

From Research to Policy: Influencing Sustainable Food System Reform

Research informs international policy to create healthier, fairer, and sustainable food systems

Food systems worldwide are under mounting pressure to deliver diets that are healthy, sustainable, and socially equitable, yet policy and regulation often lag behind these urgent needs.

Associate Professor Hope Johnson, a member of QUT's Centre for Agriculture and the Bioeconomy, has collaborated with colleagues in Australia and internationally to explore how policy and governance can shape food systems that serve the public good while reflecting social, cultural, and economic realities.

A/Prof Johnson's recent work on regulatory options for meat production and consumption in the context of a healthy and sustainable food system was cited by the World Health Organization in its 2023 position paper "Red and processed meat in the context of health and the environment." This research outlined a suite of

potential policy approaches - from on-farm regulation and fiscal incentives to labelling, marketing controls, and dietary guidelines - while also addressing the political and cultural factors that influence policy development.

A/Prof Johnson's research has informed major international initiatives, including the World Bank's Investment Framework for Nutrition 2024, the World Food Programme's Strategy to Improve Diets and Address Malnutrition 2024–2030, and a 2024 policy paper by the Swiss National FAO Committee. Through these contributions, her work continues to shape international conversations about practical, systems-based strategies for building food systems that are healthier, fairer, and more sustainable for communities.



Impact highlights

- Influencing international food policy – Research shaping decisions at the WHO, World Bank, WFP, and other global bodies.
- Advancing healthier, fairer, and more sustainable food systems – Providing evidence to guide regulatory and governance reforms.
- Connecting local and global expertise – Collaborative research linking Australian and international perspectives on food system challenges.



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