Consumer Trends Shaping the Future of Food

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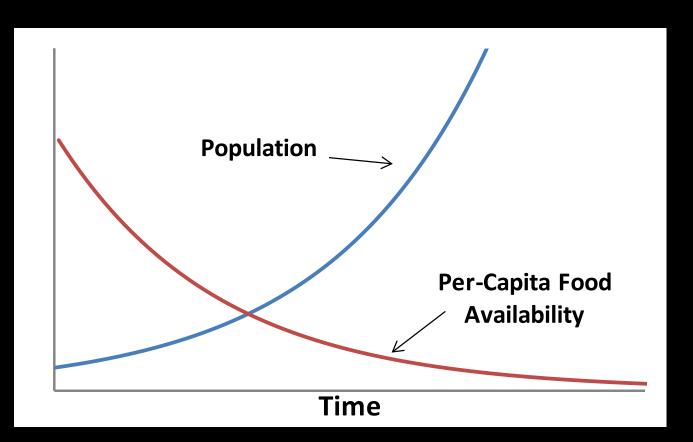






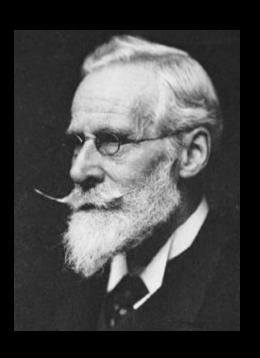








Thomas Malthus 1766-1834

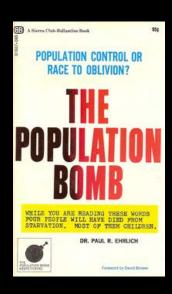


"Civilized nations stand in deadly peril of not having enough to eat. As mouths multiply, food resources dwindle It is almost certain that within a generation the everincreasing population of the United States will consume all the wheat grown within its borders, and will be driven to import, and . . . will scramble for the lion's share of the wheat crop of the world."

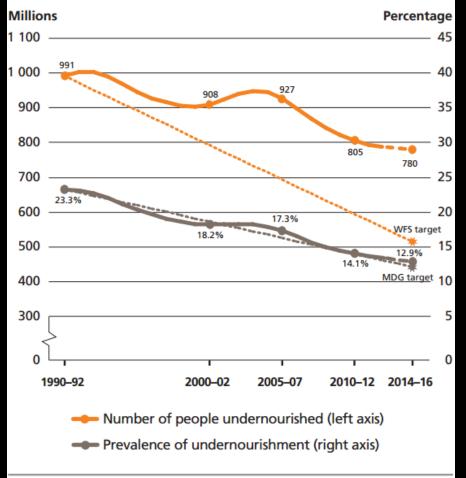
-Sir William Crooks presidential address to British Association for the Advancement of Science, 1898

Paul Ehrlich, 1968: "The battle to feed all of humanity is over. In the 1970s hundreds of millions of people will starve to death in spite of any crash programs embarked upon now. At this late date nothing can prevent a substantial increase in the world death rate."



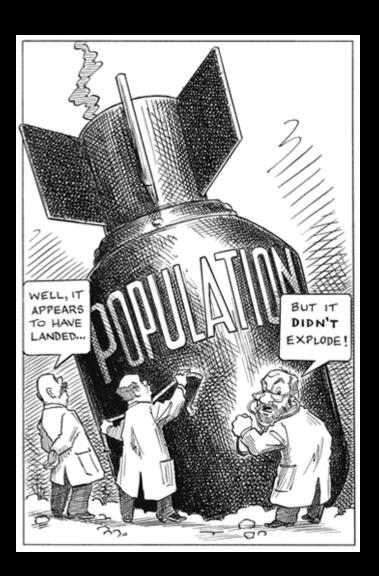


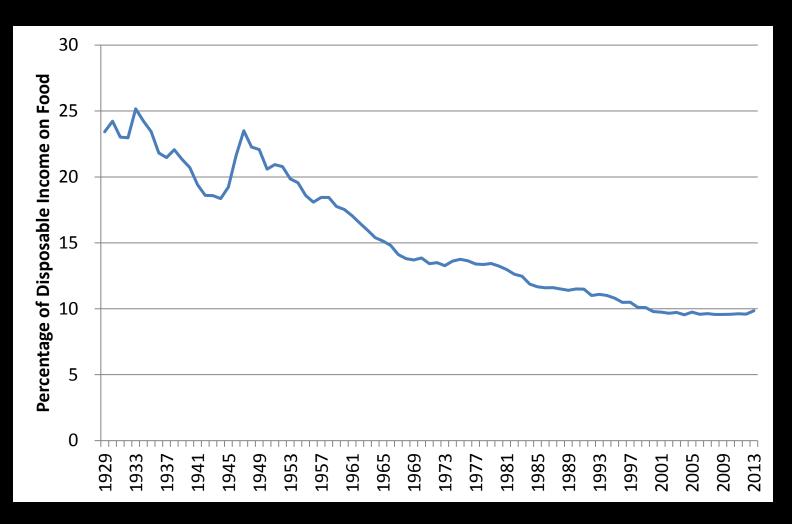
The trajectory of undernourishment in developing regions: actual and projected progress towards the MDG and WFS targets



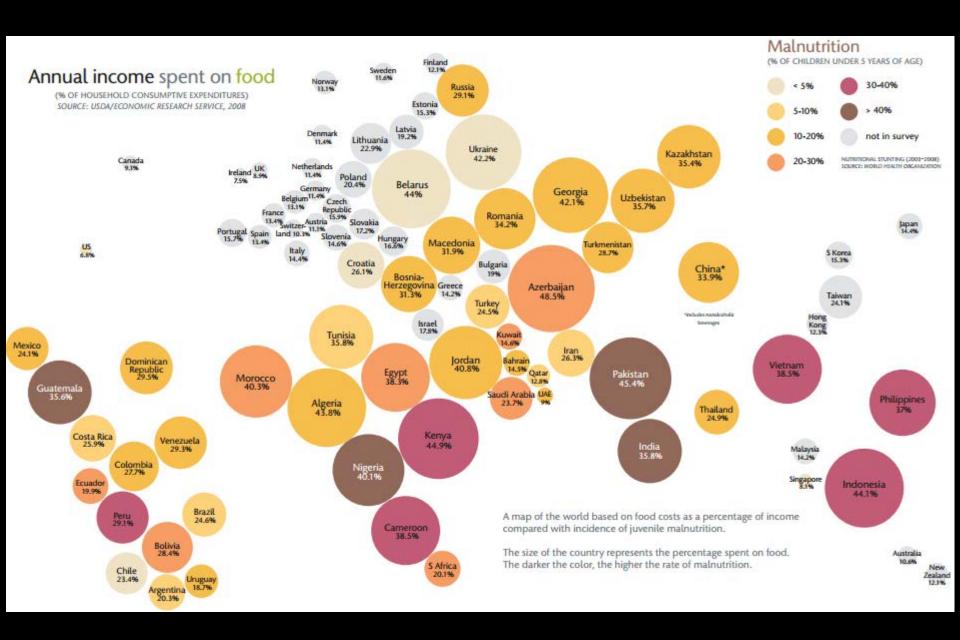
Note: Data for 2014–16 refer to provisional estimates.

Source: FAO.

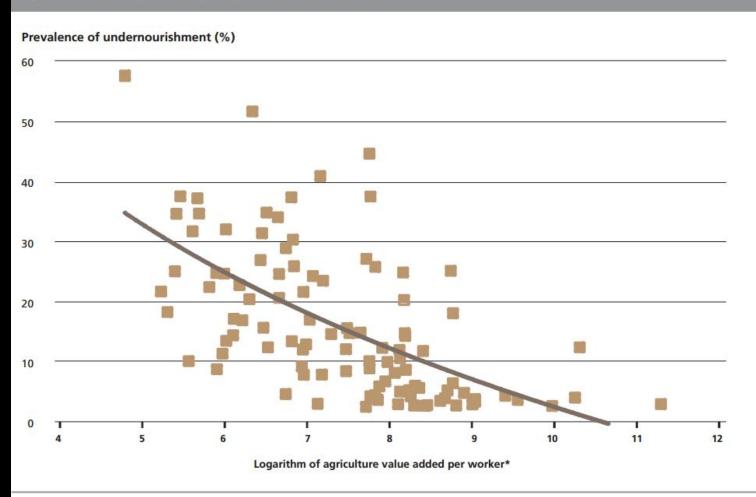




In US less than 10% of disposable income spent on food

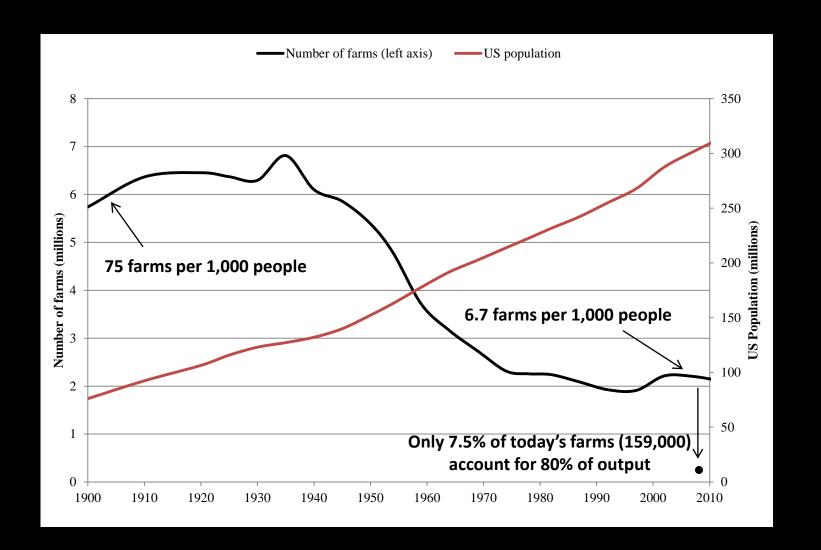


Agricultural labour productivity and prevalence of undernourishment, 2010



^{*}Expressed in constant 2005 US dollars. Source: FAO and World Bank.

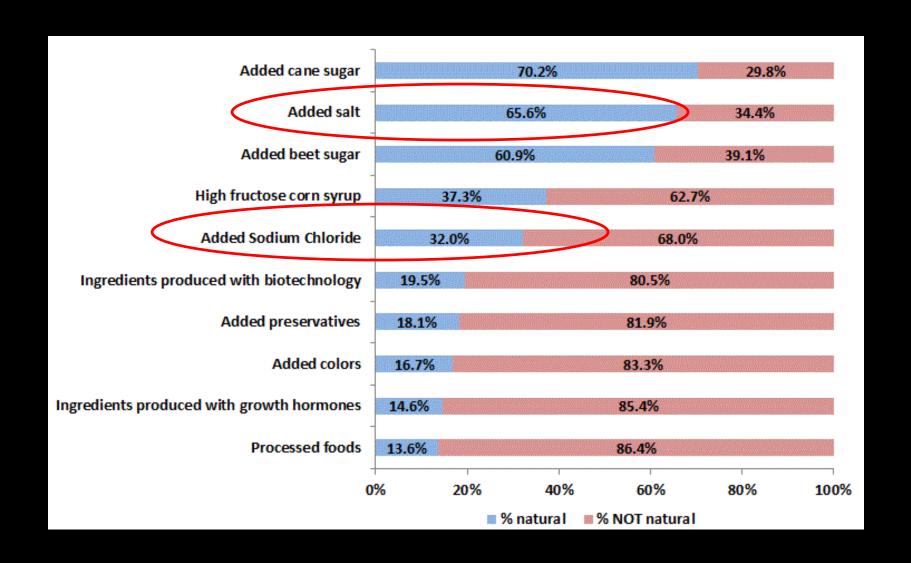
From Farm to Fork



Implications for US Food Consumer

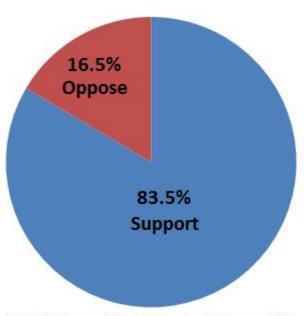
- Food security relatively low concern
- Little connection with agricultural production systems
- Increased demand for "quality"
- Distrust of "Big Food"
- Fascination with "natural"

Is the customer always right?

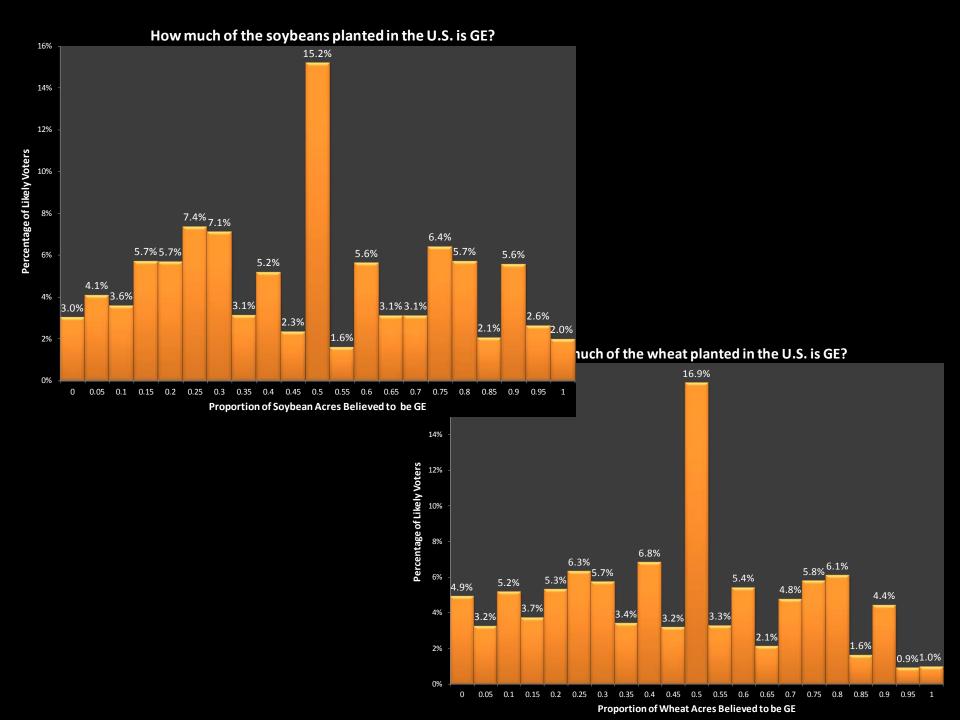


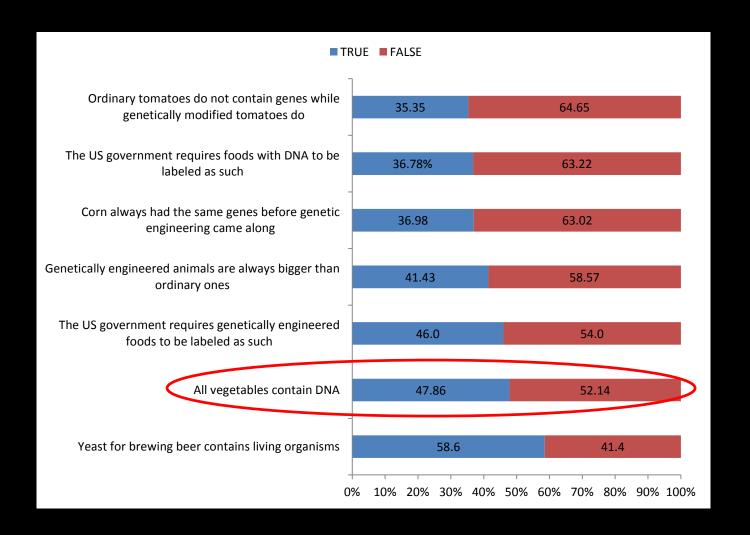
Source: OSU Food Demand Survey (FooDS)

"Do you support or oppose mandatory labels on foods that would indicate the presence or absence of DNA?"



Source: Food Demand Survey (FooDS), Oklahoma State University, February 2015 http://agecon.okstate.edu/faculty/publications/5010.pdf N=1,001 Sampling error = +/- 3%

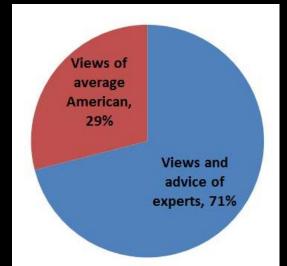




Source: OSU Food Demand Survey (FooDS)



Decisions about labeling of GMO food should be mainly based on . . .



Source: OSU Food Demand Survey (FooDS)

Consumers aren't dumb, they have little incentive to learn more

The Problem

Too much sugar, too much meat, too much processed food, too many pesticides; we're too fat, spending too much on health care













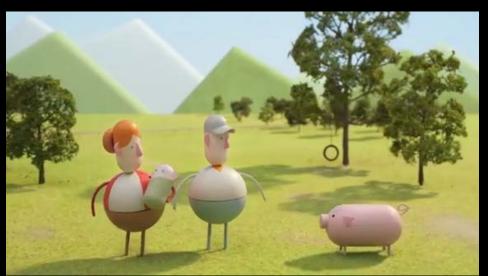
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- "Hidden Battle"
- "Dark Side"
- "Took Over"
- "Hidden Toxins"
- "Secret Take Over"

The Solution

local, organic, slow, natural, unprocessed



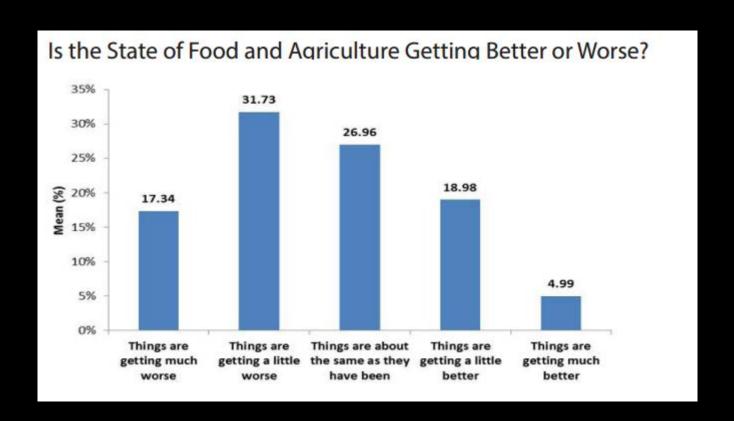




Taxes, subsidies, regulation, social pressure

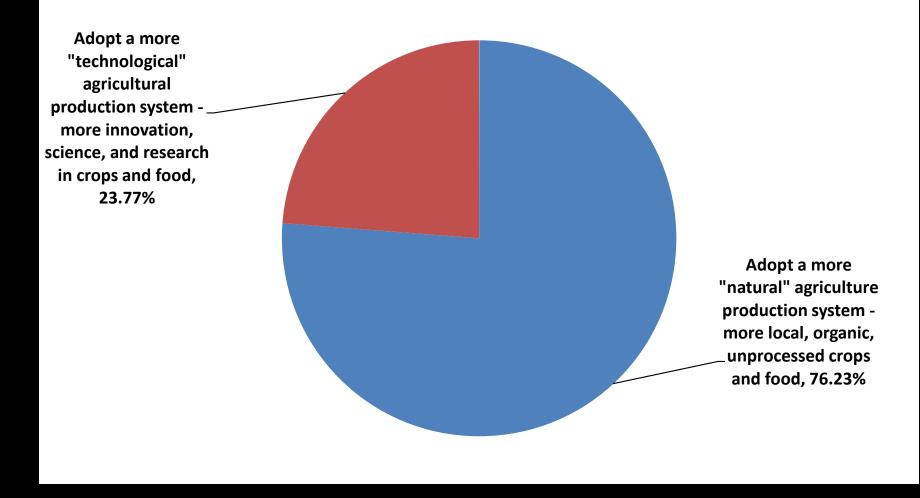


The Result



Source: OSU Food Demand Survey (FooDS)

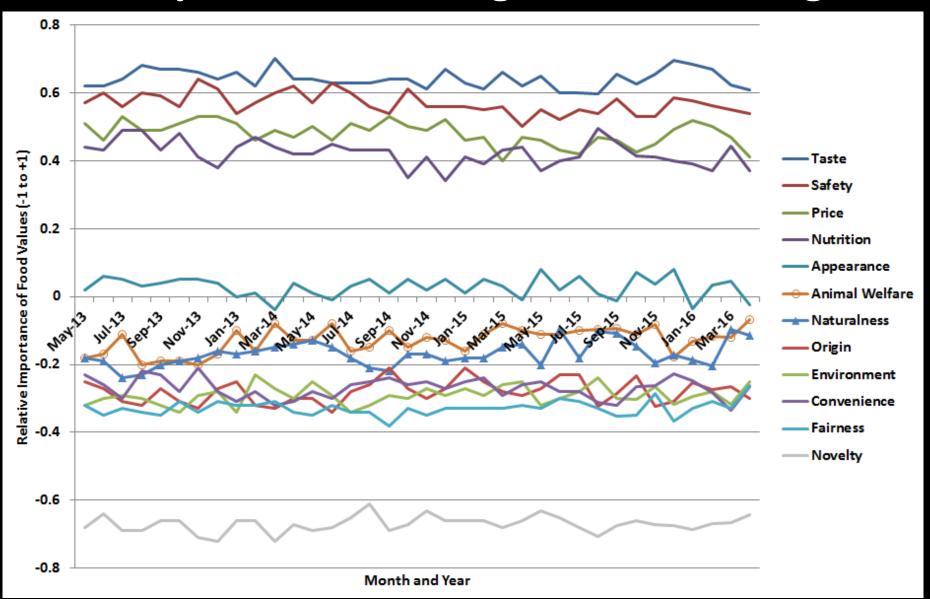
Which of the two following options do you believe would be most <u>effective</u> in addressing the challenges you thought were most concerning?



A race to the bottom?

- Resources are used in competition to tell the best artisanal story
- Resources used in reformulation that provide few "objective" benefits
- Do these increase the size of the pie
 - More affordable? Healthier? More convenient? Safer? Better for the environment?

Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing



What kind of food future will we offer to food consumers?

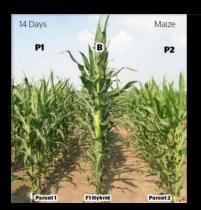
"There has been a nightmare bred in England . . . the dogma that men breed too fast for the powers of the soil; that men multiply in a geometric ratio, whilst corn multiplies only in an arithmetical; and hence that, the more prosperous we are, the faster we approach these frightful limits. . . . "Not so, Mr. Malthus, but just the opposite of so is the fact." . . . It needs science and great numbers to cultivate the best lands, and in the best manner."

—Ralph Waldo Emmerson, 1858





Eli Whitney





George Shull, Edward Murray East, et al.



Thomas Jefferson



John Deere



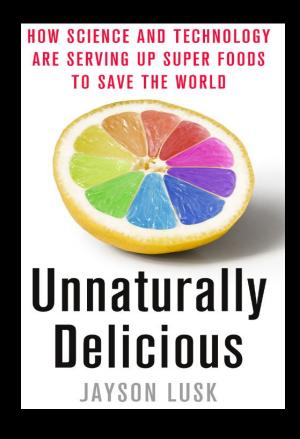
George Washington Carver

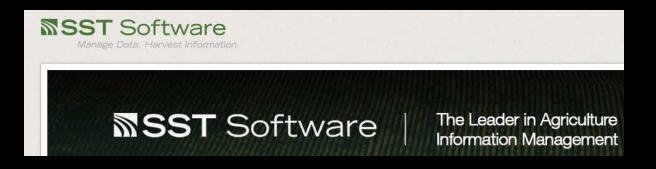


Percy Spencer

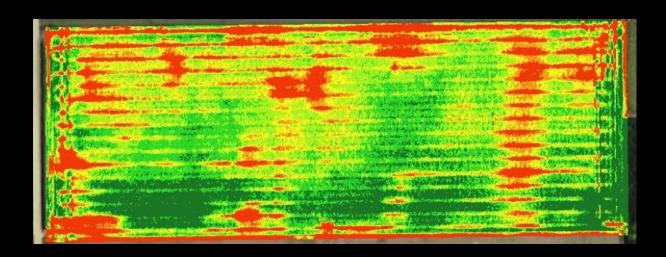
My take

 Need an optimistic, forward looking vision for the future of food











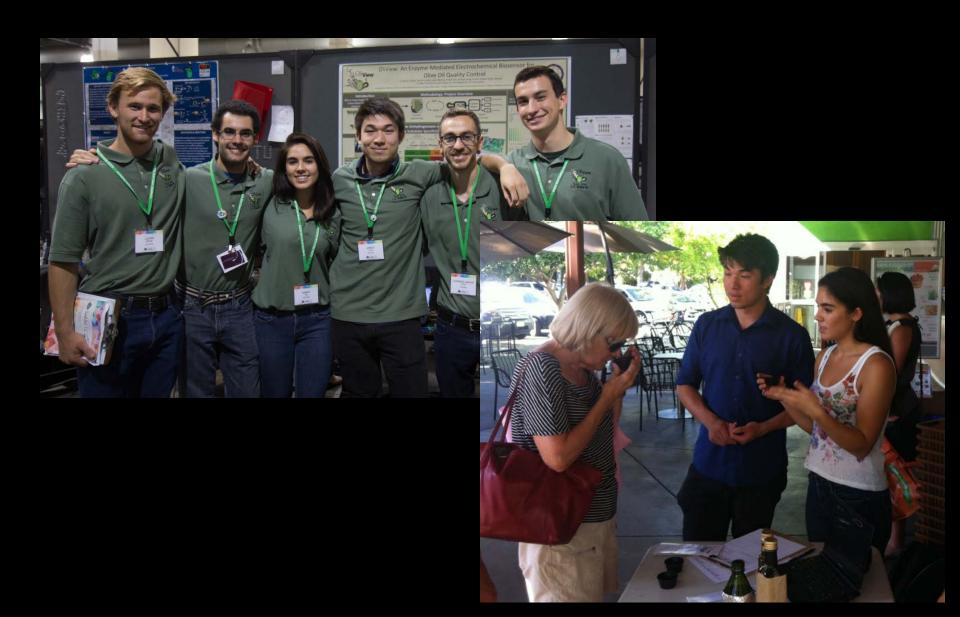








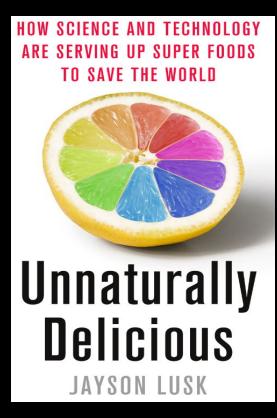


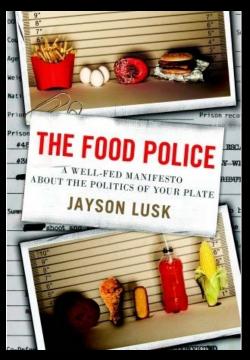


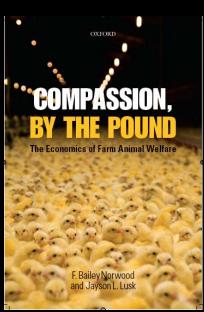














■ The Oxford Handbook of THE ECONOMICS OF FOOD CONSUMPTION AND POLICY

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