PART II–BREAKOUT SESSIONS

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
c 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

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.
**Education**

- Promote education in food, nutrition and health for consumers (adults and K–12), food preparers (e.g. chefs), and health-service providers (nurses, physicians).
- Graduate students in the applied sciences should be exposed to political science and learn skills for communicating with lay people.

**Choice**

- Provide incentives to growers and processors to provide, stepwise, more healthy food, *e.g.* reduced in calorie, salt and sugar contents and containing improved oils.
- Replicate applicable aspects of the anti-smoking campaign to encourage healthy food choices.
- Use all available media—print, radio, television, Internet—to encourage people to consume fewer calories, less salt and less sugar.
- Structure food-stamp programs to encourage purchase of healthy foods.
- Identify forces shaping health and food choices by consumers.

**Communication**

- Encourage dialog between consumers and academics involved with agriculture, food and nutrition.
- Fund behavioral/communication-based research to develop effective tools to motivate consumers to make more-healthy food selections.
- Communicate the advantages of improved quality of life and savings in medical costs that result from choosing healthy foods.