PATHFINDING TOWARDS PRECISION FERMENTATION VIABILITY



ARTHUR LITTLE

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Executive summary

Overview

Precision fermentation (PF) has enabled the production of key food ingredients for decades, and its potential is now expanding to the alternative protein industry – but commercialising these innovations remains challenging due to cost barriers, especially for commodity molecules. To address this, the Good Food Institute Europe and Arthur D. Little Consultancy partnered to develop a structured framework to help companies identify commercially viable target molecules that can support companies in the near-term to reduce risk, build capabilities, and lay the groundwork for scaling towards broader impact. This can help companies bridge the 'valley of death' and ultimately deliver on PF's full potential to reduce environmental impacts and boost food security.

Key findings

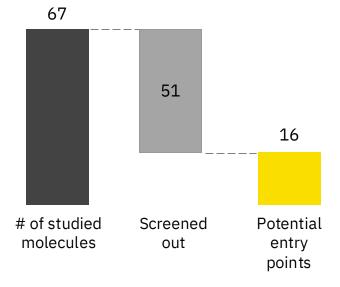
- Of the 67 precision fermentation molecules analysed, ~24% have promising market potential based on lower unit cost estimates compared to current market prices for conventionally-produced molecules.
- The most viable opportunities exist for proteins (instead of fats and lipids and other small molecules) with high functional value and premium applications.
- Further optimisation of key variables, such as target yield on substrate, substrate costs, culture volume at harvest, and titre at harvest could significantly reduce unit economics. As the sector advances its technology and processes, more molecules could become viable candidates for competitive production through precision fermentation.

67

Number of molecules considered in this study

24%

Share of molecules with potentially viable entry opportunities based on conventional market prices and the estimated cost of production via precision fermentation





Recommendations

Corporates that act today can secure upstream control and differentiation; startups that stay laser-focused on unit economics and partnerships will survive the "valley of death" and maximise value

Corporations			Startups		
1	Set up a PF "Opportunity Radar": Formal scouting to identify molecules that have viable market entry points, large market opportunities, and low saturation.	1	Rigorous product-market fit check: Use structured frameworks to focus R&D on molecules with viable entry points and clear differentiation.		
2	Secure platform footholds: Pursue joint ventures or contract manufacturing deals that convert idle fermentation assets into PF-ready capacity.	2	Exploit "cost-in-use" storytelling: Shift from \$/kg to \$/functional-dose to highlight PF's competitiveness even if headline cost of production (CoP) lags conventional benchmarks.		
3	Build PF-made ingredients into the foundation of future product innovation: Incorporate PF ingredients into new product development where it can support ESG goals and enable differentiated product growth.	3	Leverage corporate muscle: Pursue "anchor off-taker" or "shared capex" models with food and beverage majors to plug the scale-up funding gap and fast-track regulatory approval.		
4	Adopt a flexible, stage-gated approach to PF: Fund projects incrementally, end low-potential efforts early, and scale up winners decisively.	4	Expand platform potential: Once a strain/downstream processing (DSP) combination is proven, rapidly branch into adjacent molecules with shared technical attributes to expand addressable markets with minimal incremental capex.		

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Introduction

Precision fermentation has long played a role in food production. It is used today to produce essential ingredients for the food industry, including rennet for cheesemaking and citric acid for food preservation. Today, innovators are expanding the potential of precision fermentation as a technology to produce functional proteins, such as egg and dairy proteins, specialty ingredients like heme and oils and fats like palm oil.

Many companies face hurdles in bringing ingredients for commodity applications to market at cost-competitive levels. While significant advances have been made in strain engineering, feedstock optimisation, and bioprocess design over the past few years, many efforts are targeting commodity molecules – high-volume, low-margin products that are difficult to commercialise without large-scale cost reductions.

The Good Food Institute Europe (GFI Europe) and Arthur D. Little Consultancy partnered on a project to develop a framework for identifying viable molecules for precision fermentation market entry. By building a foundation on near-term feasible target molecules, companies can reduce risk, build capabilities, and lay the groundwork for scaling toward broader impact. This report details a structured approach to guide target molecule selection, and examples of case studies that demonstrate how to analyse high potential molecules for commercial and technical feasibility.

Introduction

An important caveat of this research is that premium markets are normally an intermediate solution. Targeting high-value, niche applications can play an important role during the early commercialisation phase. However, premium markets are typically not a long-term growth strategy.

In most cases, niche opportunities are part of a broader strategy to eventually reach large, cost-sensitive markets, where cost reduction is essential. If products remain expensive, they will be confined to small premium segments, which often represent only hundreds of metric tonnes (MT) annually. These markets are structurally limited in size and cannot absorb the output of large-scale production facilities. Efforts to expand niche markets usually face diminishing returns: as supply increases, prices tend to fall, undermining the business case for scaling. Premium segments also come with structural hurdles. Customers in these markets often have long sales cycles, slow adoption rates, and gradual market expansion. These dynamics make it difficult to achieve the rapid growth required to support significant capital investments.

Despite their limitations, identifying and targeting early premium niches remains critical. These markets can provide essential early revenues, proof points for investors and partners, and valuable learning opportunities. When integrated into a broader scale-up strategy, they serve as a crucial bridge – helping companies de-risk their technology, refine their value proposition, and build the capabilities needed to access larger, mainstream markets.

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Project scope and approach

Bringing a precision fermentation-made molecule to market involves multiple stages; the focus of this project is the "select target" phase

Objective

To develop a structured framework to identify viable target molecules for near-term market entry.

Purpose

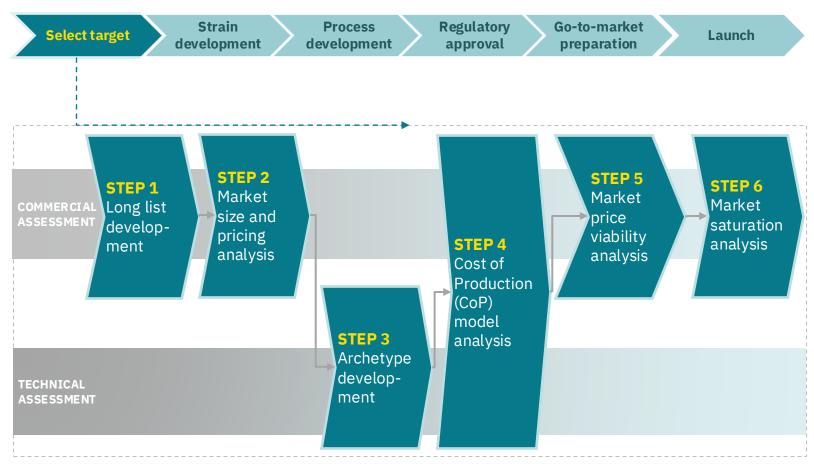
A rigorous target selection process ensures R&D and investment are aligned with viable market opportunities.

Approach

- 1. Assessing a wide landscape of ingredients that can benefit from PF production.
- 2. Assessments across both the commercial and technical aspects of a molecule.
- 3. Conducting deeper techno-economic and market analyses of high potential molecules.

Methodology

Data collection and interviews.



Step 1: Longlist development

A longlist of 67 molecules was developed with a focus on molecules with a food-specific applications and existing markets, and included both mass market and premium targets

Longlist inclusion

Priority was given to:

- Molecules primarily used in food applications, including proteins, fats and lipids, and small molecules (eg, flavour and aroma compounds, colourants). Deprioritised molecules include vitamins, bioactive compounds, nutraceuticals, and processing-related ingredients (preservatives, antimicrobials, enzymes).
- Molecules with existing markets.
- Molecules with readily available market information.

Longlist of molecules					
Brazzein	16 Fibronectin	31 Stearic Acid	46 Cinnamaldehyde	61 Vanillin	
Leghemoglobin	17 Phosvitin	32 Triacylglycerols	47 Ethyl Butyrate	62 Capsaicin	
Monellin	18 Tropoelastin	33 Lecithin	48 Ethyl Acetate	63 Carotenoids	
Myoglobin	19 Vitellogenin	34 Ceramides	49 Eugenol	64 Carminic Acid	
Casein	20 Albumin (Human & Bovine)	35 Sphingolipids	50 Geraniol	65 Inosinate & Guanylate	
Chymosin	21 Conalbumin/Ovotransferrin	36 Omega-6 Fatty Acids	51 Isoamyl Acetate	66 Steviol Glycosides	
Collagen	22 Immunoglobulins (IgG, IgA)	37 Monoolein	52 Linalool	67 Anthocyanin	
Glycomacropeptide (GMP)	23 Lactoferrin	38 Monostearin	53 Limonene		
Ovalbumin	Milk Fat Globule Membrane	39 Phospholipids	54 Menthone		
Thaumatin	25 Ovomucoid	40 Phosphatidylcholine	55 Methyl Salicylate	Brotoine	
α-lactalbumin (food- grade)	α-lactal bumin (high purity)	41 Phosphatidylethanolamine	56 α-Ionene	Proteins	
β-lactoglobulin (food- grade)	β-lactoglobulin (high purity)	42 DHA	57 Ethyl Maltol	Fats & lipids	
3 Avidin	28 Lauric Acid	43 EPA	58 Glutamate	Small molecules	
4 Lysozyme	Myristic and Palmitic Acids	44 Benzaldehyde	59 Menthol		
Elastin	30 Oleic Acid	45 Citronellal	60 2-Phenylethanol		

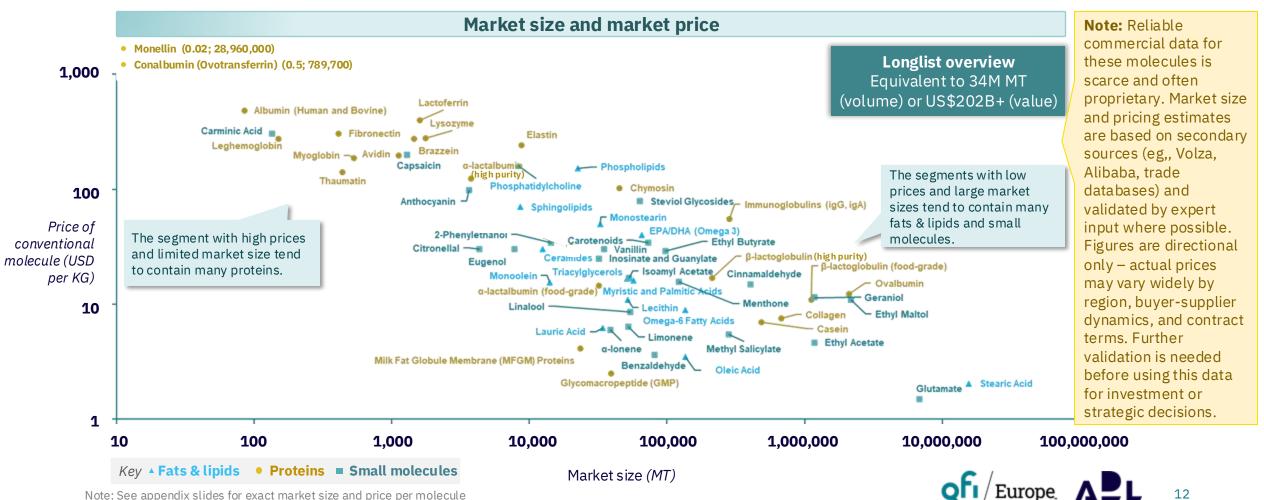
Landlist of malaculas



Step 2: Market size and pricing analysis

Source: Arthur D. Little, Sigma-Aldrich, Volza, Alibaba, USTIC, USDA, Mintec

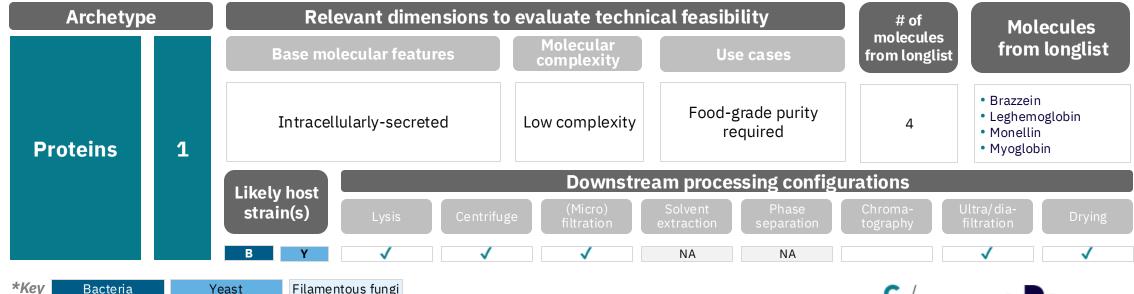
The market size and market price of each molecule was mapped to signal the viable PF market opportunity, with molecules that have lower prices per kg tending to have larger market sizes



To facilitate assessing 67 molecules for technical feasibility, molecules were grouped into archetypes based on similar process configurations, input requirements, and cost drivers

Worked example: Archetype "P1"

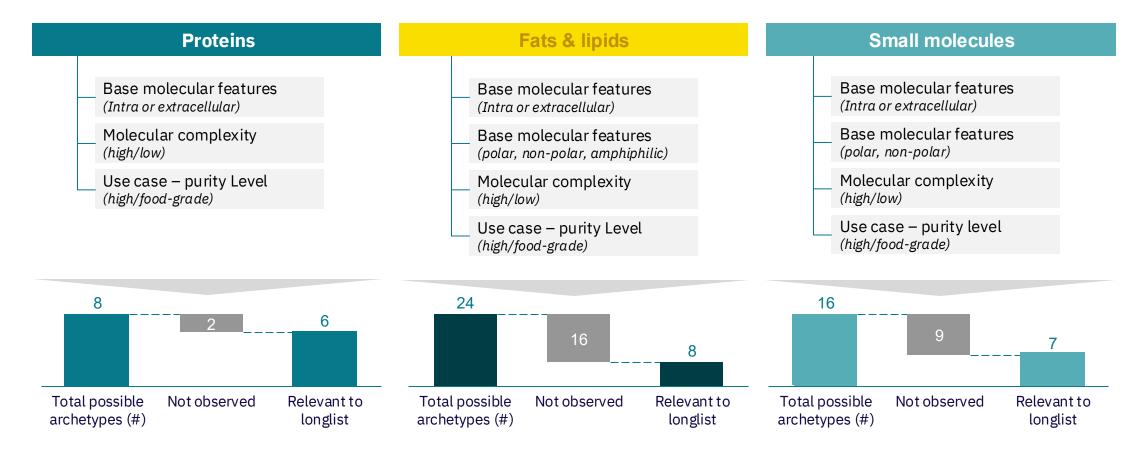
The Protein 1 (P1) archetype includes the molecules brazzein, leghemoglobin, monellin, and myoglobin. These molecules can be grouped together in an archetype because they have similar technical dimensions that determine host strains and process configurations with comparable cost contributions.



Definitions of the technical dimensions and their implications are outlined below

Relevant dimensions to evaluate technical feasibility Base molecular features **Molecular complexity** Use cases Low complexity **High complexity** Intracellularly-Extracellularlysecreted secreted (no/few functional groups, (many functional groups, Food-grade High purity chirality, PTMs¹, or other chirality. PTMs1. or other required purity required ligand-binding/folding ligand-binding/folding Non-polar requirements and requirements and **Amphiphilic** Polar complexities) complexities) **Polar:** likely to require filtration and drying **Intracellular:** likely to require cell lysis More likely to require More likely to More likely to support Less likely to **Amphiphilic:** likely to require bacterial or yeast-based yeast or filamentous require require filtration, phase separation and Extracellular: less fungi-based hosts chromatography chromatography hosts drying likely to require cell lysis **Non-polar:** likely to require phase separation

Evaluating the technical dimensions yielded 48 possible archetypes, of which 21 were relevant to the molecules in the longlist



The 21 relevant archetypes are presented below

Molecule group	Arche type	Relevant di		evaluate techn Molecular complexity	ical feasibility Use cases	# of molecules from longlist	Example molecule from longlist
	1	Intracellularly-se	ecreted	Low complexity	Food-grade purity required	4	Myoglobin
	2	Extracellularly-se		High complexity	Food-grade purity required	8	Thaumatin
	3	Intracellularly-se		Low complexity	High purity required	1	Avidin
Proteins	4	Extracellularly-se		Low complexity	High purity required	1	Lysozyme
	5	Intracellularly-se		High complexity	High purity required	5	Fibronectin
	6	Extracellularly-se		High complexity	High purity required	8	α-lactal bumin
	4	Intracellularly-secreted	Non-polar	Low complexity	Food-grade purity required		
	2	•		•		4	Oleic acid
		Intracellularly-secreted	Non-polar	High complexity	Food-grade purity required	1	Triacylglycerols
Fats &	3	Intracellularly-secreted	Amphiphilic	High complexity	Food-grade purity required	1	Lecithin
raiso	4	Extracellularly-secreted	Polar	High complexity	Food-grade purity required	2	Sphingolipids
lipids	5	Extracellularly-secreted	Non-polar	Low complexity	High purity required	1	Omega-6 fatty acids
	6	Extracellularly-secreted	Amphiphilic	Low complexity	High purity required	2	Monostearin
	7	Intracellularly-secreted	Amphiphilic	High complexity	High purity required	3	Phospholipids
	8	Extracellularly-secreted	Polar	High complexity	High purity required	2	DHA
	1	Extracellularly-secreted	Non-polar	Low complexity	Food-grade purity required	13	Benzaldehyde
	2	Intracellularly-secreted	Polar	Low complexity	Food-grade purity required	3	2-Phenylethanol
Small	3	Intracellularly-secreted	Non-polar	High complexity	Food-grade purity required	1	Menthol
	4	Intracellularly-secreted	Polar	Low complexity	High purity required	1	Vanillin
molecules	5	Intracellularly-secreted	Non-polar	High complexity	High purity required	2	Carotenoids
	6	Intracellularly-secreted	Polar	High complexity	High purity required	3	Carminic acid
	7	Extracellularly-secreted	Polar	High complexity	High purity required	1	Anthocyanin

Source: Arthur D. Little

Each archetype also considered likely host strain(s) and downstream processing configurations, which heavily influence efficiency and costs



Yeast

Step 4: Cost of Production (CoP) model analysis

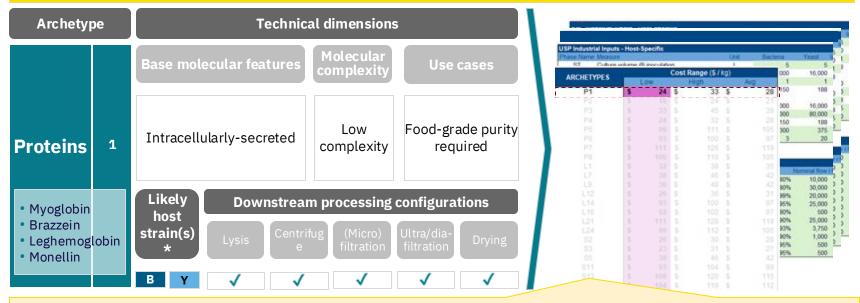
A CoP model was developed for each archetype to provide insight into the estimated costs of production via precision fermentation for molecules in that archetype

A precision fermentation-made molecule production cost range was estimated for each archetype, representing the estimated cost per kg to produce molecules in that archetype.

Molecules within the same archetype are assumed to share similar process configurations, input requirements, and cost drivers. The cost estimates for each archetype are based on assumptions about the typical host strains used (eg, fungi, bacteria) and the necessary upstream and downstream equipment and process setups to produce those molecules.

Example: Deriving assumptions to inform the CoP model for the "P1" archetype

For the **P1 archetype**, the CoP model incorporated cost assumptions that were derived from the technical dimensions, likely host strains, and process configurations shared by molecules in the archetype. This resulted in an **estimated production cost of \$24-\$33/kg** for precision fermentation-made P1 molecules.



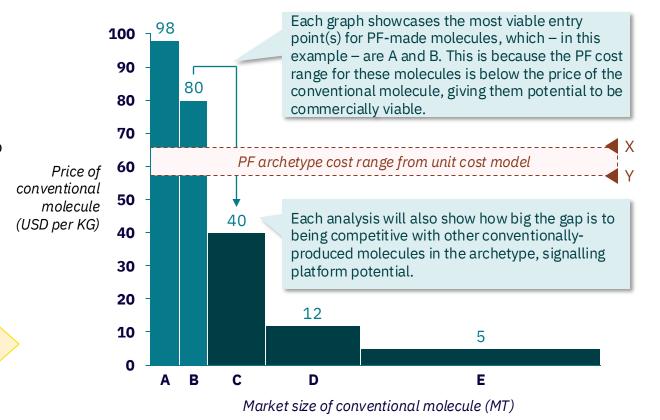
Note: The CoP model is a tool for obtaining directional estimates of unit economics based on input assumptions. It is designed to test archetypes and enable sensitivity analysis by assessing cost variations based on input changes. It is not a precise or definitive predictor of molecule production costs. Actual costs require company-specific, real-world data.

By combining the market size and price information for each molecule from <u>step 2</u> with the cost estimates per archetype from <u>step 4</u>, molecules were evaluated for their market potential

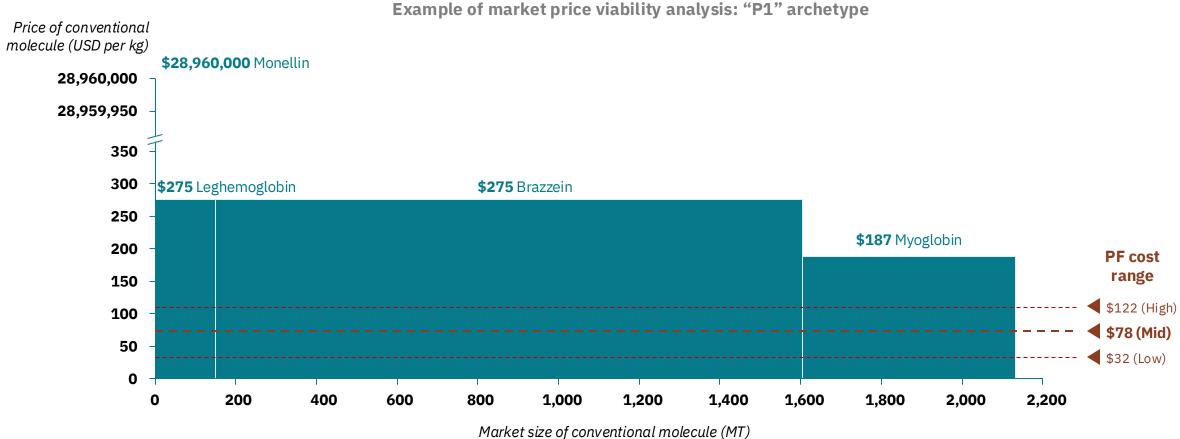
The market opportunity for each PF-made molecule was estimated by comparing the estimated PF production cost (based on the CoP model) to the market size and price of the conventionally-made molecule (based on market data). For each molecule, data was gathered from three sources – triangulated across trade databases, e-commerce platforms, market research reports, and news articles – and averaged to produce indicative price and volume estimates.

The example graph to the right outlines how the price and cost estimate analysis of each archetype was developed. The following section presents two archetypes for illustration and the final list of prioritised molecules.

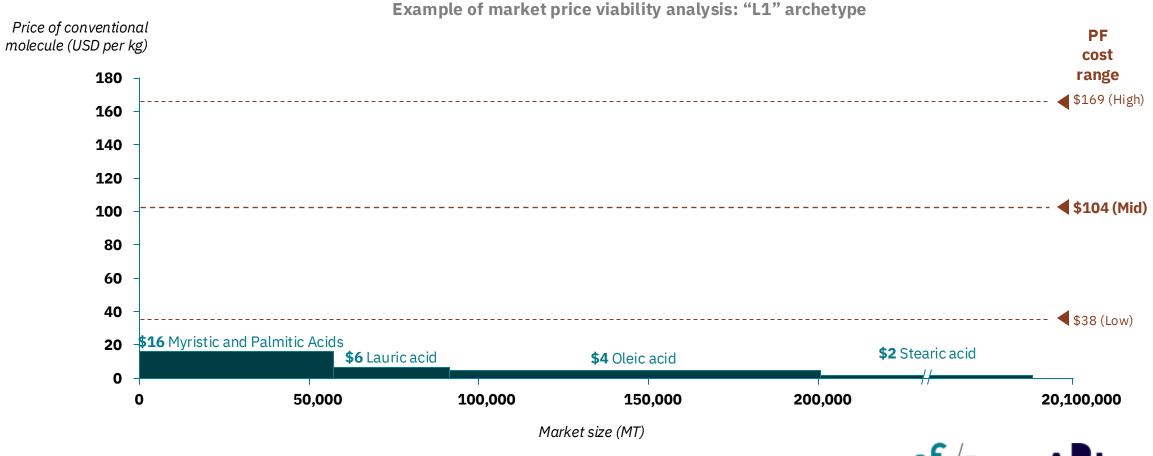
"Cost vs price" disclaimer: Comparing modelled cost of production (CoP) to market prices can provide a useful benchmark for assessing cost competitiveness. However, CoP and market price are not equivalent. CoP reflects the capital and operational expenses associated with producing a product, whereas market price captures the full cost of goods sold (COGS) and incorporates additional downstream costs and profit margins applied throughout the value chain. As such, comparisons should not be assumed to represent direct parity.



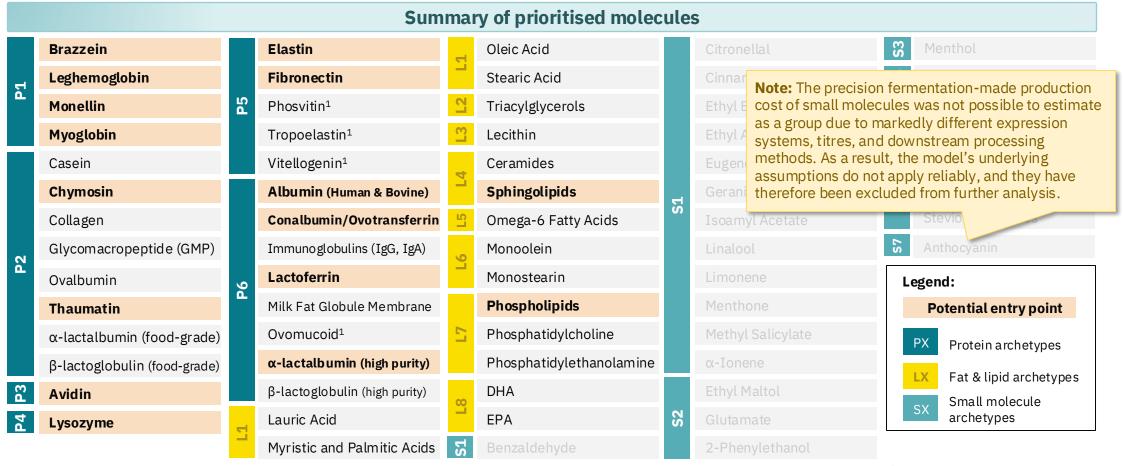
All the molecules in the P1 archetype appear to be strong candidates, with production costs below the conventional market price, leaving room for additional market entry costs



None of the molecules under Archetype L1 can be considered to have potential due to the low price point of the existing products



Of the original 67 molecules on the longlist, 16 of the PF-made molecules have a potentially viable price point for market entry

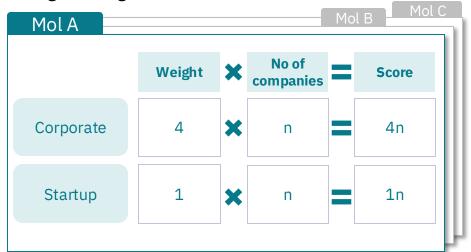


Step 6: Market saturation analysis

To further understand the market potential of the 16 molecules, a market saturation analysis was conducted to analyse existing market players and the impact of a new PF plant

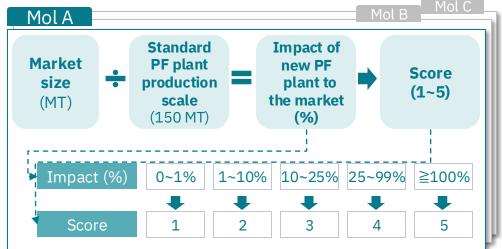
1 Magnitude of presence of existing players

- The magnitude of the presence of existing players in each PF-made molecule market was evaluated, considering the size and number of companies.
- Larger companies were assumed to have greater manufacturing capacity and were assigned a higher weight during the evaluation.



Impact of new PF plant to the market

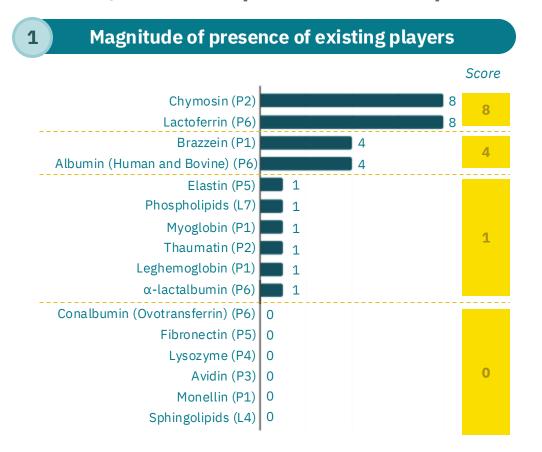
- The number of new entrants a market can accommodate was evaluated based on the impact of a new PF plant (150 MT) in the market.
- If the impact of a single plant is minimal, the market can support a larger number of entrants, leading to the conclusion that market saturation is low.

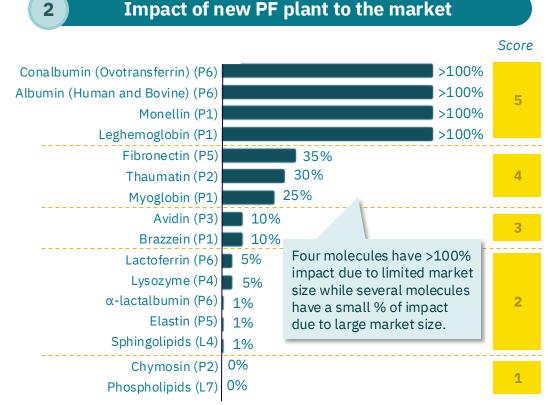


Note: Modelled plant size reflects a conservative, first-ofa-kind (FOAK) facility suitable for niche market entry. While this may inflate cost estimates, it helps illustrate market saturation potential at modest volumes.

Step 6: Market saturation analysis

Each molecule was scored according to the magnitude of presence of existing players in the market, and the impact of a new PF plant to the market





Step 6: Market saturation analysis

All 16 prioritised molecules have market entry potential; understanding the market saturation provides an additional lens to take into consideration when developing market entry strategies

Results of market saturation analysis for the 16 shortlisted molecules

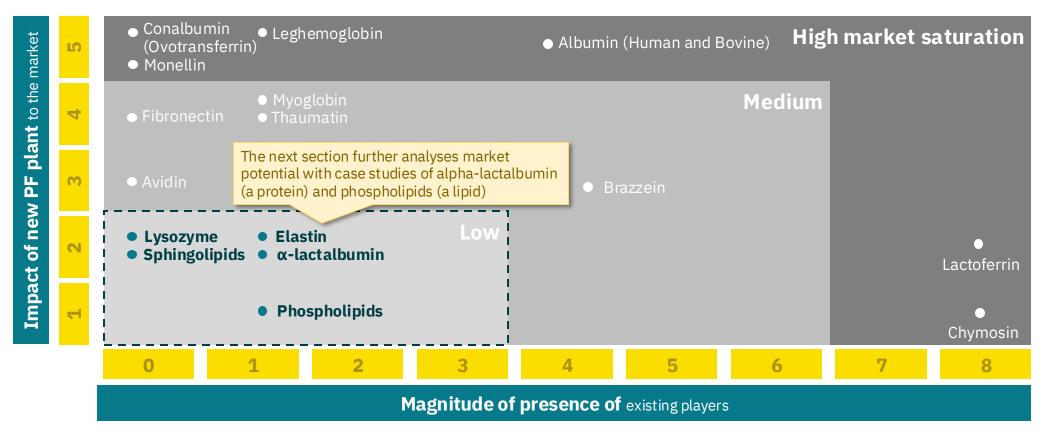


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Summary of key findings



Properties

Description

Alpha-lactalbumin (α -lac) is a whey protein found in cow's milk.

Key properties

- Functional qualities
 - Stabiliser
 - Water binding and solubility
 - · Ion binding and stability
- Nutritional qualities
 - · Essential amino acids
 - Tryptophan provider
 - Antioxidant
 - · Immune Support

Applications

- Food
 - · Infant formula
 - Sports nutrition
 - General food
- · Cosmetics and skincare
- Health supplements

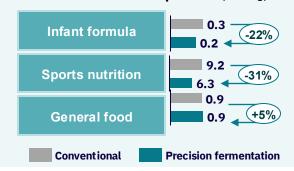


Cost comparison

The cost of PF-nmade α -lac was estimated using the CoP model and compared with the conventionally-made molecule's market price.

- On a cost of molecule basis (USD per kg of molecule) PF-made α-lac may be costcompetitive for infant nutrition and sports nutrition, and even more competitive on a costin-use basis.
- For general food applications, further cost reductions are needed to compete on price.

Cost-in-use comparison (USD/kg)



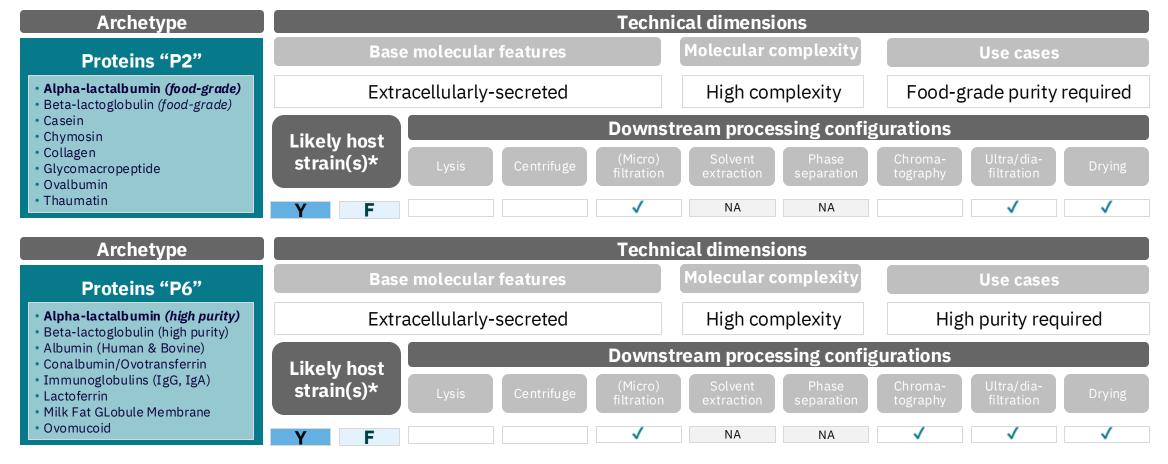


Market opportunity

The CoP model estimated changes to the cost of production based on improvement scenarios in four key areas (culture volume at harvest, target yield on substrate, substrate cost, and titre at harvest).

- With 50% improvement in the four key cost drivers, the PF-made α -lac unit cost declines:
 - For food-grade purity, from \$24/kg to \$12/kg.
 - For high purity, from \$100/kg to \$86/kg.
- The market size for high purity α-lac is ~3,700 MT. If the technical platform for α-lac can be used to produce other molecules in the same archetype, the market opportunity expands to 51,000 MT (13x bigger than α-lac).

As seen on slide 21, α -lac is part of both the P2 and P6 archetypes of protein molecules depending on the purity level



There are three potential market segments that differ based on purity levels; precision fermentation-derived α -lac can offer advantages in cost, functionality and purity

Key considerations for market entry with PF-made α -lac

	Affordability	Safety	Nutritional value	Functionality	Potential PF benefits compared to conventional
 Infant formula	High customer willingness to pay	No tolerance policy (zero for pathogens ¹ , stricter than food for other ²)	High impact on infant body and brain development	Limited infant digestibility	 Possibly cheaper than conventional production (\$100/kg vs \$123/kg) Comparable nutritional value Potential functional advantages (eg, solubility) Higher purity X Lengthy approval process
Sports nutrition	Medium customer willingness to pay	Medium tolerance (zero for pathogens ¹ , limits for other ²)	Moderate impact on physical development, sleep, and mood	Minimal texture requirements	 Possibly cheaper than conventional production (\$24/kg vs \$29/kg) Comparable nutritional value Potential functional advantages (eg, solubility) Higher purity
General food	Low customer willingness to pay	Medium tolerance (zero for pathogens ¹ , limits for other ²)	None	Employed for emulsifying, foaming, etc. capabilities only	 ✓ Comparable nutritional value ✓ Potential functional advantages (eg, solubility) ✓ Higher purity ✗ No cost or cost-in-use advantage at present

The estimated CoP of PF-made α -lac is ~\$24-\$100/kg at 80l harvest volume, depending on purity

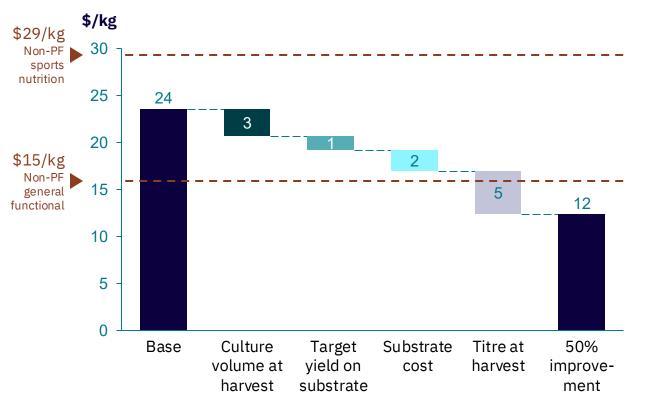
	Base case assumpt	tions for PF-made α-lac		
Unit Cost Driver	Food-grade purity (~95% ±10%)	High purity (>99%)	Assumption Basis ¹	
Production region	United	States	Arbitrary	
Host type	Ye	ast	Industry interviews / triangulation; Fermentation. 2024; 10(6):315	
Secretion type	Extrac	cellular	J Agric Food Chem. 2022 Mar 2;70(8):2664-2672	
Culture volume @ harvest (m³)	8	30	GFI technical team	
Target yield on substrate (g/g)²	lested on	13	Sci Rep 6, 36421 (2016); Microb Cell Fact 22 , 76 (2023)	
Substrate cost (\$/kg)	upcoming slides \$0	.60	Industry interviews / triangulation	
Titre @ harvest (g/l)		20	GFI technical team	
1. Microfiltration 2. Ultra / diafiltration 3. Spray drying		 Microfiltration Chromatography Ultra / diafiltration Spray drying 	Industry interviews / triangulation;	
DSP yield	87%	70%	GFI technical team	
Batch length (days)	2.2	2.2		
Batches/year	162	164		
Output product (kg powder/batch)	1,400	1,120	Raw materials Other ²	
<u>Base</u> unit cost (\$/kg)	\$24	\$100	Labor Maintenance/	
Breakdown of unit costs	23% 25% 19% 15% 8% 4% <mark>5%</mark>		Capex Insurance Consumables Utilities	

Note: (1) Values observed in real-world, scaled precision fermentation production may differ notably from "base" assumptions which are meant to provide an initial basis for sensitivity analyses rather than an authoritative, precise estimate of real-world production costs. (2) Grams of target molecule (α -lac in this case) per gram of non-water media additive (sugars, growth factors, buffers, etc.) Includes QC/QA/Laboratory and waste disposal. Source: Arthur D. Little



For food-grade purity α -lac, the unit cost declines from \$24/kg to \$12/kg with improvement in four key cost drivers

Unit cost sensitivities to key variables for food-grade purity α -lac



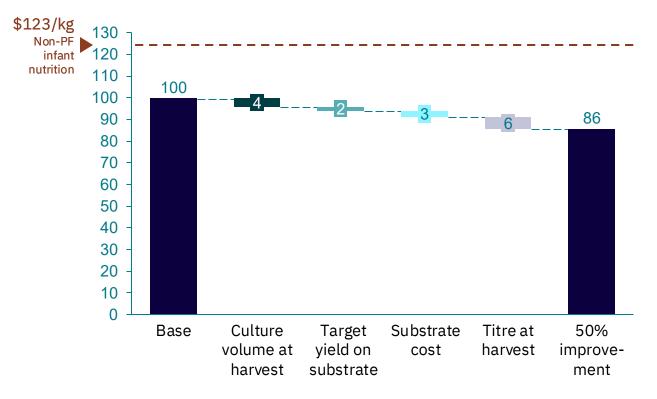
Improvement scenarios					
Variable	Base	50%			
Target yield on substrate (g/g)²	0.13	0.19			
Substrate cost (\$/kg)	\$0.60 / kg	\$0.30 / kg			
Culture volume at harvest (m³)	80 m ³	120 m³			
Titre at harvest (g/L)	20 g/l Titre	30 g/l Titre			
Production cost	\$24	\$12			

50% improvement vs "base" assumptions

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For high purity α -lac, the unit cost declines from \$100/kg to \$86/kg with improvement in four key cost drivers

Unit cost sensitivities to key variables for high purity α -lac



Improvement scenarios					
Variable	Base	50%			
Target yield on substrate (g/g) ²	0.13	0.19			
Substrate cost (\$/kg)	\$0.60 / kg	\$0.30 / kg			
Culture volume at harvest (m³)	80 m ³	120 m ³			
Titre at harvest (g/L)	20 g/l Titre	30 g/l Titre			
Production cost	\$100	\$86			

50% improvement vs "base" assumptions

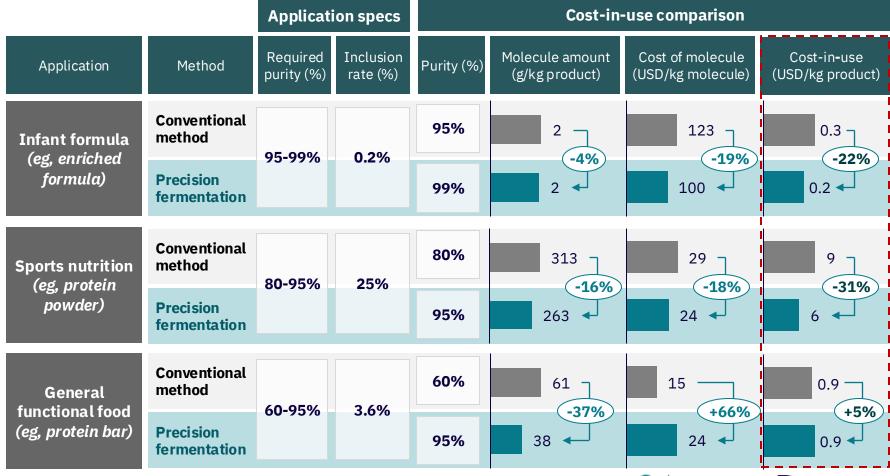


On a cost-in-use basis, PF-made α-lac may be even more competitive for infant formula and sports nutrition, while further cost reductions are still needed to compete in general food

The role of cost-in-use

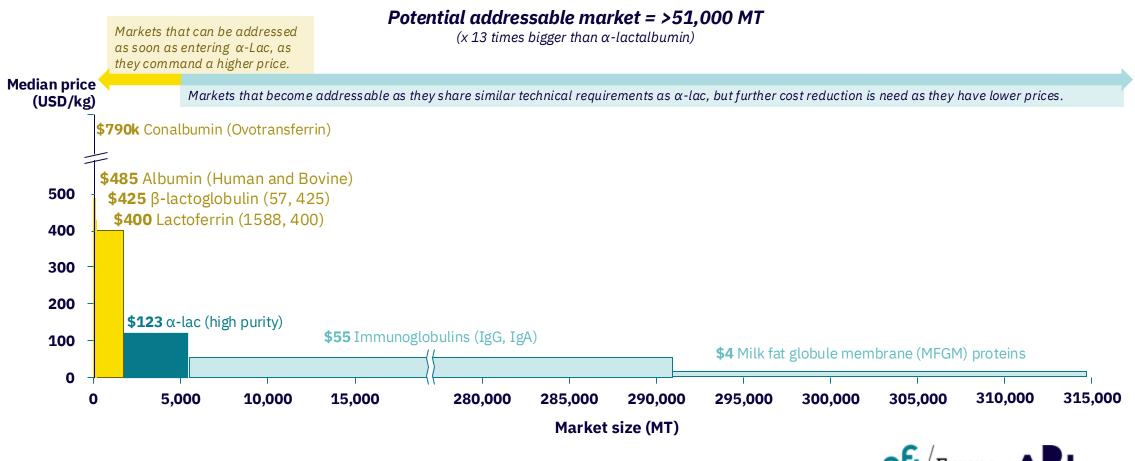
Cost-in-use accounts for the actual quantity needed to deliver equivalent functionality

- meaning that higher purity or more efficient ingredients can reduce required dosages, lower formulation or processing costs, and ultimately lead to a more competitive total cost.



Note: Producing a P6 archetype protein requires nearly the same configuration as proteins in the P2 archetype. If efficiency improvements can be made with the production platform, it may also be feasible to produce some P2 proteins at a viable market price.

If the technical platform used to produce α -lac can be leveraged to address the other molecules under archetype P6, there is a 13x bigger market potential



Phospholipids case study

Summary of key findings



Properties

Description

Phospholipids are emulsifying and cognitionenhancing nutrients sourced from animals or plants.

Key properties

- Functional qualities
 - Emulsifying
 - Preservative
- Nutritional qualities
 - Cognition enhancer
 - · Immunity enhancer
 - Metabolism facilitator
 - Anti-aging

Applications

- Food
 - Infant formula
 - Functional adult nutrition (eg, "anti-stress")
 - General food functionality enhancer and preservative
- Cosmetics and pharmaceuticals

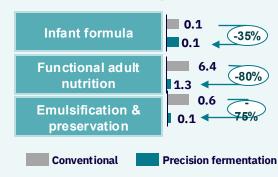


Cost comparison

The cost of PF-made phospholipids was estimated using the CoP model and compared with the conventionally-made molecule's market price.

 On a cost of molecule basis (USD per kg of molecule) and a cost-in-use basis (USD per kg of product) PF-made phospholipids may be costcompetitive for all three applications.

Cost-in-use comparison (USD/KG)





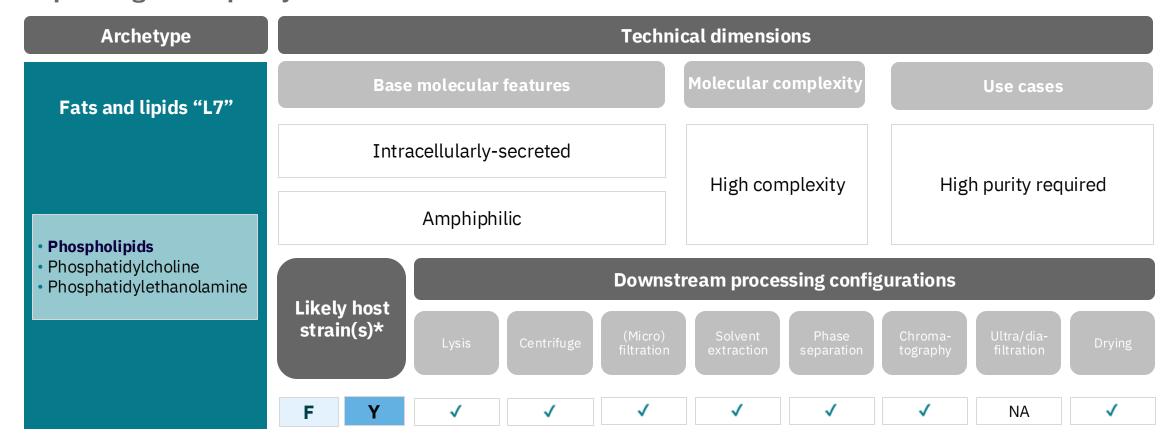
Market opportunity

The CoP model estimated changes to the cost of production based on improvement scenarios in four key areas (culture volume at harvest, target yield on substrate, substrate cost, and titre at harvest).

- With 50% improvement in the four key cost drivers, the PF-derived α-lac unit cost declines:
 - For lower purity, from \$27/kg to \$14/kg.
 - For high purity, from \$99/kg to \$83/kg.

Phospholipids case study

As seen on <u>slide 21</u>, phospholipids is part of the <u>L7 archetype of fats and lipids molecules</u> depending on the purity level



There are three potential market segments that differ based on purity levels; precision fermentation-made phospholipids can offer advantages in cost and safety

Requirements for phospholipids	Affordability	Safety	Nutritional value	Functionality	Potential benefits compared to conventional
Infant formula nutrition & functionality	High willingness to pay	Zero tolerance for pathogens ¹ , stricter than food for other ²	Functional benefits for	Limited digestibility for infants	 ✓ Possibly cheaper than conventional production (\$99/kg vs \$153/kg) ✓ Free of contaminants¹ from raw materials
Functional adult nutrition	Medium willingness to pay	Medium tolerance (zero for pathogens ¹ , limits for other ²)	cognition and anti-stress	Product usability and handiness	 ✓ Possibly cheaper than conventional production (\$27/kg vs \$127/kg) ✓ Free of contaminants¹ from raw materials
General food functionality enhancer & preservative	Low willingness to pay	Medium tolerance (zero for pathogens ¹ , limits for other ²)	None	Vibrant hues to support product appearances	 ✓ Possibly cheaper than conventional production (\$27/kg vs \$84/kg) ✓ Free of contaminants¹ from raw materials



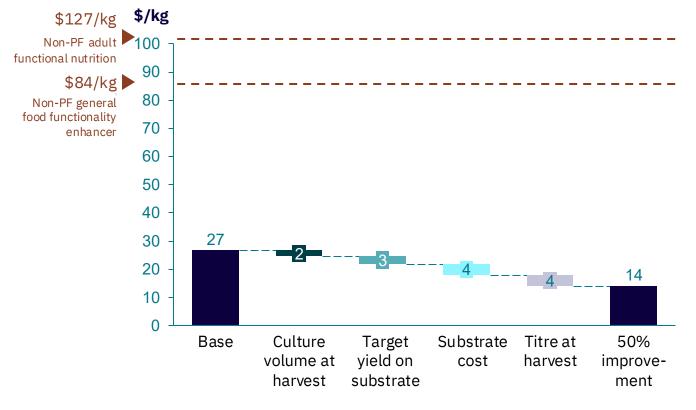
The estimated CoP of PF-made phospholipids are estimated at ~\$27-99/kg at 200kl harvest volume, depending on purity level

Base case assumptions phospholipids

	Food-grade purity (~95% ±10	0%) High purity (>99%)	Assumption basis ¹
Production region	U	nited States	Arbitrary
Host type	Filar	mentous Fungi	Biofuel Research Journal 41(2024) 2040-2064
Secretion type	I	ntracellular	Biofuel Research Journal 41(2024) 2040-2064
Culture volume @ harvest (m³)	Sensitivity	200	GFI technical team
Target yield on substrate (g/g) ²	tested on i	0.13	Sci Rep 6, 36421 (2016)
Substrate cost (\$/kg)	upcoming	\$0.60	Industry interviews / triangulation
Titre @ harvest <i>(g/l)</i>	slides	40	GFI technical team
DSP configuration	 Cell lysis Centrifugation Solvent Extraction Phase Separation Spray Drying 	 Cell lysis Centrifugation Solvent Extraction Phase Separation Chromatography Spray Drying 	European Journal of Lipid Science and Technology 110(5):472 – 486; Food Hydrocolloids, Volume 111, 2021, 106357
DSP yield	52%	42%	
Batch length (days)	4.7	4.6	Industry interviews / triangulation; GFI technical team
Batches (#/year)	78	79	Gri technical team
Output product (kg powder/batch)) 4,159	3,327	
Base unit cost (\$/kg)	\$27	\$99	Raw materials Other ² Labour Maintenance/
Breakdown of unit costs	35% 15% <mark>12%</mark> 25% <mark>7%</mark> 3	% 3% 12% 55% <mark>5% 75% 2%</mark>	Capex Insurance

For food-grade purity phospholipids, the unit cost declines from \$27/kg to \$14/kg with improvement in four key cost drivers

Unit cost sensitivities to key variables for food-grade purity phospholipids



Impro	ovement scenari	os
Variable	Base	50%
Target yield on substrate (g/g)²	0.13	0.19
Substrate cost (\$/kg)	\$0.60 / kg	\$0.30 / kg
Culture volume at harvest (m³)	200 m ³	300 m ³
Titre at harvest (g/l)	40 g/l Titre	60 g/l Titre
Cost	\$27	\$14

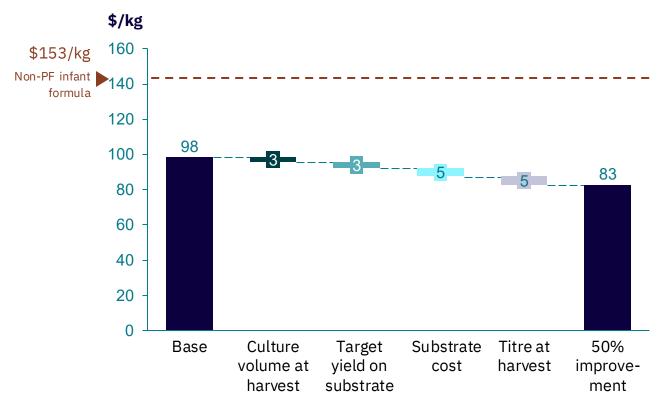
50% improvement vs "base" assumptions

gfi/Europe.



For high purity phospholipids, the unit cost declines from \$99/kg to \$83/kg with improvement in four key cost drivers

Unit cost sensitivities to key variables for high purity phospholipids



Improvement scenarios							
Variable	Base	50%					
Target yield on substrate (g/g)²	0.13	0.19					
Substrate cost (\$/kg)	\$0.60 / kg	\$0.30 / kg					
Culture volume at harvest (m³)	200 m ³	300 m ³					
Titre at harvest (g/l)	40 g/l Titre	60 g/l Titre					
Cost	\$99	\$83					

50% improvement vs "base" assumptions

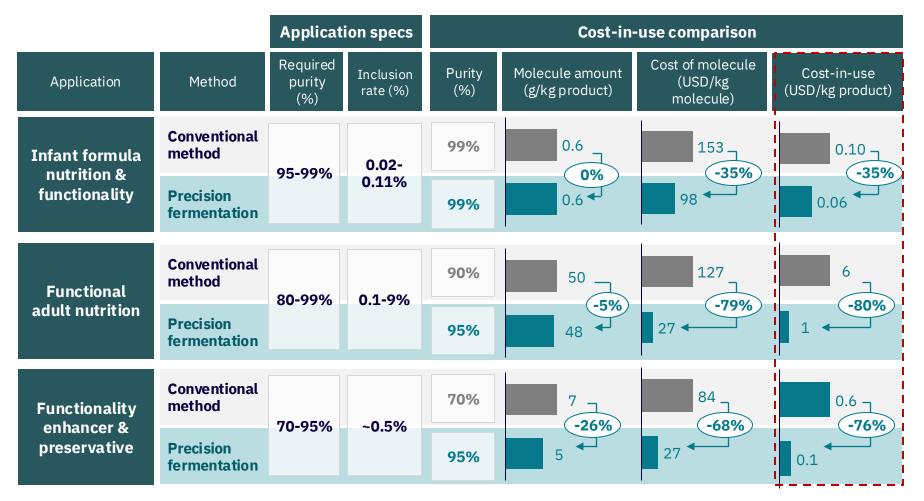




On a cost-in-use basis, PF-made phospholipids may be even more competitive for all applications

The role of cost-in-use

Cost-in-use accounts for the actual quantity needed to deliver equivalent functionality – meaning that higher purity or more efficient ingredients can reduce required dosages, lower formulation or processing costs, and ultimately lead to a more competitive total cost.



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Conclusion

The findings here aim to support companies and academia in crafting viable pathways to market

Of the 67 molecules,

24%

show potentially favourable cost dynamics if produced via PF Precision fermentation holds real commercial promise. Competing in low-margin industries such as the food sector is inherently challenging. A targeted go-to-market approach for PF production requires selecting molecules where there are competitive market entry price points and market sizes large enough to support sustained operations while platforms mature towards competing in large-scale, cost-sensitive commodity markets.

50% improvement in four key variables drives

~15-50%

production cost declines in two molecule case studies **Identifying key cost levers is essential.** To drive meaningful cost reduction, R&D efforts should be focused on technical and process levers with the highest impact on cost reduction. For the two molecules analysed in depth, this analysis found that a 50% improvement across four key cost drivers (target yield on substrate, substrate costs, culture volume at harvest, and titre at harvest) could result in cost reductions of ~15-50%.

Robust market intelligence is foundational: The precision fermentation CoP model and market estimates presented here are directional tools. These can and should be strengthened by more real-world data on prices, market sizes, and production costs. Greater transparency can help accelerate sector-wide progress.

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Presence of existing players

Below are the companies we identified as active in the prioritised molecules

Group	Archetype	Molecule	Existing startups	Existing corporates
Protein	P2	Chymosin		DSM, Chr. Hansen (Novonesis)
Protein	P6	Lactoferrin	<u>TurtleTree, Helaina, All G Foods, De Novo</u> <u>Food Labs</u>	<u>FrieslandCampina</u>
Protein	P1	Brazzein	Novel Foods Group, Conagen/Sweegen, Levprot Biosciences, Oobli Foods	
Protein	P6	Albumin (human and bovine)		<u>Lazuline Biotech</u>
Protein	P5	Elastin	Geltor	
Protein	P1	Myoglobin	<u>Paleo</u>	
Protein	P2	Thaumatin	Conagen/Sweegen	
Protein	P1	Leghemoglobin	Impossible Foods	
Protein	P6	α-lactalbumin	21st.bio	
Fat & lipid	L7	Phospholipids	Nourish Ingredients	



Group	Molecule	Archetype	Market value (M USD)	Market size (MT)	Avg price (USD/kg)	PF average price	Market size source 1	Market size source 2	Market size source 3	Price data source
Protein	Brazzein	P1	400	1,455	275	78	Brazzein Market Size, Share, Trends, Industry Analysis & Forecast	Brazzein Market - Share, Growth & Industry Forecasts 2033		Alibaba
Protein	Leghemoglobin	P1	41	150	275		Heme Market Size, Analysis, Share Global Report, 2032	(2) Heme Market Growth (2024-2032) 109 Pages Report LinkedIn		Volza
Protein	Monellin	P1	473	0	28,960,000		Monellin Market: Global Industry Analysis and Forecast (2023-2029)	Monellin Market Size, Share, Scope, Trends And Forecast 2030		Alibaba
Protein	Myoglobin	P1	99	528	187		Myoglobin Market Growth Trends, Global Analysis Report, 2024-2032	Myoglobin Market Size, Share & Trends Analysis Report 2030		Alibaba
Protein	Casein	P2	3,400	485,714	7		Casein and Caseinate Market Size and Share By 2034	Casein & Casein Derivatives Market Size, Share, Growth-2032		SigmaAldrich
Protein	Chymosin	P2	4,600	44,878	103		Fermented Chymosin Market Size, Industry Share – 2032	Chymosin Market Size, Competitors, Trends & Forecast to 2030		Alibaba
Protein	Collagen	P2	5,100	680,000	8	28	<u>Link</u>	<u>Link</u>	Link	Alibaba
Protein	Glycomacropeptide (GMP)	P2	98	39,328	3	28	Global Glycomacropeptide (GMP) Supplements Market Size 2031 Surfing the Waves of Dynamics LinkedIn	Global Glycomacropeptide (GMP) Supplements Market Impact of AI and Automation LinkedIn		Volza
Protein	Ovalbumin	P2	26,050	2,112,741	12		Ovalbumin Powder Market Size, Trends & Forecast – 2032 FMI	Ovalbumin Powder Market Size, Share, Growth, Industry Trend 2032		Volza, USTIC
Protein	Thaumatin	P2	61	436	140		Thaumatin Market: Size, Share, Growth Report, Analysis by 2023-2030	Thaumatin Market Size, Industry Report, Trends 2032		Alibaba
Protein	α-lactalbumin (food- grade)	P2	462	31,828	15	24	Global Market Study on Alpha Lactalbumin: Alpha-Lactalbumin to Witness a Potential Growth in the Sports Nutrition Industry	Alpha-lactalbumin Market Size, Outlook & Forecast 2033 FMI		Alibaba
Protein	β-lactoglobulin (food- grade)	P2	12,350	1,122,727	11	28	Global Market Study on Alpha Lactalbumin: Alpha-Lactalbumin to Witness a Potential Growth in the Sports Nutrition Industry	Alpha-lactalbumin Market Size, Outlook & Forecast 2033 FMI		Alibaba
Protein	Avidin	P3	220	1,119	197	105	Link	Link	Link	Alibaba
Protein	Lysozyme	P4	493	1,763	280		Global Lysozyme market size is USD 492.80 million in 2024.	Global Lysozyme Market Research Report 2024		Volza

Group	Molecule	Archetype	Market value (M USD)	Market size (MT)	Avg price (USD/kg)	PF average price	Market size source 1	Market size source 2	Market size source 3	Price data source
Protein	Elastin	P5	2,100	8,750	240	119	Elastin Market Size and Projections	Hydrolyzed Elastin Market Growth and Analysis 2032		Alibaba
Protein	Fibronectin	P5	125	410	305	119	Recombinant Human Fibronectin Market Research Report 2032			Alibaba
Protein	Phosvitin	P5	0	0	3,581,800	119	·			
Protein	Tropoelastin	P5	0	0	364,485,000	119				
Protein	Vitellogenin	P5	0	0	441	119				
Protein	Albumin (Human and Bovine)	P6	41	85	485	105	<u>Link</u>	Link	Link	Alibaba
Protein	Conalbumin (Ovotransferrin)	P6	363	0	789,700	105	Global Conalbumin Market Research Report 2024(Status and Outlook)	Conalbumin Market Size, Share, Trends, Growth, Forecast, 2032		Alibaba
Protein	Immunoglobulins (IgG, IgA)	P6	15,700	285,455	55	105	Immunoglobulin Market Size, Growth & Global Report 2032	Immunoglobulin Market Size To Reach USD 28.70 Billion By 2034		Alibaba
Protein	Lactoferrin	P6	635	1,588	400	105	Lactoferrin Market Size & Share Report, 2021-2028	Bovine Lactoferrin Market Size, Share, Analysis, Report, 2032		Alibaba
Protein	Milk Fat Globule Membrane (MFGM) Proteins	P6	96	23,337	4	105	MFGM Ingredients Market Size, Share, Trends & Growth 2032	Milk Fat Globule Membrane(MFGM) Market Size & Forecast		Alibaba
Protein	Ovomucoid	P6	0	0	966	105				Alibaba
Protein	α-lactalbumin (high purity)	P6	462	3,740	123	100	Global Market Study on Alpha Lactalbumin Alpha-Lactalbumin to Witness a Potential Growth in the Sports Nutrition Industry	Alpha-lactalbumin Market Size, Outlook & Forecast 2033 FMI		Alibaba
Protein	β-lactoglobulin (high purity)	P6	3,600	211,765	17	105	Link	Link	Link	Volza

Group	Molecule	Archetype	Market value (M USD)	Market size (MT)	Avg price (USD/kg)	PF average price	Market size source 1	Market size source 2	Market size source 3	Price data source
Lipid	Lauric Acid	L1	213	34,080	6	35	<u>Link</u>	<u>Link</u>	<u>Link</u>	Alibaba
Lipid	Myristic and Palmitic Acids	L1	915	57,178	16		Palmitic Acid Market Size, Share And Trends Report, 2030	Myristic Acid Market Size, Share & Growth Report 2032		Alibaba
Lipid	Oleic Acid	L1	476	136,029	4		Global Oleic Acid Market Poised for Significant Growth: USD	Global Oleic Acid Market Size, Share & Forecast 2030	Oleic Acid Market Size, Share & Trends Analysis Report 2030	Volza
Lipid	Stearic Acid	L1	31,820	15,545,361	2		Stearic Acid Market Regional Analysis Size Suppliers to 2031	, Stearic Acid Market Size Projected to Surge USD 70.17		Volza
Lipid	Triacylglycerols	L2	861	51,376	17		Medium-Chain Triglycerides Market Size, Sales, Share & Trends	Medium-chain Triglycerides Market Size Forecast Report, 2032		Alibaba
Lipid	Lecithin	L3	570	51,826	11	42	Global Lecithin Market Size & Share Report, 2022 - 2030	Lecithin Market Size, CAGR, Outlook & Forecast Report 2032		Volza
Lipid	Ceramides	L4	375	12,507	30	31	Global Market Study on Ceramides: Rising Significance of Natural Personal Care Ingredients to Drive Demand	Ceramide Market Size to Surpass USD 747.62 Million by 2034	Ceramide Market Size, Share & Global Forecast Report - 2032	Alibaba
Lipid	Sphingolipids	L4	601	8,590	70	21	Sphingolipids Market Size, Share, Outlook & Trends - 2032	Sphingolipids Market Share, Analysis Global Report, 2032	Sphingolipids Market is anticipated to reach US\$ 991.8 Million by end of 2032, at a CAGR of 5.1% - PharmiWeb.com	Volza
Lipid	Omega-6 Fatty Acids	L5	1,214	136,404	9	97	Link	Link	Link	Volza
Lipid	Monoolein	L6	218	14,032	16	97	<u>Link</u>	<u>Link</u>	<u>Link</u>	Alibaba
Lipid	Monostearin	L6	1,630	32,600	50	97	Link	Link	Link	Volza
Lipid	Phosphatidylcholine	L7	1,327	8,294	160	119	Link	Link	Link	Volza
Lipid	Phosphatidylethanolami ne	L7	0	0	144,497	119	Link	Link	Link	Alibaba
Lipid	Phospholipids	L7	3,440	22,557	153		Phospholipids Market Share, Growth & Industry Report, 2033	Phospholipids Market Size, Share, Industry Growth 2032		Volza
Lipid	EPA/DHA (Omega 3)	L8	2,620	65,500	40	105	Link	Link	Link	Volza

Group	Molecule	Archetype	Market value (M USD)	Market size (MT)	Avg price (USD/kg)	Market size source 1	Market size source 2	Market size source 3	Price data source
Small Molecule	Benzaldehyde	S1	294	80,757	4	<u>Link</u>	<u>Link</u>	<u>Link</u>	Alibaba
Small Molecule	Cinnamaldehyde	S1	6,000	404,995	15	<u>Link</u>	Link	<u>Link</u>	Volza
Small Molecule	Citronellal	S1	130	4,337	30	<u>Link</u>	Link	<u>Link</u>	Volza
Small Molecule	Ethyl Acetate	S1	5,480	1,178,495	5	<u>Link</u>	<u>Link</u>	<u>Link</u>	Volza
Small Molecule	Ethyl Butyrate	S1	2,820	97,241	29	<u>Link</u>	<u>Link</u>	<u>Link</u>	Volza
Small Molecule	Eugenol	S1	235	7,820	30	<u>Link</u>	Link	<u>Link</u>	Volza
Small Molecule	Geraniol	S1	13,588	1,181,548		Geraniol Market: Industry Analysis and Forecast	Geraniol Market Growth and Forecast to 2030		Alibaba
Small Molecule	Isoamyl Acetate	S1	390	53,067	17	<u>Link</u>	Link	<u>Link</u>	Volza
Small Molecule	Limonene	S1	335	52,375		Limonene Market Size, Share And Growth Report, 2030	Continue Reading		Volza
Small Molecule	Linalool	S1	463	53,759	0	Linalool Market Share to Worth \$696.2 Billion by 2030	Linalool Market Size, Share, Growth CAGR of 4.3%		Alibaba
Small Molecule	Menthone	S1	1,915	122,560		D L Menthone Glycerol Ketal Market Research Report 2032	Menthone Market Size & Future Growth 2032		Alibaba
Small Molecule	Methyl Salicylate	S1	1,540	280,000	6	<u>Link</u>		<u>Link</u>	Volza
Small Molecule	α-Ionene	S1	233	38,861		Ionone Market: Global Industry Analysis And Forecast	Alpha-Ionone Market Size, Share Growth and Industry Trends LinkedIn	,	Volza
Small Molecule	2-Phenylethanol	S2	492	14,252	35	<u>Link</u>	<u>Link</u>	<u>Link</u>	Alibaba
Small Molecule	Ethyl Maltol	S2	24,000	2,181,818	11	Link	Link	Link	Volza
Small Molecule	Glutamate	S2	10,161	6,842,155	1	<u>Link</u>	<u>Link</u>	<u>Link</u>	Volza
Small Molecule	Menthol	S3	755	23,231	33	Global L-Menthol Market Report, History and Forecast 2023-2029	[2024-2030] Menthol Market Size, Company LinkedIn		Volza

Group	Molecule	Archetype	Market value (M USD)	Market size (MT)	Avg price (USD/kg)	Market size source 1	Market size source 2	Market size source 3	Price data source
Small Molecule	Vanillin	S4	1,040	34,667		Vanillin Market Size, Industry Share & Trends, 2033	Vanillin Market Size, Share & Growth Analysis Report, 2030		Volza
Small Molecule	Capsaicin	S5	257	1,285	200	Capsaicin Market Size & Share, Growth Analysis - 2036	Capsaicin Market Size, Competitors & Forecast to 2030		Volza
Small Molecule	Carotenoids	S5	2,500	72,954	34	Carotenoids Market Size, Share, Trends and Industry Analysis	Carotenoids Market Size, Share, Analysis & Forecast 2031		Alibaba
Small Molecule	Carminic Acid	S6	41	135	305	Carmine Market Size, Trends Report 2030 The Brainy Insights	Carminic Acid Market Research Report 2032		Alibaba
Small Molecule	Inosinate and Guanylate	S6	800	32,000	25	<u>Link</u>	Link	Link	Alibaba
Small Molecule	Steviol Glycosides	S6	5,000	63,617	79	Steviol Glycoside Market Demand, Trends, Industry Size The Brainy Insights	Steviol Glycosides Market: Global Analysis Report by 2033		Alib aba
Small Molecule	Anthocyanin	S7	356	3,629	98	Anthocyanin Market Size	Anthocyanin Market - Manufacturers & Size		Volza