Kai Anamata mō Aotearoa
Future Food New Zealand

Nau mai, haere mai to the KAMA Conference 2026 – *Food Security in a Changing World*.

Over three days, we bring together Mana Whenua, communities, growers, producers, researchers, industry, government and other partners to explore the future of food security and resilience in Te Tauihu and beyond.

Our conference is an opportunity to share knowledge, learn from existing initiatives, strengthen relationships and consider how we can work together to build a food system that supports the wellbeing of our people, our environment and future generations.

An important part of our kōrero is the emerging **Te Tauihu Food Strategy** and the **Motueka Call**. Together, they provide an opportunity to shape a shared regional direction while identifying practical actions and partnerships that could begin making a difference.

This summary introduces the work underway and invites you to contribute your knowledge, experience and whakaaro throughout the conference. Your contributions will help inform the next stage of the Strategy and opportunities for collective action.

OUR VISION

Tūpuna Pono – to be good ancestors. Where people and place thrive through kai.

WHY A REGIONAL FOOD STRATEGY?

- Te Tauihu produces a wealth of food, but being food-rich does not mean everyone has reliable access to nourishing, affordable kai. Our food system also faces pressures from climate change, environmental change, infrastructure gaps and reliance on national and international supply chains.
- The Te Tauihu Food Strategy aims to provide a shared direction for a more resilient, sustainable and thriving regional food system.
- Wakatū Incorporation is convening this work through the Kai Anamata mō Aotearoa (KAMA) research programme. A regional working group has been established to help guide the Strategy's development, bringing together perspectives and experience from across the Te Tauihu food system.
- The Strategy draws on mātauranga Māori, research, community knowledge and practical experience to identify challenges, opportunities and where collective action could make the greatest difference.

WHAT THE EMERGING WORK IS TELLING US

- Food security: Significant food production does not guarantee access to nourishing, affordable kai for all households and communities.
- Environmental health: Healthy whenua, wai, moana and biodiversity are essential to a resilient food system.
- Infrastructure: Processing, storage, transport and distribution affect food availability, business viability and regional resilience.
- Existing strengths: Many valuable initiatives are underway. The opportunity is to connect and strengthen them rather than duplicate effort.
- Evidence gaps: Further work is needed on household food security, regional food flows, infrastructure and where economic and social value is retained.

SIX EMERGING AREAS FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

These six areas provide an emerging direction for the Strategy. They are not final decisions and will be tested and refined through regional engagement.

1. Nourishing and affordable kai

Improve access to nourishing, affordable kai that reflects people's cultural preferences, food traditions and ways of gathering, preparing and sharing food. Strengthen food resilience, community kai initiatives and food-waste reduction.

2. Healthy whenua, wai and moana

Restore and protect whenua, wai, moana and biodiversity. Support sustainable and climate-resilient food production, protect productive resources and strengthen indigenous food systems, customary practices and taonga species.

3. A thriving regional food economy

Strengthen local food enterprises, value chains, procurement and market opportunities. Address infrastructure and other barriers, support viable businesses and retain more economic and social value within Te Tauihu.

4. Collective leadership and partnerships

Connect Mana Whenua, communities, industry, research, councils, health organisations, government and funders. Align resources, strengthen existing initiatives and develop effective leadership and delivery arrangements.

5. Mātauranga Māori, research and innovation

Protect mātauranga Māori through appropriate tikanga, authority and relationships. Strengthen research, evidence and partnerships, and support indigenous crops, taonga species and appropriate innovation.

6. Food knowledge and capability

Build practical skills in growing, harvesting, preparing, preserving and sharing kai. Support rangatahi, intergenerational learning, workforce development, leadership and community self-reliance.

THE STRATEGY AND THE MOTUEKA CALL

How do they work together?

The Te Tauihu Food Strategy provides the long-term regional direction. It identifies six emerging areas for collective action and will continue to be researched, tested and refined, with completion planned for September 2028.

The Motueka Call provides a practical starting point for action. It identifies five areas where communities and organisations could begin working together:

1. Grow and share local kai
2. Buy and support local
3. Restore whenua, wai and moana
4. Build knowledge and capability
5. Waste less and build circular food systems

At Thursday's workshop, delegates will generate ideas and use dot voting to prioritise practical actions that could be explored in 2027.

These are proposals for further development, not confirmed projects, funding decisions or organisational commitments.

WE WANT YOUR WHAKAARO!

Visit the six Strategy feedback stations at the Conference.

Each station explores one of the six emerging areas for collective action. We invite you to share your knowledge, experience and perspectives by considering three questions:

1. What's missing? What have we overlooked?
2. What's already working? What initiatives or experiences should we build upon?
3. How could you or your organisation contribute? What knowledge, relationships or opportunities could you bring?

READ THE FULL WORKING DRAFT

- Te Tauihu Food Strategy – Version 6, 15 October 2026
- Printed copies are available at the conference Strategy reading table. A digital link will be provided if confirmed before the conference.
- Your whakaaro will help shape the next stage of the Te Tauihu Food Strategy.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

2027 – Further engagement and early action

Conference feedback will inform further research, regional engagement and refinement of the Strategy. The organising team will also explore Motueka Call proposals, potential partnerships and opportunities for early action.

September 2028 – Planned completion

Completion of the final Te Tauihu Food Strategy, informed by ongoing research, engagement and collaboration.

NGĀ MIHI

We look forward to welcoming you to Motueka for three days of learning, sharing and connecting as we work together towards a more resilient and thriving food future.