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## **SCHOOL FOOD AND FIBRE EDUCATION SET FOR MAKEOVER**

The Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia (PIEFA) has wrapped up a two day conference on May 1 and 2, at Hotel Realm, Canberra that showcased the latest in food and fibre education.

In line supporting with PIEFA conference objectives, an Ag Education Forum, facilitated by Anthony Lee of Australian Country Choice, took place on April 21, 2023. An outcome of the forum was to establish a working group to oversee a national food and fibre 'Think Tank'. Backed by more than 50 peak council and RDCs, the initiative has the support of the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Sen Murray Watt and the Assistant Minister for Education, Sen Anthony Chisholm.

In his keynote address at PIEFA Conference, Mr Lee said "after close investigation of the food and fibre sector, it's clear that much more is needed to be done, which is only possible through the development of a coherent, large-scale national strategy. A working group is being formed to get this underway immediately, with the support of PIEFA and the industry".

At PIEFA Conference, more than 200 delegates – made-up of primary and secondary teachers, tertiary educators, primary industry and government representatives – heard from innovators leading the way in food and fibre and education, each on a mission to breakdown industry misconceptions, emphasize the vast array of opportunities in our primary industries and the importance of engaging the next generation.

"The agriculture sector is a cauldron; a melting pot of skills. Who is going to be equipped to deal with this cauldron in an environment that is becoming more digitalised than human thought?" said Professor David Lamb of Charles Sturt University and Food Agility, leading the keynote session to address Innovation in Food and Fibre.

Workforce and labour shortages that are impacting the spectrum of the food and fibre supply chain, are influencing discussion around how to effectively engage Australia's youth.

At the conclusion of the conference, PIEFA's CEO, Luciano Mesiti said "an eager audience, armed with current knowledge and tangible resources, have walked away feeling inspired and well-prepared to engage their students and community with information about where their food and fibre comes from. We're excited to be embarking on the next stage in PIEFA's journey – showcasing primary industries opportunities through curriculum-aligned school education programs."

[www.piefa.edu.au/food-and-fibre-education-plan](http://www.piefa.edu.au/food-and-fibre-education-plan)  
<https://www.piefa.edu.au/conference-2023>

### **CONTACT:**

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