

Minutes

Meeting: UKRI-BBSRC Bioscience for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Strategy Advisory Panel

Date and Time: 30th April 2025

Venue: Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA and Online

Attendance

Panel members:

- Carol Wagstaff (University of Reading) – Chair
- Herve Migaud (MOWI)
- Lynn Frewer (Newcastle University)
- Jasmeet Kaler (University of Nottingham)
- Dan Bebbler (University of Exeter)
- Angelina Sanderson Bellamy (University of West England)

BBSRC Office:

- Andrew Hellewell
- Hayley Spearman – Secretariat
- Katie Tomlinson
- Laurie O'Neill
- Riaz Bhunnoo
- Amanda Collis – online
- Pete Burlinson – online
- Ester Harper – online

Other attendees:

- Andrea Wilson (The Roslin Institute) – online
- Chris Reynolds (University of Reading) – online
- Lisa Collins (University of Surrey) - online
- Eileen Wall (SRUC) – online

Apologies:

- Jess Davies (Lancaster University)
- Emma Garfield (Ceres Agri-Tech)
- Alison Mather (Quadram Institute)

Agenda, summary & actions

1. Chair's introduction & review of actions from previous meeting
 - The Chair invited Panel members and BBSRC office to take part in a brief round of introductions.
2. Roundtable update from the panel
 - The Chair invited the Panel to share updates from their communities of particular interest to other Panel members and BBSRC.
3. BBSRC update
 - BBSRC shared updates from across BBSRC and UKRI. This included news about the new executive chair of UKRI, the spending review, forward look and funding opportunities.
4. Farmed animal production – Katie Tomlinson
 - The panel highlighted animal welfare and behaviour, reducing environmental impacts from farmed animals, a systems approach to explore synergies and trade-offs, and animal resilience and adaptation to climate change.
5. SAF strategic priorities refresh – Andrew Hellewell
 - The panel were supportive of the overall framework and the individual priority areas. They made the recommendations to ensure it better reflects the research needs, challenges and gaps in understanding for the agri-food bioscience community.
6. Biodiversity working group report – Laurie O'Neill
 - The panel discussed the need for emphasis on the preservation of an ecosystem, the biodiversity in soils, the response biodiversity concept, that agri-soil sampling should be encouraged, and that evidence is needed on interventions and drivers.
7. Comments on items to note
 - The panel commented and asked questions based on the working group reports that will be shared with the teams involved.
8. Any other business
 - Nothing to note.