

## **Overall conclusion on the audience discussions**

Verbally and in the written notes, the question of whether New Zealand food production should feed the New Zealand population first and foremost, came up repeatedly. This is a subject receiving much attention at present, and one on which the Riddet Institute and the Sustainable Nutrition Initiative™ are undertaking research. There are many factors at play in this debate, all of which must be weighed to achieve a sustainable New Zealand food system.

Delegates raised the point that the speakers and their topics presented the views of developed, Western world perspectives on food systems. The views of the developing world, the less wealthy, and more diverse cultures was missing in the day, despite being essential perspectives to consider.

The need for full costing of food production and products was also emphasised by many: accounting for environmental and social costs, not just economic costs or 'prices' should be a priority.

Discussion of the consumer featured throughout the day, not just following Professor Hort's talk. Changing consumer behaviour and understanding of nutrition and food was a constant suggestion, but usually without a clear route to achieving

this goal. The topic of food labelling, and how this could be made more relevant and informative for consumers was also a recurring feature of the discussions in the room.

Some members of the audience felt that New Zealand has work to do in integrating the strategies of our separate Ministries and Government organisations connected to food. How can the knowledge that exists in New Zealand be better shared, result in behavioural change and identify areas in need of additional research? Do we need a Ministry of Food? Or a National Food Strategy?

Finally, it was often stated that New Zealand is very good at producing animal protein. However, many thought that there is the opportunity to leverage this into non-animal protein systems and lift the total value of New Zealand produce. It was proposed that this could be achieved without compromising our animal production.

---

\*Discussion summaries were collated by Dr Nick Smith, based on written notes collected from the tables in the room and video recordings of the facilitated discussion sessions on the day.