



FELLOWSHIP SUMMARY REPORT

Cover page

Dr John Ingram, Food Systems Programme Leader, Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford, UK

‘Sustainable food and nutrition: policies and practice to reduce risks and build food system resilience’

CRP Theme II, and especially *Climate risks to production*

Hosted by the Global Change Institute, University of Queensland, Australia

16 weeks during October 2018 – March 2019

I consent to my Report being posted on the Co-operative Research Programme’s website





1. What were the objectives of the research project?

1. To evaluate a range of food systems conceptual frameworks for analysing different concepts of food system resilience in Australia.
2. To use the most appropriate food systems conceptual framework(s) to identify and compare UK and Australian agricultural and food-related policies aimed at enhancing food system resilience.
3. To evaluate the transferability of findings from the UK and Australian analysis in a case study in Indonesia.

Why is the research project important?

Agriculture is a fundamental activity for food and nutrition security. It is however also the basis of many other 'post-farm gate' economic activities, and it is the combination of the full set of activities that underpins food security and nutrition outcomes. Policy and practice aimed at enhancing these outcomes in a sustainable and resilient way needs to be based on stronger – and more holistic – 'food systems' approaches. This is especially important giving the growing stresses and risks to the food system, notably changes in climate and associated weather extremes, demography, diets, trade arrangements and geopolitics. Increasing awareness of the magnitude, speed and interactive nature of these has led to the growing realisation of the need to increase agriculture and food system resilience. Reducing risk in primary production is an important aspect, but enhancing resilience across agri-food policy and practice will best be developed in the context of the whole food system. This needs to be achieved while not only maintaining vibrant, competitive agri-food enterprises (and their associated livelihoods) which underpin the food system, but also reducing their environmental footprint.

2. Were the objectives of the fellowship achieved?

Yes, very largely in Australia, where a wide range of academic, policy, agri-food business and NGO stakeholder views were collected, synthesised and reported. The Indonesian aspect was less well addressed during the few weeks spent there (which were not funded by the Fellowship) due to personnel changes in the proposed host institution. The visit did however lead to a proposal for a follow-up Session in the Climate Smart Agriculture Conference in Bali, 8-10 October 2019 and strong academic and policy contacts were made.

3. What were the major achievements of the fellowship? (up to three)

1. A well-rounded assessment made of the resilience of the Australian Food System.
2. Very strong collaboration established between University of Oxford and the University of Queensland, including plans for follow-up research and designing training courses in food systems thinking in Australia and Melanesia.

4. Will there be any follow-up work?

- Is a publication envisaged? Will this be in a journal or a publication? When will it appear?

Yes, a Paper for submission to *Global Food Security* on the 'Resilience of the Australian Food System', co-authored with Prof Bill Bellotti, University of Queensland (currently in outline form). Aiming to submit in Summer 2019.

- Is your fellowship likely to be the start of collaboration between your home institution and your host?





Yes, very much so.

- Is your research likely to result in protected intellectual property, novel products or processes?

No.

5. How might the results of your research project be important for helping develop regional, national or international agro-food, fisheries or forestry policies and, or practices, or be beneficial for society?

Please express this in terms of environmental/food security/food safety/economic/health (human and livestock and plant) benefits, etc.

The ‘food systems’ approach that underpinned the Fellowship identifies, maps and analyses the interactions between the actors and their drivers, including each actor’s activity, the outcomes of this activity and the possibilities for, and consequences of, interventions. It thereby placed current agri-food activities and policy in a broader context, recognising the roles of all the actors involved in the food system from primary producer to retailer, and noting that each has their own motivations and modes of interaction. Any intervention brings winners and losers, not just in the food system, but also for societal goals such as employment, political capital and the environment. It thereby helped illuminate the highly complex picture that challenges enacting effective policy, practice and social interventions to enhance food system resilience.

6. How was this research relevant to:

- The objectives of the CRP?

Food systems framing research contributed to the overarching CPR key outcomes of Sustainability, Food Security and Nutrition in an integrated manner, while also bringing in the critically-important notion of Resilience.

- The CRP research theme?

My work contributed mainly to CRP Theme II, and especially *Climate risks to production*. Managing risk is fundamental to enhancing resilience. My research considered risks along the value chain from climate change and other biophysical risks for production, to socioeconomic/geopolitical risks due to growing connectedness of economies and trade. I built on my extensive research in food systems conceptualisation to identify vulnerability points and related policy options to enhancing resilience. My end-of-Fellowship seminar to Queensland Government and an array of other actors in the agri-food system alerted them to the wide range of worldviews exhibited, and possibilities for enhancing resilience based on the notions of robustness, recovery and reorientation developed in the UK’s Resilience of the UK Food System programme.

7. Satisfaction

- Did your fellowship conform to your expectations?

Yes, absolutely. It was an excellent opportunity to deepen an initial collaboration and to jointly plan further research with my host and his colleagues in both Australia and Indonesia.

- Will the OECD Co-operative Research Programme fellowship increase directly or indirectly your career opportunities? Please specify.

Yes, in so much that it will facilitate further funding opportunities and collaborations.

- Did you encounter any practical problems?





No, all logistics went very smoothly due to thorough planning and a very helpful host organisation.

- Please suggest any improvements in the Fellowship Programme.

The only issue is the cost of living in Brisbane, which is high relative to the award. I would like to suggest a review of the allowance system to take account of national differences.

8. Advertising the Co-operative Research Programme

- How did you learn about the Co-operative Research Programme?

From colleagues in OECD.

- What would you suggest to make it more “visible”?

Asking past Fellowship awardees to carry advertising flyers to conferences etc.

- Are there any issues you would like to record?

No, other than it is a really great opportunity.

