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July 15, 2022

White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition & Health

WHHungerHealth@hhs.gov

Re: White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition & Health | Listening Session

Submitted via electronic mail

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

The Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the White House Conference on Nutrition, Health, and Hunger (WHC). IFT commends the White House for their effort to convene stakeholders to bring forward solutions for hunger, nutrition, and health. 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.

To seek member input on the role of food science and technology in food and nutrition security, IFT convened a [panel discussion](#) with audience Q&A at FIRST, the IFT annual conference. The panel discussion was attended by more than 750 scientists, in person and online, who were able to provide their thoughts and input through the meeting app. Rachel Cheatham, CEO and Founder of Foodscape Group, opened the session with a call to "bring the nutrition and food science communities closer together" as both are essential to create sustainable progress to solve food & nutrition security challenges. The food science expert panelists included, Lamin Kassama, Professor Food Engineering and Processing, Alabama A&M University, Gulden Yilmaz, Director, Health and Safe Food Systems Program, Wageningen University, Hongda Chen, National Program Leader at Bioprocess Engineering and Nanotechnology, USDA-NIFA, and Juan Andrade Laborde, Associate Professor Global Nutrition, University of Florida, who together highlighted the opportunities for food science and technology solutions to improve domestic and global food and nutrition security. The panelists emphasized the need to elevate scalable solutions, specifically circular economy, and emerging technologies to process foods that conserve energy, improve nutritional quality, and improve food safety. The examples shared bring forward the potential food science has to offer but also stressed the need for additional funding and research to scale the emerging technologies.

In addition to the panel discussion, IFT hosted an online listening session through our social platform, IFT Connect, to directly engage our members on the WHC pillars and questions. A summary of the key takeaways is on the following page.

IFT is committed to food & nutrition security and believes stakeholders across the food system are needed to bring forward a range of solutions, including food science and technology experts. These experts essential to the WHC dialogue, and we welcome the opportunity to engage our members directly, as the science of food is essential in building equitable and sustainable solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Rosales". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anna Rosales, RD
Senior Director of Government Affairs & Nutrition



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IFT Listening Session for WHC

An asynchronous listening session was conducted through IFT Connect by posting questions related to each of the 5 pillars of the WHC. Three responses were received and are summarized below.

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.