

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 8 June 2021 13:00 GMT +10:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Achieving healthy diets from sustainable food systems by 2030 – what science, innovation, and actions are needed in Australia?
CONVENED BY	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/18887/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Australia

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

73

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

7

19-30

37

31-50

27

51-65

2

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

30 Male

41 Female

2 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

4 Agriculture/crops

5 Fish and aquaculture

7 Livestock

1 Agro-forestry

11 Environment and ecology

0 Trade and commerce

9 Education

1 Communication

3 Food processing

1 Food retail, markets

1 Food industry

0 Financial Services

0 Health care

0 Nutrition

0 National or local government

0 Utilities

0 Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

5 Large national business

Multi-national corporation

6 Small-scale farmer

2 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

1 Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

40 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

1 Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

1 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

16 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

• Provided the Principles as pre-reading to all participants • The Curator included them in the Dialogue Introduction • The facilitators were briefed on the Principles in their training and ensured they were adhered to during the small discussion groups • The dialogue has ethical approval from the CSIRO Human Research Ethics Committee

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

• The dialogues reflected the Principles very well. • All participants entered the dialogues with a commitment to the Summit and represented and embraced inclusivity. The presentations and conversations were open, respectful and rich in content, depth and understanding of food systems. This was due in part to the trust that was promoted and built over the dialogue process of planning and implementation. • The dialogue discussion recognised the complexity of the food system and included all elements in their discussion. It provided an opportunity for multistakeholder and inclusive feedback on the draft Vision for an Australian Food System. • Positive feedback provided by the dialogue participants highlighted the Principles in action. • Plenary session with four expert speaker presentations (5 mins each) discussing: o Evidence and Vision, with the vision being: Ensuring Australian food production is sustainable and resilient and our food chains deliver healthy, affordable and accessible food to consumers – whilst also reducing waste o Health/nutrition o Farming o Food processing • Discussion Session (1 hour) when discussions took place in smaller breakout groups (6-10 people in each group). Each group had a facilitator and scribe. We integrated the following perspectives of demand (consumers), supply (production/processing/retail) and integrative policy (regulation) when considering the food system themes, with key areas for discussion being: o Any additions or changes to the vision for Australian food system laid out in the plenary? o What science, innovation and actions are most critical to deliver this vision? o What are the key barriers to overcome and enablers needed to fast track delivery of these actions? o What should our priorities be? o Who will need to be involved? o What are the tensions we have identified and how can we manage them? • Summary Session. In the first part of this section, facilitators provided a summary of the discussion in their groups (2 mins each). In the second part of the summary session, a critical thinkers panel (5 mins each)

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

No

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

We used a very similar method to that outlined in the Convenors Reference Manual. Our Dialogue event was a 2.5 hour virtual event featuring three core elements: 1) Plenary session with four expert speaker presentations (5 mins each) discussing: - Evidence and Vision, with the vision being: "Ensuring Australian food production is sustainable and resilient and our food chains deliver healthy, affordable and accessible food to consumers – whilst also reducing waste" - Health/nutrition - Farming - Food processing 2) Discussion Session (1 hour) when discussions took place in smaller breakout groups (6-10 people in each group). Each group had a facilitator and scribe. We integrated the following perspectives of demand (consumers), supply (production/processing/retail) and integrative policy (regulation) when considering the food system themes, with key areas for discussion being: - Any additions or changes to the vision for Australian food system laid out in the plenary? - What science, innovation and actions are most critical to deliver this vision? - What are the key barriers to overcome and enablers needed to fast track delivery of these actions? - What should our priorities be? - Who will need to be involved? - What are the tensions we have identified and how can we manage them? 3) Summary Session. In the first part of this section, facilitators provided a summary of the discussion in their groups (2 mins each). In the second part of the summary session, a critical thinkers panel (5 mins each) provided an integrative summary prompted by the below questions: - What did you hear (vision, actions, priorities)? - Was there anything missing from the conversation? - Using the integrative framing of the grower, maker, seller, eater, regulator – what action priorities do you think are critically needed to drive change towards a sustainable Australian Food System in 2030?

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The CSIRO-led Dialogue facilitated dynamic exchange among a diverse set of food system stakeholders across science, policy, food industry, community and implementation, bringing a range of perspectives at a range of scales.

The dialogue discussed an Australian sustainable food system vision of “Ensuring Australian food production is sustainable and resilient and our food chains deliver healthy, affordable and accessible food to consumers – whilst also reducing waste” - using integrative system framing of grower, maker, seller, eater, regulator - and the science and innovation needed to address the questions:

- What should sustainable Australian food systems in 2030 look like?
- How can Australian food producers, processors, policy makers and consumers best contribute to a more sustainable food system?
- What actions are needed to achieve shifts in consumption, accessibility, affordability and sustainable production, so that no one is left behind?
- How can we speed up change towards developing fair, safe and sustainable supply chains ensuring a responsible use of natural resources and a reduction of food loss and waste, making sustainability the easy choice for consumers?
- What Australian agriculture and food policies are needed to promote the production of affordable nutritious, sustainably produced food while remunerating fairly all farmers and food workers?

The overall themes of the Dialogue were applying science and innovation to support:

1. Healthy food availability, affordability and consumption
2. Aligning food production with recommended consumption
3. Reducing Noncommunicable diseases, overweight and obesity
4. Environmentally sustainable food production systems that are resilient to climate extremes
5. Ensuring socially equitable and inclusive food systems
6. Establishing new enabling mechanisms and policies and structures
7. Reducing food loss and waste

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Human rights
- ✓ Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- ✓ Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

This report seeks to summarise views and perspectives of webinar participants during discussions, and does not necessarily represent the views of the CSIRO or the Australian Government.

- It is time to reassess our values and desired outcomes for our food systems. To do this will require societal conversations to develop a shared vision of more sustainable Australian food systems, recognising there is no one-size-fits-all approach. Solutions will need to be evidence-based, locally appropriate and consider complex trade-offs and shifts in power dynamics to achieve a food system transition.
- We need to significantly improve food system governance so it delivers for all food system stakeholders. Mechanisms suggested are developing a representative national food governance body to coordinate research and policy and develop a national food system strategy (currently lacking) that can level the playing field between public good interests (health, livelihoods, environment) with private interests and ensure everyone in the food system has a voice.
- The food regulatory system needs reform, so it functions better, for example improving the Health Star rating to become more effective at helping consumers make choices. The science and innovation needed to transform our food systems is already there – it is the implementation through governance, policy, education and political will at all levels around the world, that is lacking.
- Australia, like most other countries, has a critical structural food system problem, and a need exists for greater systems thinking to overcome the existing siloes across research and food system elements, including retail, and deliver a holistic systems-based approach.
- Agriculture needs to be recognised as part of the solution and not just the source of food system problems. It is responsible for about 2% GDP, 11% exports, 2-3% employment and provides a strong lever for action. Farmers have felt outcast in health and sustainability discussions.
- Farming needs to be economically viable in Australia and adopt an intergenerational land management vision, which includes a portion of farm incomes coming from stewardship, environmental services payments and renewable energy farming.
- The successful deployment of science and technology solutions depends on understanding the social and cultural contexts in which they must operate and finding ways to reduce social and cultural barriers to adoption and enable the behavioural change needed to transform our food system. Research is not being sufficiently utilised and we need better ways to co-create research, apply it in practice, and introduce it into public discourse to inform policy.
- Parts of Australia have limited access to new technology, ideas, public extension and learning. This lack of investment in extension, co-created knowledge exchange mechanisms, dialogue and coordination between sectors has resulted in duplication of effort. Better collaboration between researchers and farmers / communities, with greater participatory research will lead to more effective impacts.
- Australia must continue researching and applying practices that sustain and regenerate our environment and our soil ensuring the food system is good for the planet and human health and produces nutrient density from soil health. Poor communication has polluted the national public discourse on food, health, agriculture and environment and there is urgent need to reframe narratives around food and our food systems (now we have everyone's attention after covid-driven empty shelves) so it has urgency but also provides positive solutions needed for improved food systems that deliver the triple challenges.
- Policy priorities are currently focused on GDP and economic interests, rather than public good impacts of the food systems such as health and the environment. Changes to the food regulatory environment are required (and there is good evidence to support this, tobacco industry as an example) – changes to supermarkets (availability and pricing of unhealthy foods), marketing to children, fiscal policies such as taxes on unhealthy foods. Enabling dietary guidelines and nutrition policy will need public will and strong government engagement/support to be effective.
- We need to look beyond efficiency metrics when evaluating the performance of food systems and be able to include broader multiple impacts (education, research, health and great benefit to the community) with a similar approach used to measure effectiveness of policy.
- Key barriers to a transformed food system include a separation of people from the environments that sustain them. There is a need to re-connect people to land, agriculture and their food using various modes of communication (art, film, music, events) to inform them of the latest science of environment and agriculture. It is critical to bring local and first nation people's deep knowledge of land management, systems and native foods (placed-based learning) into our education and innovation systems.
- Consideration is needed on how externalities associated with food production (i.e., social and environmental) can be more accurately reflected in true cost food pricing and via existing market mechanisms. It was suggested that “cheap food” may not be “better food” and that consumers can be empowered to value factors beyond price (such as sustainable production and health) into their decision-making, while protecting the least well off.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Human rights
- ✓ Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- ✓ Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/6

This report seeks to summarise views and perspectives of webinar participants during discussions, and does not necessarily represent the views of the CSIRO or the Australian Government.

We need to transform our food systems the same way we are transforming our energy systems. We need nationally coordinated governance and research mechanism(s) that can bring together the multiple objectives of food systems (human and planetary health, equity, economic prosperity) to underpin multisector collaboration and cooperation. Acknowledging our current market-led approach to governing our food system, we must ensure all people in our food system - small farmers, small and medium sized food businesses, Indigenous peoples, civil society groups, consumers, experts, future generations, have their voices heard. We need a representative national food governance body that can coordinate research and policy and develop a national food system strategy that can level the playing field between public good interests (health, livelihoods, environment) with the private interests. That will require some major innovation in how we govern our food system, including for example, the establishment of a representative national food governance body and food policy processes that give everyone a voice. This could encompass:

- establish a taskforce to look at where the gaps are to bring efforts together;
 - establish a national level Ministry for Food with a role to develop a comprehensive and unified national food and nutrition plan that provides a framework recognising the multiple objectives of food systems and ensures all food related activities are underpinned by the same goals and reduces the likelihood of policies and activities undermining each other;
 - maintain a collective action mechanism of sustainable food systems interests to create / maintain pressure and visibility.
- An atomised approach by individuals will not work. Let these dialogues be the start of this transformational movement.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Human rights
- ✓ Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- ✓ Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/6

This report seeks to summarise views and perspectives of webinar participants during discussions, and does not necessarily represent the views of the CSIRO or the Australian Government.

We need to improve communication and reframe the narrative around food and our food systems so it has urgency but also removes the divisive messaging between city and rural communities and provides a sense of hope that we can deliver the solutions needed for improved food systems that deliver the triple challenges. Currently our public discourse is often polluted by fear and ideology (for example, fossil fuels versus clean energy). We need a more coordinated and sophisticated approach to engagement and communication to advance sustainable and healthy diets and food production – that does not demonise some or polarise the debate, for example around plant and meat proteins. These are false dichotomies. We need memes to express the complexity of the food system. This would require substantial commitment from governmental communication agencies.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- ✓ Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/6

This report seeks to summarise views and perspectives of webinar participants during discussions, and does not necessarily represent the views of the CSIRO or the Australian Government.

We recognise the need to promote transparency, accountability and a level playing field for all actors in food systems. But there is currently a lack of political will at all levels to implement or invest in evidence-based actions and commercial interests drive decisions across the whole food system. We need to create mechanisms to achieve a level playing field where all voices have a seat at the table (modelled on the aims of the United Nations Food System Summit) including people and agencies representing public good interests of health, nutrition, livelihoods and environment, who currently have limited access to policy makers, decision makers and politicians.

Policy and regulation are required to change the food environment so that consumers are supported to make healthy food choices. The current food environment encourages the consumption of discretionary foods in many ways including the convenience, pervasive availability, marketing and cheap cost of unhealthy food. Policy approaches for which there is strong public health evidence include reformulation, front of pack labelling, controlling the support and marketing of ultra-processed food particularly to children, product placement and fast food consumption (e.g., connected with sports), and fiscal policy such as a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages. All fiscal policies must ensure that they do not increase inequities (e.g., ensuring no disproportional impacts to low income households). Treasury needs to be involved, for example.

Improving food literacy can assist with making healthier choices. We need to resolve certain structural problems that make it difficult for consumers to realise healthier diets. Lack of food knowledge and upskilling is needed across all of society. Not everyone knows how to prepare healthy food and this needs to be resolved such that it is no longer a barrier to healthy food consumption. Addressing this through early childhood education can be an effective mechanism for change.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- Finance
- Innovation
- ✓ Human rights
- ✓ Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/6

This report seeks to summarise views and perspectives of webinar participants during discussions, and does not necessarily represent the views of the CSIRO or the Australian Government.

There is a need for more systemic and holistic approaches to addressing food system issues to overcome the existing siloes across research and food system elements and deliver holistic systemic approaches like the 'Farm to Fork' initiatives. There exists lots of fragmented pieces of policy and research efforts. If we are going to drive a more sustainable agricultural economy, we will need greater coordination of research and policy coherence. All of which will require decisions that are evidence-based and consider multiple benefits and trade-offs.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- Finance
- Innovation
- Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- Policy
- Data & Evidence
- Governance
- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/6

This report seeks to summarise views and perspectives of webinar participants during discussions, and does not necessarily represent the views of the CSIRO or the Australian Government.

Food waste must be approached in a similar manner to questions around healthier consumption. Circular food systems offer potential for recapturing of waste and turning it into a new stream of value-added product. Research is needed not only in developing new technologies that can repurpose waste, but to better understand the reasons for food waste, and the constraints faced in reducing food waste to better design circular systems that can achieve scale in collecting and processing waste for new uses.

ACTION TRACKS

	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
✓	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
✓	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
✓	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
	Human rights		Governance
	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/6

This report seeks to summarise views and perspectives of webinar participants during discussions, and does not necessarily represent the views of the CSIRO or the Australian Government.

We need to foster responsible innovation of technologies to help transform the food system and provide greater transparency and accountability of actors and the positive and negative impacts of different technologies and practices. For example, applying technology to track production through supply chain (data on farm / production / processing / logistics) and using this knowledge through Decision Support Tools can help people produce and consume food more sustainably. Tools can be designed and adapted right along the value chain, in manner that is inclusive and user friendly, to bring producers, processors and consumers closer together.

ACTION TRACKS

	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
✓	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
✓	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
✓	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
✓	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
	Human rights	✓	Governance
	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

This report seeks to summarise views and perspectives of webinar participants during discussions and does not necessarily represent the views of the CSIRO or the Australian Government.

Clarification is needed on the roles of animal-sourced and plant-sourced foods, particularly as they relate to the environmental impact of the livestock sector, dietary choices and the consumption of adequate protein for human nutrition. It was suggested that there is a need for a balanced, evidence-based and context-specific approach which recognises the complementarity of animal and plant production systems, opportunities for sustainable utilisation of rangelands and the role of animal and plant proteins in a balanced, nutritious diet. It was also highlighted that agricultural innovations and technologies can, under certain conditions, improve environmental sustainability (i.e., reducing methane in livestock) and help to boost global food security. Red meat consumption – means different things in different places. Misinformation abounds with consumers on both meat and plant-based protein.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- Governance
- ✓ Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate