

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Monday, 15 March 2021 12:30 GMT +11:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Food Agility Summit 2021: Mission Food For Life
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Food Agility Cooperative Research Centre (CRC)
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7592/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/7592/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Australia, No borders

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

338

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

In organising this dialogue, Food Agility aimed to embrace multistakeholder inclusivity by consulting with a network of more than 80 partners spanning the Australian food system. In addition, Australian and international experts from across the agrifood system were consulted. The Summit brought together leading experts to discuss big issues relating to data, digital and agrifood, acknowledging the complexity in the global food system and the synergies and differences in approaches and solutions across multiple industries and geographical areas.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The Food Agility Summit was joined by industry bodies and leaders in R&D, AgriTech, venture capital investment, agronomy, AI, cybersecurity and more. The event was an inclusive, respectful platform for people to share ideas, discuss solutions and build trust in forging new relationships. The summit exemplified the principles of complexity and multi-stakeholder inclusivity. For example, our panel exploring Australia's agtech industry (Hunting Unicorns in a Burgeoning Australian Agtech Industry) included venture capital investors as well as agtech scaleups to get perspectives from both sides of the proverbial fence. Our panel on industry-led innovation included policy makers, retail groups, industry bodies, and research to explore how collaboration between parties with conflicting priorities could best be achieved. And finally, in our panel The Rise of Sustainability, Climate Change, and Carbon Markets we heard from retail producers and equitable trade organisations and global tech about how these various issues impact all players in a supply chain and how they can work together to move towards a more sustainable and resilient food future. Building trust in sharing data was a key theme that spanned focus topics ranging from sustainability as a demand driver to AgTech solutions as productivity enhancing tools. Producers need trust to share data to enable development of decision-support tools. At the same time, consumers need trust in the sustainability of supply chains through the 'radical transparency' revealed by technology. By interweaving perspectives of retailers, ethical labels, AgTech start-ups, farmers and carbon market participants we were able to weave in the crucial theme of growing value through trusted supply chains.

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

Ensuring a wide variety of perspectives on a panel will lead to both more robust discussion and a more engaging experience for your audience. Agreement can be powerful, but acknowledging complexity is thought provoking and stimulates exciting discussion.

# 3. METHOD

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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

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The Food Agility Summit was an interactive virtual event that brought together leaders from the agrifood technology and research sectors. The mission was to explore the trends, opportunities and challenges facing the Australian food system and the role of data and digital technology.

Topics covered include:

- Sustainability as a powerful demand driver
- Environmental services as a new revenue stream for farmers once natural capital is valued
- Cybersecurity in agrifood
- The global agritech landscape and Australia's place in it
- What 'resilience' means mid and post COVID from global companies like Kelloggs'
- What 'industry-led research' means from the perspective of industry
- Amazing research happening today
- Education and research at global SMART Farms
- How venture capitalists are investing in agritech
- Australia's leading agritech scaleups

### 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

It was universally acknowledged in every panel discussion and presentation that collaboration – and effective communication between collaborating parties – was essential to securing our food future. This extended beyond parties contributing to innovative research, projects, and industry transformation as consumers were identified as a key piece of the puzzle. It was noted during the panel 'The Rise of Sustainability, Climate Change, and Carbon Markets as Supply Chain Drivers', that customers are rapidly adopting ethical purchasing behaviours and all members of a supply chain must 'earn' consumer loyalty. This could be achieved through 'radical transparency' and iterative improvement where brands continuously improve their social and environmental credentials and communicate these activities from paddock to plate. This topic was also highlighted in the panel 'Flipping the Research: What does true industry-led innovation look like and how can we make it happen?'.

The theme of sustainability closed a loop between consumers and producers. On the one hand, technology can reveal the transparency of supply chains to align to the rise of digital, values-based purchasing evidenced in Australia's retail sector. On the other hand, the prospect of achieving 5% of farm gate revenue through provision of environmental services seems more possible with the rise of voluntary, private carbon and biodiversity markets which reward farmers for cultivating measurable natural capital.

The 'Agtech' industry was identified as an entirely separate but complimentary industry to agrifood. The discussion 'Hunting Unicorns in a Burgeoning Australian Agtech Industry' explored how the production challenges of the future (e.g. feeding a global population of 10 billion people by 2050) would need to be met by technology. Therefore, agtech investment and adoption needed to be rapidly scaled up to meet these global challenges.

Risk and resilience were explored from many angles, including through the lens of cybersecurity. It was noted that the move to agrifood system efficiency has increased production capacity but also led to 'food security complacency', as traditional risks are reduced and/or better managed but new risks, such as cyberattacks, data theft, and network disruption, remain unmodelled, or are managed in isolation.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

Panel 1 – The rise of sustainability, climate change and carbon markets as supply chain drivers

- COVID has seen a ramp up in digital consumer engagement and interest in the sustainability, and the shift seems likely to persist
- Radical transparency will drive sustainable consumption and supply chain collaboration
- Carbon and biodiversity markets offer valuable farm revenue streams if we can evolve the data-driven technologies necessary for markets to scale

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	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

Panel 2 – Flipping the research: What does true industry-led collaboration look like and how do we make it happen?

- Australia leads globally in research outputs, but lags in industry-research collaboration.
- Good communication is the cornerstone of effective collaborative relationships, we might not have the same motivations or objectives to participate, but we need to ensure we openly communicate the various perspectives coming into a project so that we can ensure everyone's expectations are acknowledged.
- The Australian Government highly values industry-research collaboration and has launched a range of initiatives including CRCs, AIA and drought innovation funding to foster and promote industry-research collaboration.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

### Panel 3 – The global SMART Farm network

- We agreed on the importance of integrating financial and sustainability performance indicators in generated data (certainly curriculum/training needs to showcase this type of 'data' - ie should be more than just showing sensor data feeds). Evidence-based commercial relevance is important
- Importance of 'holistic' SMART Farms that includes post-farm-gate with feedback into the farm operations/decision making.
- All SMART Farms engaged early in initiatives related to environmental sustainability/carbon neutrality- there is a strong demand for this by stakeholders.

#### ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

### Panel 4 – Hunting Unicorns in a burgeoning agtech market

- While Australian agtech scale-ups would like to stay local, most find they must look overseas for capital, as the investment pool within the Australian market is limited and highly competitive. Overseas markets also offer exciting opportunities for companies to 'collaborate and cluster' in the global ecosystem.
- Our panellists called on the audience to contact their super fund and demand investment in agriculture and agtech. Similarly, to call local government and demand investment in the technology to propel Australia's most important primary industry.
- Covid thinned the herd of Australian agtech scale-ups, but those who survived are thriving. With agtech a vital and growing part of the agrifood sector, a 'unicorn' Australian agtech company could be the next Bitcoin, revolutionising the industry.
- Agtech is a distinct but parallel industry from agriculture and agrifood, which provides technology solutions to productivity challenges.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

### Panel 5 – Cybersecurity in food supply chains

- The interconnectedness of industrialised agriculture exposes global food systems to significant 'unmodelled peril', as risk within one sector (e.g. financial services) can have cascading impacts on other industries. Agriculture is particularly at risk of cybersecurity breaches thanks to long and complex supply chains with data points controlled by various entities.
- The question of who is responsible for data and cyber security is important. Does the responsibility lie with the customer (e.g. the farmer who purchases software or agtech), or the service provider? In a 'multi-party data ecosystem' overlaid on the physical movement of food from paddock to plate, who is liable along a supply chain if a data breach occurs and other parties are impacted?
- Cyber scammers have always been agile and adapted quickly with the cyber risks that Covid presented. All organisations have to learn new lessons, be ready to pivot to address new challenges

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There were numerous topics of disagreement and robust discussion between our expert panelists across the summit, especially in regards to that capacity for Australian agtech scale-ups to base their operations in Australia. Our panel 'Hunting Unicorns in a burgeoning Australian agtech industry' brought together VC investors and leading Australian start-ups who discussed the capacity for business growth in the Australian context. Opinions were divided as to whether an agtech company could grow without basing operations in larger markets such as South East Asia or North America where they could more easily 'cluster and collaborate' with the broader agtech ecosystem.

Throughout the summit we held live audience polls to gauge our attendee's attitudes towards a wide variety of issues. These polls revealed split opinions regarding a range of issues including consumer attitudes towards sustainability, the likelihood of an Australian agtech 'unicorn' emerging in the near future, and whether Australia is a good environment for investment.

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