

Iceland's SVN, UR among recipients of gov't grants for R&D

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📷 SVN chairman -- and Samherji CEO -- Thorsteinn Mar Baldvinsson, with CEO Gunnthor Ingvason

Icelandic fishing and processing firms were among the recipients of ISK 566.6 million (\$4.4m) in grant support dished out by the government to support innovations in food processing, reports *Kjarninn*.

Recently listed firm Sildarvinnslan received almost ISK 19.1m from a section of the "Food Fund" designed to back projects that have reached the concept stage but are not yet ready for marketing.

Under the same heading, Royal Iceland was granted ISK 25.5m for a project related to rock crab processing.

The fund also allocated Utgerðarfélag Reykjavíkur ISK 15m for its "CRISP-FISH" project. These funds came from a pot of money intended to enable companies to "gather knowledge" with a view to create value and enhance the competitiveness of Icelandic foods.

Kristjan Thor Juliusson, Iceland's minister of fisheries and agriculture, said there was "enormous power and growth in Icelandic food production all over the country".

"The applications received by the fund this year are clear evidence of that. One of my key emphases when establishing the fund was that it would support projects throughout the country and that support for food production would be as close as possible to its origins. The even distribution of grants between parts of the country that appears in this allocation is therefore particularly gratifying."

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