

Building Value Where the Chain Is Thinnest: A University-Anchored Agri-Food Innovation Ecosystem

FROM CHALLENGES TO IMPACT

How MATE connects knowledge,
innovation, talent and industry for a
more resilient agri-food system

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MATE

HUNGARIAN UNIVERSITY OF
AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES



**16th ICA Rectors and Deans Forum 2026,
Cluj-Napoca**

**The Strategic Role of Life Science Universities for
Food Systems Resilience and Global Food Security**

15–16 October 2026

FROM SECTORAL CHALLENGE TO ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

HUNGARY'S AGRIFOOD SYSTEM FACES INTERCONNECTED CHALLENGES – NO ISOLATED SOLUTION



PRODUCTIVITY & EFFICIENCY

agricultural labour productivity
2022: 30% & 2023: 65% of the EU average



PROFITABILITY & VALUE CREATION

food industry gross value added: only
21% of output (vs. 46% in total
manufacturing, 2023)



CLIMATE & RESILIENCE

2022 drought impact: maize
harvest fell by 57% (one of the
largest drops in the EU)



INNOVATION & ADOPTION

precision-farming adoption: used
by only 9.8% of farms (steering
systems: 5.4%, 2023 census)

MATE AS CONNECTOR*

THE DRIVING FORCE FOR CONNECTED INNOVATION

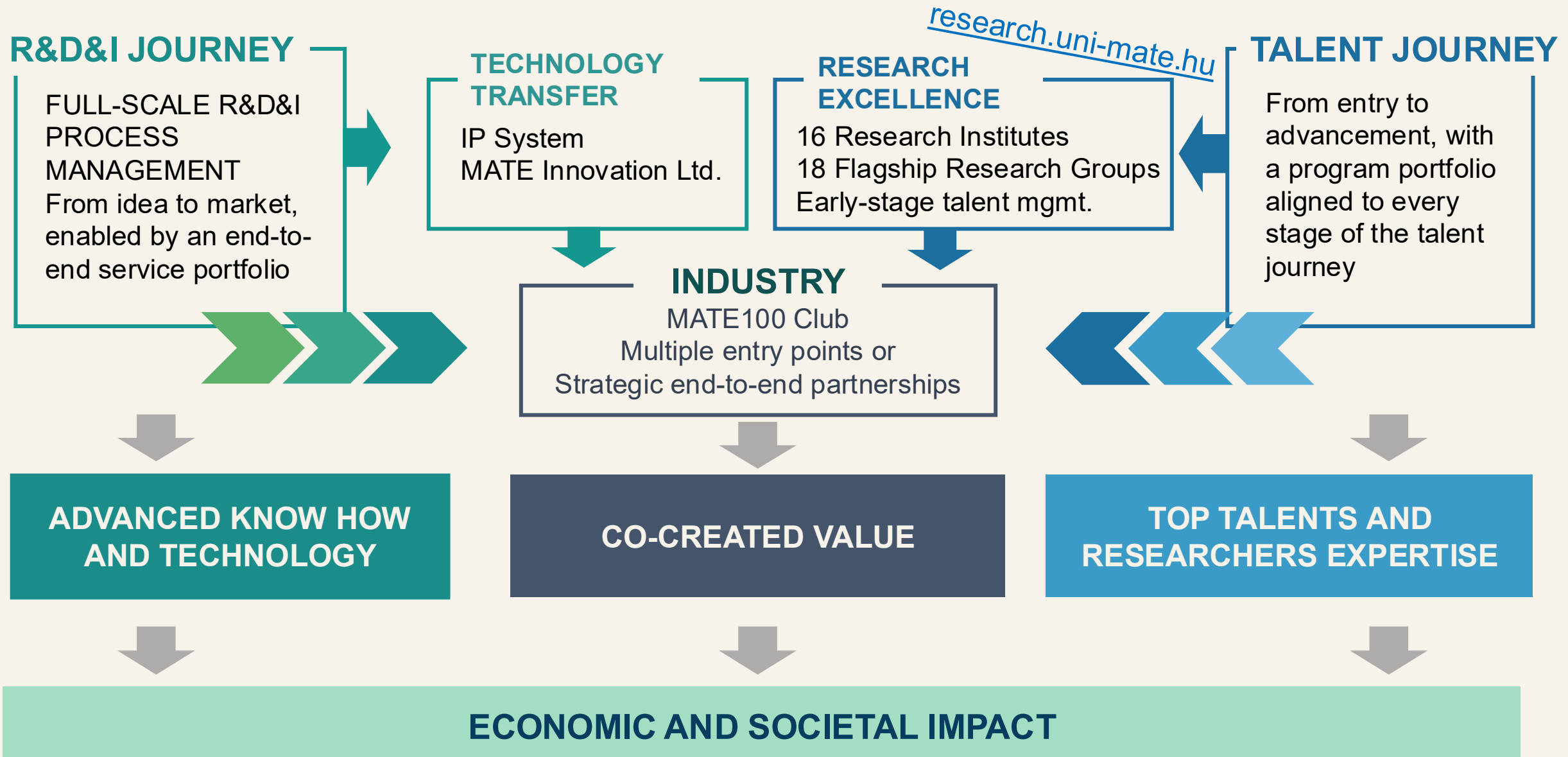
MORE RESILIENT FOOD
SYSTEMS

STRONGER RURAL ECONOMIES
AND COMMUNITIES

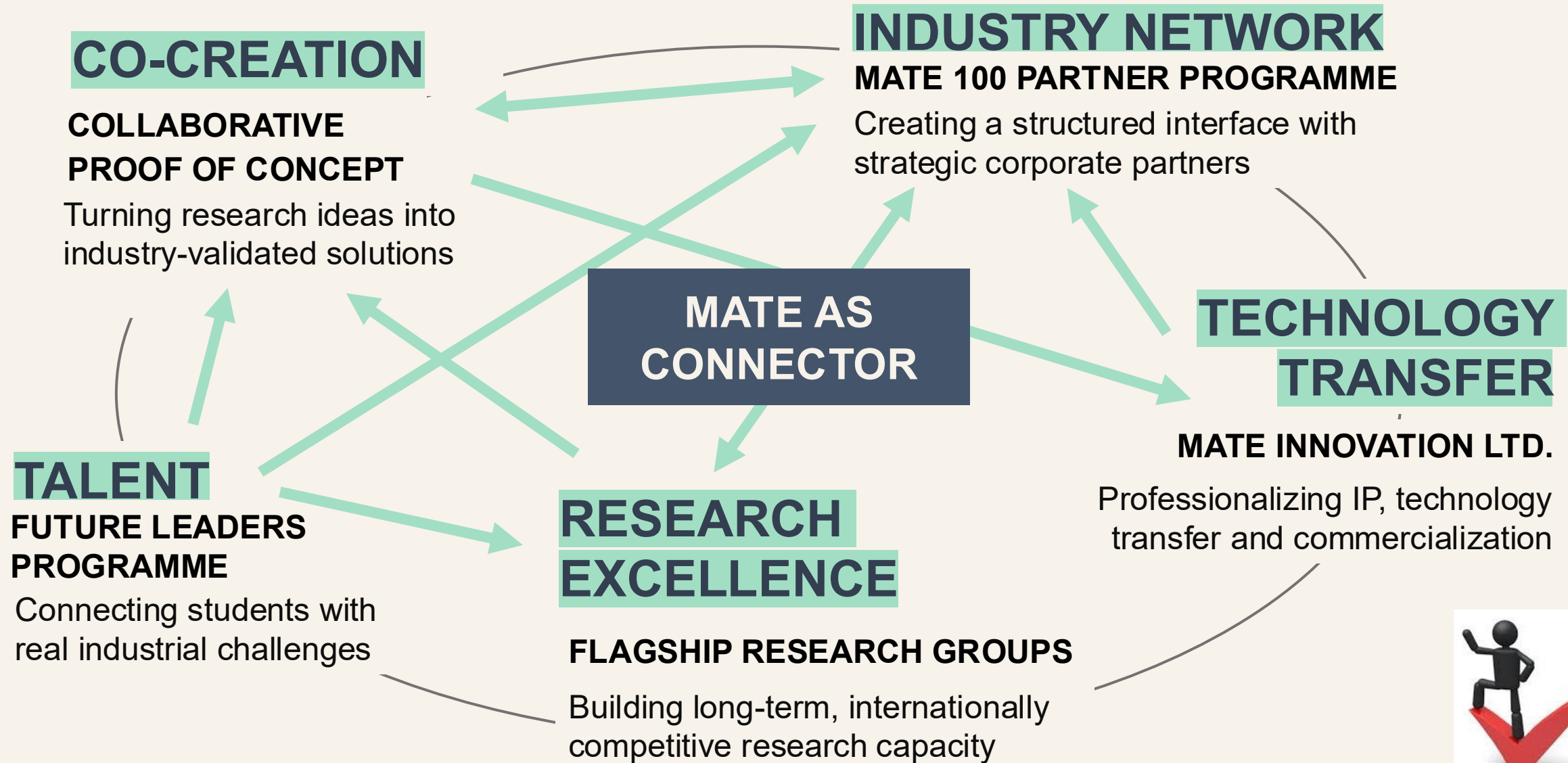
HEALTHIER PEOPLE
AND ENVIRONMENT

*connects **knowledge, technology, talent and industry** and turn them into economic and societal impact

THE MATE – INDUSTRY – SOCIETY INNOVATION MODEL



MATE AS A CONNECTOR...



...turning the capabilities of the uni. into solutions that create real value for the agri-food system, the economy and society.