

Agricultural Competitiveness Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Agricultural.Competitiveness@pmc.gov.au

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Response to the Agricultural Competitiveness Issues Paper [White Paper Australian Agricultural Competitiveness]

The comments on following pages relate to two parts of the Issue Paper;

Issue 1. Ensuring food security in Australia and globally.

Australia's food security

Issue 6. Improving the competitiveness of inputs to the supply chain.

Research and Development

Personal background and expertise to respond: My career evolves around Agriculture and other life sciences in the corporate sector and academic institutions. Currently am CEO in a small start up consultancy, SCIMONÉG. This consultancy offers insight to impact solutions to initiate projects and to overcome barriers in project fulfillment. For the last 10 years my focus in science business was as technology and application specialist for three top global innovative companies servicing all life science research and diagnostics domains. As a Business Manager my roles grew from Queensland to Australia nationally, then the APAC region and finally globally. My roles provided marketing field intelligence reports to develop better product placement, pricing strategy and access to developing markets, such as global AgBio. My life science target sectors had a focus into AgBio for improved production driven outcomes. Prior to my move into corporate sales and marketing my career was in academic research at Universities in Australia, Asia and USA for about 20 years. My research interest was developing 'best practice' programs in crop and animal AgBio and technology transfer to researcher by developing training programs on application of research technologies. I graduated in Australia from the University of Newcastle, BSc (Hons) and Macquarie University, PhD.

If you have any return question for clarification, please feel free to connect directly with me.

Yours Sincerely,



richard hodgson
Consultant and CEO
SCIMONÉG



Comments

ISSUE 1. ENSURING FOOD SECURITY IN AUSTRALIA AND GLOBALLY

Australia's food security

- An ongoing critical issue for agriculture is access to and storage of germplasm. In the future the importance and value of seed stock for breeders, of cryopreservation stocks of animal materials and microbiological agents will be the foundation for improving agricultural species in the near and distant futures.
 - Australia needs to actively fund germplasm collection and storage repositories. This is in collaboration with international partners and also independently.

ISSUE 6. IMPROVING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF INPUTS TO THE SUPPLY CHAIN

Research and Development

- Change the culture in all agriculture agencies from Research and Development to a culture of Ideas to Implementation.
 - Australia has world-class researchers, institutions and access international alliances. Australia need to put more ideas into the pipeline so Government, rural bodies and Researchers can first select the priority ideas to engage. Then we need to change Development as this has a level of incompleteness. Australia should be focusing on getting new agriculture practices and systems into the field. Hence focus on building a culture of 'Ideas to Implementation' for impact.
- Take control and safeguard all Australian plant, animal, fungal, and microbiological species as Australian owned. Many of our neighbour countries are identifying species for ownership and tracking unsanctioned uses.
 - Allow access and exploitations by for-profit organisations with conditions of financial returns to Australian R&D bodies. As example, encourage international links and industry links to explore capabilities for breeding and better production, to examine for active compounds in any species that can or will be farmed, and to manipulate the genome of any species that can or will be farmed, all under non-exclusive conditional contract that returns income to Australian R&D bodies.