in communities across North Carolina and the globe.

We will grow jobs
From innovations that can transfer commercially to increased payrolls at new manufacturing sites, our goal is clear: Grow jobs. To do this, we propose competitive proof-of-concept funding to assist our campus in moving promising technologies and strategies from theory into reality.

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The Food Processing Initiative is a partnership between NC State University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.