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In the Loop

Innovations in Agriculture and Food Systems

MARCH 2015



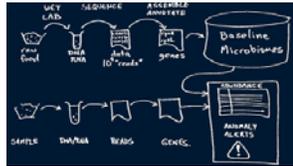
Welcome to "In the Loop", an e-newsletter from Closed Loop Capital featuring hot topics in agriculture technology, food system innovation and venture capital. Each newsletter will provide a brief industry summary and feature select articles to provide a closer look at exciting developments within agriculture and food systems. Follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn and feel free to [contact us](#) at any time with updates and thoughts.



2014 was the strongest year on record for early stage investment in agriculture technology and food system innovations. With an emergence of new technologies and innovative business models addressing challenges in modern agriculture and food systems, venture investors are accelerating investment in the traditionally under-funded sectors to drive sustainable solutions. **High profile IPOs and acquisitions** have created returns for investors, further validating ag and food as viable sectors for venture investment.

This month's issue features topics covering global food security, innovative protein sources, farm data tools, food waste challenges and alternatives to traditional agricultural inputs. In January, *IBM* and *Mars Inc.* announced a collaboration to analyze the food supply chain from a microbial level to better understand the **points of risk for microbial contamination from soil to fork**. At the tail end of the supply chain, *The New York Times* highlights a new report on the mounting **social and environmental challenges from the \$60 million metric tons of food wasted in the U.S.** every year. A new report by *Lux Research* estimates nearly double the protein consumption over the next 40 years and points to accelerated growth in **alternatives to meat-based protein sources**. *Lux* forecasts rapid growth from other emerging plant-based protein sources that reduce environmental impact and provide a better nutritional profile.

enhancing **on-farm hardware connectivity (Internet of Things or "IoT")** capturing, processing and presenting data to drive efficiencies. In an environment of decreasing efficacy of conventional synthetic-based crop treatments and evolving treatment-resistant pest and weed species, technologists fueled by growing investment support turn to **naturally occurring microbes and biological treatments to drive crop protection and enhance yields.**



FOOD SAFETY

Farm to Fork: IBM/Mars to Sequence Microbiome of Global Food Supply Chain



DECISION SUPPORT

Surprise: Agriculture is doing more with IoT Innovation than most other industries



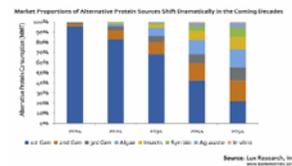
AG INPUTS

Beyond GMOs: A new era of biotechnology



AG/FOOD VENTURES

Silicon Valley comes to Agriculture



PROTEIN SOURCES

New Protein Sources and the Billions of Mouths and Dollars That Will Follow



FOOD WASTE

Food Waste is Becoming Serious Economic and Environmental Issue...

About Closed Loop Capital

Closed Loop Capital Closed Loop Capital is an investment platform driving material advancements within agriculture technology and food system industries by capitalizing leading-edge enterprises through a focused, disciplined and actively-managed early-stage venture capital investment strategy.

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