MUKA TANGATA
People, Food and Fibre
Workforce Development Council

Food and Fibre Skills Framework: Discussion Outline

March 2023

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Statement of Strategic Direction 2022-27

Vision: A food and fibre workforce and education and training system that enables industry and partners to flourish in a manner that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Deliverable D2: Set of qualifications, standards and micro-credentials that meet shared and diverse needs and aspirations.

Deliverable D2.1 (2022/23):

- Design a sector learning pathways framework
- New approach to qualifications design

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A New Approach to Learner Pathways

The overarching principles set out in "*A New Approach to Learner Pathways*" are:

1. The incorporation of mātauranga Māori into learning
2. **The creation of a food and fibre skills framework**
3. The design of learning elements in parallel

We need to try to create a framework, and suite of products, that maximises flexibility and transferability without shutting off opportunities for specialisms or creating something too generic to be intelligible to industry.

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A Food and Fibre Skills Framework

A food and fibre skills framework will be created so that:

> "All qualifications, standards, and micro-credentials within the food and fibre sector […] work together as a **coherent set** in both workplace-based and provider-based settings to form a **wider and more transferable skills base**."
>
> "Pathways will become more **intelligible** and enable greater learner mobility **within the sector** and **beyond**".

A New Approach to Learner Pathways, page 14

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Some purposes for a FF Skills Framework

A food and fibre skills framework should:

- Provide **coherence** for skills and knowledge across the whole food and fibre sector, and **beyond**.
- Enable the recognition or incorporation of **mātauranga Māori** into sector qualifications, standards, micro-credentials and programmes.
- Enable Muka Tangata, industry, providers, learners and iwi / hapū Māori to **understand** the **relationship** between food and fibre qualifications, standards and micro-credentials.
- Facilitate the creation of **pathways** within and between qualifications and micro-credentials.
- Create a **resource base** for the more **rapid development** of qualifications, standards and micro-credentials.
- Enable the **sharing** of **learning elements or modules** between qualifications, standards and mico-credentials, within the sector and beyond.
- Enable the **future proofing** of food and fibre sector skills and capabilities, addressing new and emerging skills as well as current skills.

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Possible elements of a Framework

A food and fibre skills framework might include:

- **Industry-specific skills and knowledge** – generally sourced from industry practice and/or research. This has traditionally been the focus of vocational qualifications, with an emphasis on **current skills**.
- **Cross-sector skills and knowledge** – including areas such as **Animals**, **Plants**, **Pests and Diseases**, **Biodiversity**, **Water**, **Climate** and **Soils**. Sourced principally from biology, chemistry and physics and related sciences. This would likely also include **sector mātauranga Māori** - how this might be organised is an open question. This area would enable a stronger focus on **future skills**.
- **Sector contextualised general skills and knowledge** – particular application of general skills and knowledge relevant to the food and fibre sector. This would enable **transferability** of skills.
- **Workforce and community skills and knowledge** – general skills across the workforce and community. Sourced from other WDCs, NZQA and from iwi/hapū Māori. This would enable **connections** with other sectors.

Food and Fibre Skills Framework

(Conceptual Outline)

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Discussion

Thursday, 6 April 2023