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September 23, 2022

White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition & Health
WHHungerHealth@hhs.gov

Re: White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition & Health | Stakeholder Commitments

Submitted via electronic mail

Dear White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition & Health Organizers,

The Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) appreciates the opportunity to partner with the White House Conference on Nutrition, Health, and Hunger (WHC) and share our stakeholder commitments. IFT is a global organization of more than 12,000 individual members from more than 90 countries committed to advancing the science of food. Since 1939, IFT has been a forum for passionate food scientists, nutritionists, and technologists to collaborate, learn, and contribute, all with the goal of inspiring and transforming collective scientific knowledge into innovative solutions for the benefit of all people. IFT's vision is for a world where science and innovation are connected and universally accepted as essential to improving food for everyone. The effort to end hunger and malnutrition by 2030 requires collaboration across stakeholders and IFT is committed to connecting food system communities and bringing forward science of food solutions for hunger, nutrition, and health.

IFT's virtual WHC listening session highlighted the need for greater public research funding for the rapid development and scaling of priority technologies and public-private partnerships for food science and technology solutions. ***IFT is committed to identifying, highlighting, and communicating the research gaps for the science of food, to help inform both public and private research investment, policies, and government agencies*** (aligned to WHC Pillar 5). In 2020, IFT first published [Food Research, Call to Action on Funding and Priorities](#). This paper highlighted the historical funding gaps in agrifood research and the critical need to prioritize agrifood research funding in the future. To ensure current data is available, within the next 12 months, IFT will publish an updated resource on agrifood funding to help inform, educate, and inspire further science of food research investment.

The IFT WHC listening session also highlighted the need for education on food safety, processed foods and the role of food science in healthy diets. ***IFT is committed to continuously sharing leading science on food safety, nutrition, health, and the science of food*** (aligned to WHC Pillar 3). Including publishing: [Journal of Food Science \(JFS\)](#), [Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety \(CRFSFS\)](#), [Journal of Food Science Education \(JFSE\)](#) and [Food Technology](#) and offering featured education tracks in nutrition & health, food science and food and nutrition security and sustainability at IFT's annual meeting, the largest gathering of science of food professionals globally with over 15k attendees.

Finally, the need to support innovation and bring forward food science and technology solutions to improve food and nutrition security was clear in IFT's WHC listening session. ***IFT is committed to helping elevate food science and technology solutions that help improve food & nutrition security and sustainability*** (aligned to WHC Pillar 1). As such, IFT convened a Food & Nutrition Security Steering Committee to identify cross-cutting challenges and bring forward science of food solutions. This committee will be convening experts to address the challenges in a series of roundtables. The initial roundtable planned for November 2022 will focus on food science solutions to minimize food waste.



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IFT is committed to bringing forward science of food solutions to help advance the WHC priorities and improve food & nutrition security for all. IFT believes stakeholders across the food system are needed to bring forward a range of solutions, and IFT members, science of food experts, are critical to the WHC dialogue.

The science of food is essential in building equitable and sustainable solutions and IFT and our members are committed to helping bring forward solutions.

Sincerely,

Anna Rosales, RD
Senior Director of Government Affairs & Nutrition



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Reference: IFT WHC Virtual Listening Session Key Takeaways

- To achieve food and nutrition security, there will need to be a range of solutions, including food science and technology solutions.
 - Food science solutions must be easy to scale up, affordable and sustainable.
 - Solutions should move away from a linear approach to food systems to a more circular approach, much like nature.
 - Priority technologies should solve for multiple issues. An example is the emerging technology of isochoric freezing which has the potential to improve nutritional quality, reduce energy use, and improve food safety.
 - There should be greater public research funding for the rapid development and scaling of these priority technologies.
 - Public-private partnerships for food science and technology solutions should be implemented. The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research is an example of how this is working in the agricultural sector and has potential to expand further into food.

- Increase research funding for food safety and education for diverse communities.
 - Increase research funding for food safety and education for diverse communities. Improve food safety education, particularly for low-income consumers. These consumers have higher risk of foodborne illness due to lack of knowledge, tools, and poor microbial quality of foods in low SES areas.

- Encourage the White House to allocate more public funding for improving the food supply (and supply chains) through technology and innovation.

- Educate on the importance of healthy processed foods for helping adults and children meet shortfall nutrients.

- The government should support manufacturers in using food science and technology to minimize food waste and hold manufacturers accountable for minimizing waste.