



Minutes

Meeting: UKRI-BBSRC Bioscience for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Strategy Advisory Panel

Date and Time: 22/11/2023

Venue: Virtual (Zoom)

Attendance

Panel Members
Margaret Gill (University of Aberdeen) – Chair Simon Pearson (University of Lincoln) Alison Mather (Quadram Institute) Matt Heard (The National Trust) Elizabeth Magowan (Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute) Emma Garfield (G's Growers) Alison Bentley (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre)
Invited Experts
None
BBSRC Office
Jamie Stone (BBSRC) – Secretariat Harriet Trewin (BBSRC) Andrew Hellewell (BBSRC) Debbie Harding (BBSRC) Jack Blowers (BBSRC) Andrew Enow (BBSRC) Luke Williams (BBSRC) Emma Markham (BBSRC) Amanda Collis (BBSRC) Jef Grainger (BBSRC) Riaz Bhunnoo (BBSRC) Jessica Parkes (BBSRC) - Observer Heather Alford (BBSRC) – Observer
Other Attendees
Rick Mumford (Food Standards Agency) Jacqui Mcelhiney (Food Standards Scotland)
Apologies
Bob Doherty (University of York)

Agenda

Item	Description	Lead	Item ID	Time
1	Chair's Introduction	Margaret Gill	Oral	10:00 – 10:10
2	Roundtable Update from the Panel	Margaret Gill	Oral	10:10 – 10:25
3	Director's Update	Jef Grainger	Oral	10:25 – 10:55
4	Strategic Priorities for SAF	Harriet Trewin	[SAF_04/23]	10:55 – 11:55
-	Lunch Break			11:55 – 12:25
5	Food Safety Strategy Development Workshop	Andrew Hellewell	[SAF_05/23]	12:25 – 13:10
6	Draft Report from the Underutilised Crop Working Group in October 2023	Emma Markham	[SAF_06/23]	13:10 – 13:55
7	Comments on Items to Note	Margaret Gill	Oral	13:55 – 14:10
8	AOB	Margaret Gill	Oral	14:10 – 14:30
-	Close			No later than 14:30
	Items to Note. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To Note – UKRI Food Deep Dive – A Summary [SAF_07/23] To Note – BBSRC 2023 Sciences Futures Workshop Report [SAF_08/23] 			

Summary and Actions

Item	Description	Summary and Actions
1	Chair's Introduction	The Chair invited Panel members and office staff to take part in a brief round of introductions.
2	Roundtable Update from the Panel	The Chair invited the Panel to share updates from their communities of particular interest to other Panel members and BBSRC.
3	Director's Update	<p>BBSRC's Interim Deputy Executive Chair gave strategic updates from across BBSRC and wider UKRI. Several programmes and collective funding across all 5 UKRI themes were discussed with relevance to the Panel.</p> <p>BBSRC is to consider feedback regarding impact and incorporate ideas into future impact studies, as well as consider how to bridge the gap between impact studies and practitioners themselves.</p>
4	Strategic Priorities for SAF	<p>The Head of the Sustainable Agriculture and Food (SAF) team provided the Panel with an updated overview of SAF's priorities. The Panel gave several comments and suggestions to assist future strategic thinking, identifying the following emerging themes: water quality, sustainable livestock production, food safety in the context of climate change, gene editing, translation from lab to field, digital tools for agri-food, soils/peat,</p>

		socioeconomic factors, planetary boundaries and controlled environment growing. SAF Team to consider recommendations and incorporate into next steps
5	Food Safety Strategy Development Workshop	Members of the SAF team presented the outcomes of the recent Food Safety Strategy Development Workshop. The Panel encouraged a food safety mapping exercise to ensure that we are consistently delivering on an operational level, as well as a scientific level. The Panel endorsed the need for strengthening current capacity and capability building and data driven tools, particularly expertise in toxicology, environmental health, and the integration of livestock with cropping systems. SAF Team to consider recommendations and incorporate into next steps
6	Draft Report from the Underutilised Crop Working Group in October 2023	Members of the SAF team presented a draft report of the recent Underutilised Crops Working Group. The Panel suggested 'opportunity crops' was a more appropriate and attractive term to growers and proposed narrowing the range of crops initially. The Panel proposed developing greater research translation mechanisms from lab to field and made recommendations to combat integration challenges. The Panel discussed the possibility of mapping new cropping systems with the potential to address current systemic challenges. SAF Team to consider recommendations and incorporate into next steps
7	Comments on Items to Note	The Chair congratulated UKRI for improving their position as leaders in food systems research. The Panel commented on the BBSRC 2023 Science Futures Workshop Report. This included discussions on the skills gap between novel analytical methods and the relevant integration expertise, the importance of intersectoral career paths, and science supporting policy development as a key driver of rapid change. SAF Team to consider discussions and relay information to key teams across BBSRC.
8	AOB	The Chair noted this was the final meeting for Simon Pearson, Elizabeth Magowan and Matt Heard, as well as herself. The SAF team thanked departing members for their wide contributions over the years.