

Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum Keynote Seminar: Food security, innovation and research

Timing: Morning, 17th June 2010

Venue: Central London

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.45 - 9.00 Registration
- 9.00 - 9.05 Chairman's opening remarks
Lord Cameron of Dillington, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Agriculture and Food for Development
- 9.05 - 9.15 Food security: a global challenge for the future
Professor Jack Winkler, Director, Nutrition Policy Unit, London Metropolitan University
- 9.15 - 9.25 Research approaches to addressing food security
John Ingram, Executive Officer, Global Environmental Change and Food Systems (GECAFS), Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University Centre for the Environment
- 9.25 - 9.35 Food security, science and public engagement
Dr Tom MacMillan, Executive Director, Food Ethics Council
- 9.35 - 9.50 Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.50 - 10.40 Food security, innovation and safety
Themes: What should be the role of new technologies in meeting the challenge of future food security in a changing climate, particularly GM, nanotechnology and novel processing methods? What are the alternatives? What are the implications for consumer safety? What is the effect of intellectual property claims on product development, access to new technologies and safety? How could new technologies help to reduce world hunger, and do new technologies need to be made more available to those most at risk from food insecurity?
Dr Mike Bushell, Principal Scientific Advisor, Syngenta
Dominic Dyer, Chief Executive, Crop Protection Association
Dr Isobel Tomlinson, Policy and Campaigns Officer, Soil Association
Senior representative, food and drink manufacturing
Senior representative, international development
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 - 10.45 Chairman's closing remarks
Lord Cameron of Dillington, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Agriculture and Food for Development
- 10.45 - 11.05 Coffee
- 11.05 - 11.10 Chairman's opening remarks
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.10 - 11.40 Funding and investment in research
Themes: What kind of investment is needed to promote research and development for agricultural science in the UK? Where should investment come from? Who should fund applied or translational research for food and crop production?
Steve Visscher, Deputy Chief Executive, and Chief Operating Officer, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 - 12.25 Identifying future research needs for food production
Themes: What is the status of research and development for food production in the UK? What are the requirements for future research and development to meet the challenge of improving future food security? To what extent should R&D be technology-driven, or market and consumer led? How does regulation affect the development and introduction of new products, and does regulation have a knock-on effect on drives to increase food production? How might a difficult economic climate, as well as cuts to university funding, affect R&D for food production in the UK?
Dr Helen Ferrier, Chief Science and Regulatory Affairs Adviser, National Farmers' Union
Professor David Leaver, Chairman, Practice with Science Group, Royal Agricultural Society of England
Dr Julian Little, Chair, Agricultural Biotechnology Council (abc)
Mette Kahlin, Food, Environment and Energy Efficiency Public Affairs, Which?
Dr Richard Summers, European Cereal Breeding Lead, RAGT Seeds
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.55 The view from Defra: future developments in food security and science
Themes: What should be the future of the UK's R&D strategy in order to meet the challenge of improving food security and sustainability? What are the wider issues that need to be taken into consideration?
Professor Robert Watson, Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 Chairman's and Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum's closing remarks
Senior Parliamentarian
Michael Ryan, Senior Producer, Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum