



Sustainable Food Policy Alliance Supports a Stronger, Coordinated Approach to Federal Nutrition Research

February 2, 2021 – The Sustainable Food Policy Alliance (SFPA), including Danone North America, Mars, Incorporated, Nestlé USA, and Unilever United States, released the following statement in response to a white paper, “Strengthening national nutrition research: Rationale and options for a new coordinated federal research effort and authority,” released by the [Federal Nutrition Research Advisory Group](#):

“The COVID-19 pandemic has put into perspective, yet again, the compounding public health impacts of the continued rise in obesity rates and other chronic diseases, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, chronic food insecurity and healthy food access. The pandemic is a call to action for a stronger, coordinated approach to national nutrition research – and vividly demonstrates the negative consequences of continuing the status quo.

“For years, leading nutrition and consumer groups have been calling for a more strategic approach to nutrition research that boosts funding, improves equity and eliminates silos between the more than 10 federal departments and agencies engaged in nutrition research. The white paper published by the Federal Nutrition Advisory Group is a critical contribution to the ongoing conversation about the important role of nutrition research, and it proposes several actionable recommendations that the Sustainable Food Policy Alliance (SFPA) supports as part of a coordinated national nutrition research strategy. Specifically, SFPA supports the implementation of the following:

- Improving coordination of nutrition research across the federal government;
- Expanding funding for federal nutrition research;
- Empowering agencies to harmonize the scope of research they conduct and fund at all levels;
- Increasing the focus on coordinated research that explores the connection between food production, nutrition and diet, and public health;
- Developing a process to identify and address gaps in current research and monitoring; and
- Improving equity by prioritizing addressing the prevalence of diet-related diseases that disproportionately impact minority groups, rural communities and other underserved populations and areas.

“SFPA believes that increased investment and coordination across federal departments and agencies – paired with strengthened authority for nutrition research within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) – will power scientific research to ultimately improve public health while reducing health disparities, lower healthcare spending over time and strengthen our overall food system. Thank you to the Federal Nutrition Research Advisory Group for leading this conversation to draw attention to this critical issue by offering substantive solutions for policymakers, researchers and others to move forward.”

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About the Sustainable Food Policy Alliance

The Sustainable Food Policy Alliance seeks to accelerate the pace of change in the food industry through individual company leadership and collective support for public policies that raise the bar and inspire further action in this critical journey. As some of the world’s best-known food companies, founding



members Danone North America, Mars, Incorporated, Nestlé USA, and Unilever United States recognize our responsibility to drive positive change for the people who use our products, the people who supply them, and the planet on which we all rely. To learn more about the Sustainable Food Policy Alliance, visit www.foodpolicyalliance.org.