

## Minutes

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

**Date and Time:** 09/07/2024

**Venue:** Virtual (Zoom)

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### Attendance

Panel Members
Carol Wagstaff (University of Reading) – <b>Chair</b> Emma Garfield (Ceres Agri-Tech) Alison Bentley (Australian National University) Jess Davies (Lancaster University) Herve Migaud (MOWI) Lynn Frewer (Newcastle University) Jasmeet Kaler (University of Nottingham)
BBSRC Office
Harriet Trewin Jef Grainger Riaz Bhunnoo Sophia Abbasi Emma Markham Chrysanthi Michelaki Sadhana Sharma Kate Jordan Ruth Nottingham Jessica Parkes – <b>Secretariat</b> Hayley Spearman – <b>Secretariat</b>
Other Attendees
Tom Quested (WRAP) Eleanor Binner (University of Nottingham) Dimitris Charalampopoulos (University of Reading) Melissa Bateson (Newcastle University) Alessandro Coatti (Royal Society of Biology)
Apologies
Bob Doherty (University of York) Alison Mather (Quadram Institute) Debbie Harding (BBSRC) Stephanie Masefield (BBSRC) Amanda Collis (BBSRC)

## Agenda

Item	Description	Lead	Item ID	Time	Mins
1	Chair's Introduction	Carol Wagstaff	Oral	09:30 – 09:40	10
2	Roundtable Update from the Panel	Carol Wagstaff	Oral	09:40 – 10:00	20
3	Agri-food Forward Look: Research and Innovation Themes	Harriet Trewin	[SAF_03/24]	10:00 – 10:30	30
<b>Tea Break</b>				10:30 – 10:40	10
4	New UKRI policy on research and innovation involving animals	Sophia Abbasi	[SAF_04/24]	10:40 – 11:25	45
5	Implications of the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act 2023 for Farmed Animals	Sophia Abbasi	[SAF_05/24]	11:25 – 12:05	40
<b>Lunch Break</b>				12:05 – 13:00	55
6	Food Loss & Waste and Beyond: towards a Circular Economy BBSRC UKRI community engagement event 2023 Report	Emma Markham/ Chrysanthi Michelaki	[SAF_06/24]	13:00 – 13:45	45
7	Plant health horizon scanning workshop report	Harriet Trewin	[SAF_07/24]	13:45 – 14:30	45
<b>Tea Break</b>				14:30 – 14:40	10
8	Director's Update	Jef Grainger	Oral	14:40 – 15:00	20
9	Animal welfare	Kate Jordan	[SAF_09/24]	15:00 – 15:45	45
10	AOB	Carol Wagstaff	Oral	15:45 – 16:10	25
-	Close			<b>16:10</b> No later than 16:30	
-	Items to Note				

## Summary and Actions

Item	Description	Summary and Actions
1	Chair's Introduction	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	Agri-food Forward Look: Research and Innovation Themes	The panel recommended topics for future deep dives in Regenerative Agriculture, Land Use for Net Zero and Transformative Technology that supports agriculture. The panel supported prioritisation of crop diversification, building resilience in food-systems, addressing food loss and waste, and ultra-processed food. It was highlighted that animal welfare was missing throughout the themes. SAF Team to consider recommendations and incorporate into next steps.
4	New UKRI policy on research and innovation involving animals	The panel recommended (1) that the welfare of animals needed to come through stronger, with welfare being promoted and monitored, (2) more guidance for international research and (3) that invertebrates and insects be included going forwards. Policy Team to consider recommendations and incorporate into next steps.
5	Implications of the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act 2023 for Farmed Animals	The panel highlighted that there needs to be technologies and tools to be able to measure the long-term consequences of gene editing on animals and their welfare. Many aspects of farming need to be considered when breeding including waste valorisation, farm tech-support to monitor animals over the long-term, animals' emotions, public acceptance and understanding. Policy Team to consider recommendations and incorporate into next steps.
6	Food Loss & Waste and Beyond: towards a Circular Economy BBSRC UKRI community engagement event 2023 Report	The panel recommended that all pillars should feature in a strategic programme of research. Noted farms under-reporting waste, agricultural co-products to be included as waste, and products to be classified correctly to maximise waste valorisation. The importance of a holistic approach was thought essential. It was recommended that future research projects in this area include evaluated trials to assess effectiveness. SAF Team to consider recommendations and incorporate into next steps.

7	Plant Health Horizon Scanning Workshop Report	The panel noted the impact of climate change on plant health and the unidentified consequences of regenerative agriculture, how both would impact the biodiversity of pests and diseases and subsequently the health of the plant. Recommendation to keep the focus on biotic stresses and focus on resilience. SAF Team to consider recommendations and incorporate into next steps.
8	Director's Update	BBSRC's Interim Deputy Executive Chair gave strategic updates from across BBSRC and wider UKRI. This included news about new executive appointments within BBSRC & UKRI, and the new government ministers. Discussed the Spending Review, Forward Look, the move to The Funding Service, and the evaluation of Responsive Mode. BBSRC is to consider feedback regarding future planning and evaluation.
9	Animal welfare	The panel shared concerns over the reduction in funding for animal welfare. Identified tension between welfare and farming systems while trying to reduce carbon emissions. BIUH Team to consider recommendations and incorporate into next steps.
10	AOB	The SAF team thanked the panel for their contributions and the Chair thanked the SAF team for their organisation.