FOOD 2050:

Food Security or Food Quality for Australia?

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Current Agricultural Exports

- Australia = Major agricultural exporter with approx. 70% of total food production exported.
- In $ value exports are: Wheat, beef, wool, cotton, wine, lamb/mutton, barley, sugar, canola, live animals and dairy (ABARES 2011)
- In 2010 Australia accounted for 2.3 per cent of all global agricultural exports.
Future markets - 2050

• Food importing markets dominated by Asia: China and India with particular growth in fruit and vegetables, and meat & cereals (Langridge & Prasad 2013)

• Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are leading global causes of death. Globally 63% of deaths were from NCDs, (cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancers & chronic respiratory diseases) (WHO 2010)

• Affluence in China & Oz will fuel new demand for ‘healthy’ food products – Opportunity for new functional foods
Down on the farm..

- Water limitation – Major fluctuations in production – Climate-proofing production thrust
- Agricultural systems with dependency on few commodities: wheat, beef, sheep, barley – Long-term sustainability?
- Diversification: Dietary and agricultural systems - Spread risk
- High Oz labour costs – No intensive value-adding after harvest
- Value-add direct from field and higher value product
Investment in improved food quality research for the end-user …

- Bread Wheat: Udon noodle – Major success in targeted quality trait
- Improved baking quality for Asian use
- High amylase wheat (low amylopectin levels) with resistant starch and low GI
- Durum again?
Investment in improved food quality research for the end-user …2

- Barley: Feed - Malt - β-glucans to reduce cholesterol
- Oilseeds: ↑ PUFAs and MUFAs
- Lupins – Human food – CVD & diabetes management – Satiety
Investment to increase product quality for increased farm income

- Improved quality of existing products
- New higher-value functional health products
- IP protection and a labelling/biomarkers to assist with product identification
- Get out of bargain basement