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Scientific opportunities for nutrition security

In an Editorial¹ about the policy brief by the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition,² the Editors note some important issues when addressing nutrient losses in food systems and, rightly, call for more to be done to motivate multisectoral partnerships.

We agree that it is necessary to gather a wide range of evidence from numerous scientific disciplines, mobilise all resources, and capitalise on all opportunities to resolve the shared societal problems. Recently, the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), a global network of more than 130 academies of science and medicine, published a report³ on promoting food and nutrition security

worldwide, which built on their earlier regional work in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe.

This project was of innovative design, inclusive, evidence-based,⁴ and transcended boundaries in health, science, and politics. In wide-ranging analysis, it emphasised the importance of fundamental research; linking national, regional, and global perspectives and actions; reconciling other pressing issues for environmental resources; and exploring the relevance of clarifying, connecting, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Collectively, there are many nutritional challenges in delivering food security; some IAP priorities for using science to support innovation (technical, regulatory, and societal) and to inform policy and practice are listed in the panel.

IAP defines food and nutrition security as access for all to a healthy and affordable diet that is environmentally sustainable and culturally acceptable. Our academies are committed to continuing to promote dialogue and we recommend urgent political leadership and action, at all levels, to transform failing food systems.

We declare no competing interests.

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Panel: Recommendations for generating and using science relevant to nutrition security from the InterAcademy Partnership global report³

- Defining and agreeing what is a sustainable healthy diet
- Understanding determinants of consumer and private sector behaviour, to promote access to healthy foods
- Clarifying how transformation of agriculture, food systems, and consumer choices, and the reduction of waste can mitigate climate change while also improving human health
- Building resilience throughout food systems in adapting to climate change that is already occurring
- Reversing trends in exacerbation of undernutrition while also reducing overconsumption of energy-rich and nutrient-poor foods
- Identifying, developing, and encouraging use of innovative or hitherto neglected foods
- Informing, linking, and monitoring policy objectives for nutrition, health, agriculture, and the environment

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- 1 The Lancet. Time to address nutritional security. *Lancet* 2018; **392**: 2140.
- 2 Global Panel of Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition. Preventing nutrient loss and waste across the food system: policy actions for high quality diets. November, 2018. <http://glopan.org/sites/default/files/Downloads/GlopanFoodLossWastePolicyBrief.pdf> (accessed May 20, 2019).
- 3 InterAcademy Partnership. Opportunities for future research and innovation on food and nutrition security and agriculture. The InterAcademy Partnership's global perspective. November, 2018. <http://www.interacademies.org/48898/Opportunities-for-future-research-and-innovation-on-food-and-nutrition-security-and-agriculture-The-InterAcademy-Partnerships-global-perspective> (accessed Feb 13, 2019).
- 4 Fears R, ter Meulen, von Braun J. Scientific opportunities for food and nutrition security. *Lancet Planet Health* 2018; **1**: e2–3.

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Vennix S, Musters GD, Mulder IM, et al. Laparoscopic peritoneal lavage or sigmoidectomy for perforated diverticulitis with purulent peritonitis: a multicentre, parallel-group, randomised, open-label trial. *Lancet* 2015; **386**: 1269–77—In this Article, the individual Ladies trial collaborators were not indexed on PubMed. This correction has been made to the online version as of May 30, 2019.

Usher AD. Low-cost pneumonia vaccine breaks into global market. *Lancet* 2019; **393**: 2025–26—In this World Report, the following sentence was added for clarity: “Serum says that two factors can cause the price to increase: first, if the quantities ordered are lower than 10 million doses, the price could go up to \$9 per child.” This correction has been made to the online version as of May 30, 2019.