

STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY



InFACT

INITIATIVE FOR FOOD+AGRI**CULTURAL** TRANSFORMATION

Setting the Table for Food Security in Ohio and Beyond

The Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) is a transdisciplinary program at The Ohio State University aimed at designing and implementing food systems that are sustainable, defined as achieving a balance of ecology, economy, technology, and culture, to promote the overall well-being of people, animals and the natural environment.



MISSION

InFACT will transform the way we grow, process and distribute our food, leading to vibrant, sustainable and resilient agriculture that places nourishing food at the center of just and vital communities in Ohio and beyond.

CORE VALUES



Innovation, Leadership and Ecological Awareness in our academic endeavors and engagement with communities.



Equity and Social Justice for all.



Diversity, Transparency and Continuous Improvement in farming & food systems.



Indigenous Knowledge balanced with **Scientific Discovery** to honor diverse sources of knowing as well as generations of students, teachers, communities, families and farmers working together.

THE SITUATION

While achieving unprecedented levels of productivity, the food system in Ohio and across the country faces some major challenges. This system leaves many people without access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food, while others struggle with preventable and diet-related chronic diseases. In addition, the production and distribution of food causes a number of unintended environmental problems, including degradation of soil, air, and water quality. Farmers are increasingly open to implementing practices to assure long-term resilience, but cannot bear the full costs of doing so alone. In brief, there is an urgent need for redesign and transformation throughout the food supply chain.

OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH

Network Development & Collaboration

As a principal tenet of InFACT's theory of change, a broad-based network of agriculture and food system players, both internal and external to the university, will be developed and supported to enhance collective communication, policy and action on behalf of comprehensive improvements in food and agricultural systems in Ohio and beyond. This network's deliberations will also serve as input to the research agenda and workgroups.

Interim Goal

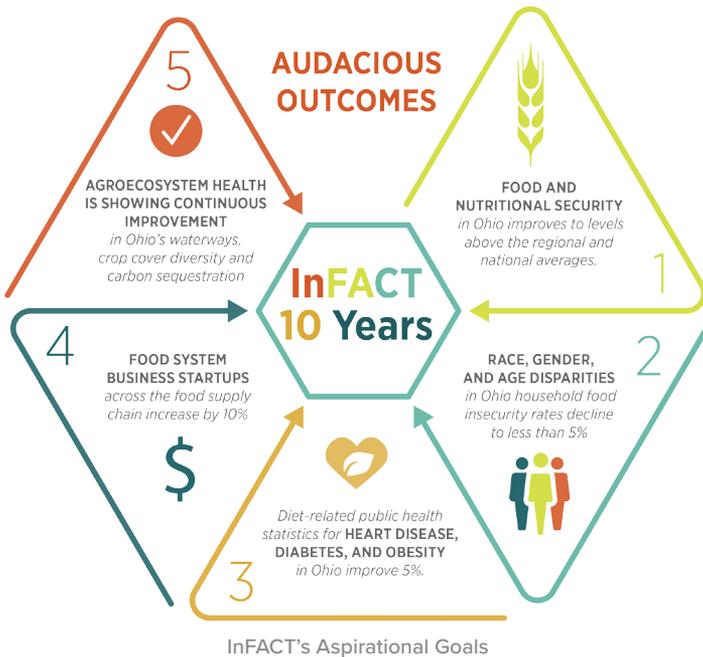
Build a broad-based, interactive network of stakeholders, convened at least once every year, to coordinate work on a set of common, democratically-established goals.

Research Agenda & Workgroups

Transdisciplinary working groups will be formed to pursue an aggressive research agenda covering a broad range of food system issues with an eye to effecting meaningful and measurable change in Ohio and elsewhere over the next decade. Working groups include: Climate Resilient Agriculture; Health and Nutrition; Policy and Planning; Business and Entrepreneurship; Culture, Art and Design. New faculty hired in each of these areas will support our teaching efforts and clinical practice, as well as further the progress on InFACT's aspirational goals.

Interim Goal

Continuously build research capacity while publishing annual statistics on the status of each of the designated "Audacious Outcomes" priority areas.

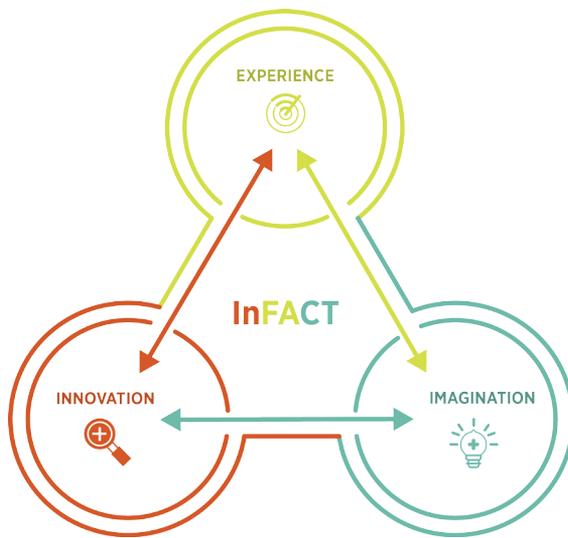


Campus Community Well-being & Student Experience

Committed to the proposition that good food anchors the individual and collective well-being of communities, InFACT will utilize our university's campuses as living laboratories for the improvement of food systems, nurturing hands-on opportunities for students, staff and other constituents to learn from the system that sustains them. This will begin with support for implementation of Ohio State's campus-wide goals to transform food purchasing, reduce food waste, and improve the physical landscape.

Interim Goal

Develop a comprehensive purchasing system, or cooperative, to make fresh food, produced as locally and sustainably as possible, available to all students, faculty and staff.



InFACT's Transdisciplinarity

Food System Applications & Clinical Practice

As part of a longer term effort, InFACT will marshal the research capacity and expertise available across several Ohio State colleges and regional campuses, including Extension personnel and services, to implement practical strategies that enhance agriculture and food systems. This activity will engage students, faculty and researchers, infused with scientific innovation and the imagination of the humanities and arts, as well as our external partners, whose experience will establish priorities, problems and latent solutions within the community.

Interim Goal

Establish a transdisciplinary food systems clinic, known nationally for its expertise in, and support for, the development of resilient, just and equitable food systems for all.



InFACT's Theory of Change