

## SETTING NUTRITIONAL TARGETS FOR AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY PRODUCTS

Projections of global food needs into the next two decades suggest that providing a secure supply of food will depend not only on providing populations with enough energy but ensuring that they also receive enough nutrients. Even in Australia, there has been a decline in the nutrient quality of many foods and this has been associated with the increase in obesity with its associated diseases (heart disease, diabetes, allergy). In developing countries the energy intake is often carbohydrate based and is depleted of key vitamins minerals and protein resulting in diseases of deficiency. Market opportunities will exist for higher nutrient foods well into this century.

I suggest that all the RDCs have as one of its priorities, improving the nutrient content of the foods produced. These may be achieved through establishing breeding targets for plant and animal breeders or through altering growing practices. While there is recognition that any change needs to be close to zero cost to the producer and consumer I am adamant that improved nutrient contents of our basic foods is not only a worthwhile target but is also eminently achievable.

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