

August 15, 2018

Dear ICDA member leadership,

Re: Invitation to Participate: ICDA Food Sustainability Initiative

The ICDA invites all member associations to nominate between 3 and 5 members to represent your association in the ICDA Food Sustainability Initiative.

What is the ICDA Food Sustainability Initiative?

Unsustainable global food systems are a major global challenge. The ICDA recognizes its responsibility to contribute to food system sustainability. Sustainability is clearly acknowledged in ICDA goals: *“Decision makers in health, agriculture and food have readily available advice from [NDPs] on sustainable food systems (SFS) that promote healthy diets.”*

ICDA has partnered with researchers from Food Commons: Edith Callaghan, Liesel Carlsson, and Bekki Laycock Pederson from Acadia University (Canada) and Blekinge Institute for Technology (Sweden) to help meet this goal. This research will ask each member association to participate in

- developing a common understanding of the issues.
- a common goal to work towards.
- and begin to identify strategic actions for moving toward our goal together, as a profession.

Who should participate?

We would like 3 to 5 people from each member association to participate as representatives. We ask that the leadership from each association nominate association representatives that have:

- an interest in sustainable food systems
- some knowledge of the issues
- basic skills in English (as the Delphi process and follow up workshop will be in English)
- access in internet
- confirmed willingness to participate

What does participation mean?

Each person will participate in three survey rounds, with three to four questions in each survey. All the surveys will be conducted through an online survey system.

In the first round, participants will be asked three questions. In rounds two and three you will be provided with an anonymous summary of others' responses to read and consider before answering the similar questions again. In that way, it is like a “dialogue” about sustainable food systems.

We estimate that each round will take approximately one hour to complete. The entire process (3 rounds) will be conducted over 4-6 months, depending on speed and length of responses. Specific participant responses will be confidential.

We will also invite participants to a final sustainable food system workshop in Cape Town, South Africa in September 2020. At this time, we cannot confirm that we can pay for all travel, so participants are encouraged to look to their organizations and other funding opportunities. In this workshop we will finalize our collective work and discuss how this work may be taken forward in respective nations.

What do we hope will result from this project?

We hope that after this project, ICDA and member associations are equipped with:

- a common professional vision of SFS, that is grounded in a science-based definition of sustainability.
- an increased understanding of SFS, including areas of agreement and dissent.
- strategies to move collectively toward success.
- indicators for evaluation.

We hope that after this project member associations and professionals:

- are prepared to advise colleagues in other disciplines on SFS.
- have enhanced professional capacity to innovate for SFS at a country/regional level.
- have enhanced opportunities among member associations for synergistic SFS initiatives.

What next?

Please decide on a nomination process that works in your organization, and send the names and email addresses of each of the association representatives **by September 15th** to Liesel Carlsson: liesel.carlsson@acadiu.ca

Once we have assembled a team of association representatives, we will contact them directly to get started.

If you have any questions about the project process, please contact liesel.carlsson@acadiu.ca. If you have any ethical questions, please contact Stephen Maitzen, Chairperson of Acadia University's Research Ethics Board at smaitzen@acadiu.ca.

Thank you for your support in this important initiative.

Sincerely,
ICDA Food Sustainability Initiative team

<u>The ICDA Board of Directors</u>	&	<u>The Food Commons Team</u>
Represented by:		Edith Callaghan
Sheela Krishnaswamy		Liesel Carlsson
Giuseppe Russolillo		Bekki Laycock Pederson