
Workshops Summary

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TWO BREAKOUT SESSIONS WERE HELD AT NABC 22 ON DAYS 1 AND 2—EACH comprising three parallel workshops—and oral reports (see footnotes) were delivered on day 3. The objective of the workshops was to provide all conferees the opportunity to speak, to listen and to learn about promoting health by linking agriculture, food and nutrition. The reports are summarized, using terminology from the cover page.

RESEARCH TOPICS

- Use all tools—plant breeding, biotechnology, radiation, preservation *etc.*—to produce more healthy foods.
- Provide funding for specialty crops, *e.g.* fruits, vegetables.
- Encourage production of more healthy crops, *e.g.* canola, high oleic soybean, as food sources.
- Biofortification.
- Biomarkers.
- Genomics, metabolomics, nutrigenomics for personalized foods.

¹Recorder, workshop 1; ²recorder, workshop 2; ³recorder, workshop 3; ⁴discussion facilitator, workshop 3, and verbal reporter at the conference; ⁵recorder, workshop 3; ⁶recorder, workshop 2, and verbal reporter at the conference; ⁷recorder, workshop 1, and verbal reporter at the conference; ⁸discussion facilitator, workshop 2; ⁹discussion facilitator, workshop 1.

- Post-harvest shelf life.
- Food supply/security with challenges from emerging pests/diseases, climate change, water supply.
- Identify the bases of consumer choice with a view to modifying taste/flavor, cost, and culture-affected eating habits.
- Attention is needed to framing problems. For example, improving human nutrition may require data on median income and food costs.

RESEARCH STRUCTURE

- Major programs should be interdisciplinary and interorganizational, *i.e.* involving academia, industry, government and farmers.
- Include anthropological, social, economic, behavioral and communication skills, and relevant sciences in interdisciplinary programs.
- Nurture interdisciplinary conversations to help generate collaborative programs.
- National R&D support should be allocated specifically for interdisciplinary and interorganizational programs [similar to Canada's Agricultural Bioproducts Innovation Program (ABIP), for example].
- Provide incentives to academics to collaborate, including joint appointments and participation in joint graduate programs.

RESEARCH TRAINING

- Redress the shortage of food scientists.
- Expose students to multidisciplinary collaborative efforts.
- Provide a full repertoire of practical skills to students as part of science-capacity building.
- Develop skills in communicating with consumers (see also *Communication* below).
- Follow the recommendations laid out in the National Research Council's 2009 report, *A New Biology for the 21st Century*.

REGULATION

- Credible, science-based.
- Reduce the high cost of regulatory hurdles for low-acreage biotech-modified specialty crops, *e.g.* fruits and vegetables important for human health.
- Elucidate biomarkers to appraise human-health claims for foods.

LABELING

- Develop easy-to-understand profiling of food healthfulness, *e.g.* a smiley face for "healthy."
- Assess the effectiveness of current food labeling.

