Toward a Healthy Future:

Animal nutrition research for a better tomorrow

By 2050, the global population is expected to reach 9.5 billion. This expansion will place substantial demands on the current food supply chain. To meet these demands, the animal nutrition community has begun a process of identifying gaps in our understanding of animal nutrition so that targeted research can be conducted and field-applicable strategies to advance efficiency of food production can be recognized. The long-term success of these efforts will require partnerships among public and private entities as well as consumers.

To begin the transformation, key stakeholders from academia, industry, government and non-governmental organizations met in Washington, DC at the 2015 National Animal Nutrition Program Summit, ***Defining Animal Nutrition Research Priorities for a Healthy Society***. The group identified six priority challenges for which animal nutrition holds great promise to provide sustainable new directions.

By addressing these priority challenges, the global animal nutrition community will lay the foundation for a more robust and sustainable global food and agricultural system through 2050 and beyond. Such a system will improve animal health, enhance environmental resources, and advance global health.

Priority Challenges

Healthy Environment—Develop strategies that will produce enough food to meet global needs while also sustaining environmental resources for future generations.

Economic Vitality—Address rising food demands with attention to societal interest in improving animal welfare, preserving resources, and maintaining the economic viability of livestock and agricultural businesses.

Consumer Health and Values—Strengthen the partnership between the animal nutrition research community and the public through effective dialogue and demonstration of responsiveness to consumers' concerns.

Tomorrow's Animal Nutritionists—Expand education programs to attract a new generation to pursue animal nutrition careers. These young scientists and industry professionals will play an integral role in addressing environmental, economic, and societal issues related to the nutritional needs of a growing global population.

Transdisciplinary Relationships—Emphasize collaborative efforts within and across disciplines in both the animal and human nutrition communities to create opportunities to share data, make connections, and achieve a more integrated knowledge base.

Bolstering Basic Research Capacity—Reinvigorate fundamental research through greater leveraging, expanding research opportunities, and building stronger researcher and funder networks.

Published by the National Animal Nutrition Program, National Research Support Project-9 based on proceedings of Summit held in March 2015 (https://nanp-nrsp-9.org/Resources/Conference%20Recordings/Spring%20Summit%202015%20Video)

ESCOP Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy

USDA United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture