

Consumer understanding of sustainable food choices for red meat

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SASDT Symposium

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Sustainable food choices & meat: Rising exposure & awareness

Media exposure...

- "Climate Change: Do we need to cut down our meat consumption?" (IOL, 2021)
- "South Africa pushes to eat more green" (City Press, 2020)
- "Why 'Meatless Mondays' might be a good idea" (IOL, 2021)
- "7 ways to eat less red meat (and why you should)" (Health 24, 2019)

Labelling claims examples...







METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW



• 2019/2020

• RMRD SA funding

Middle-income consumers (n=163)

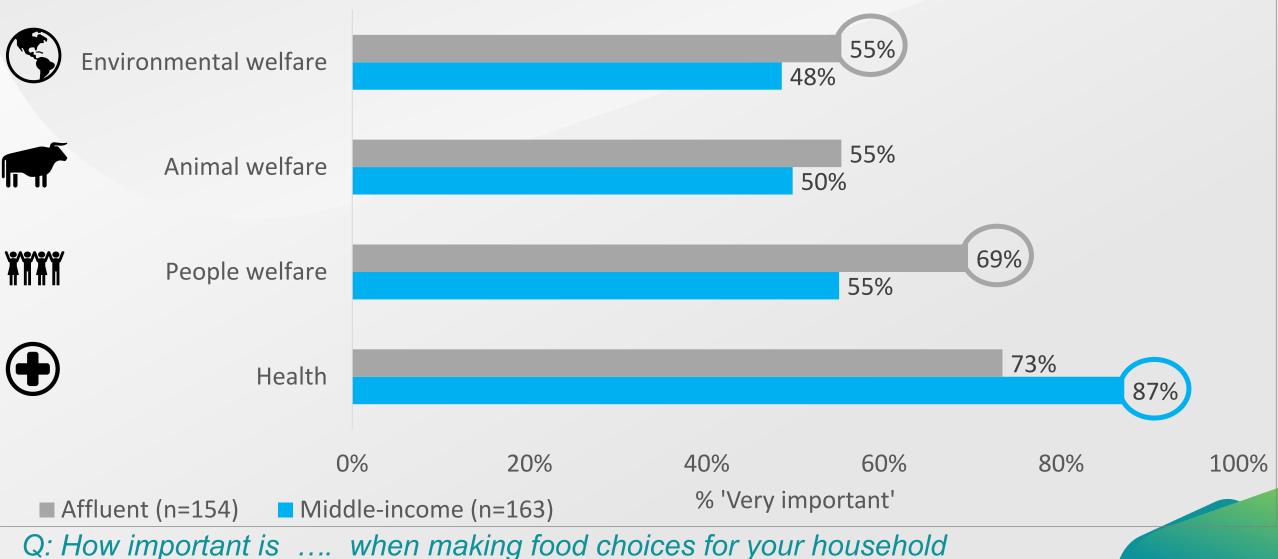


Affluent consumers (n=154)

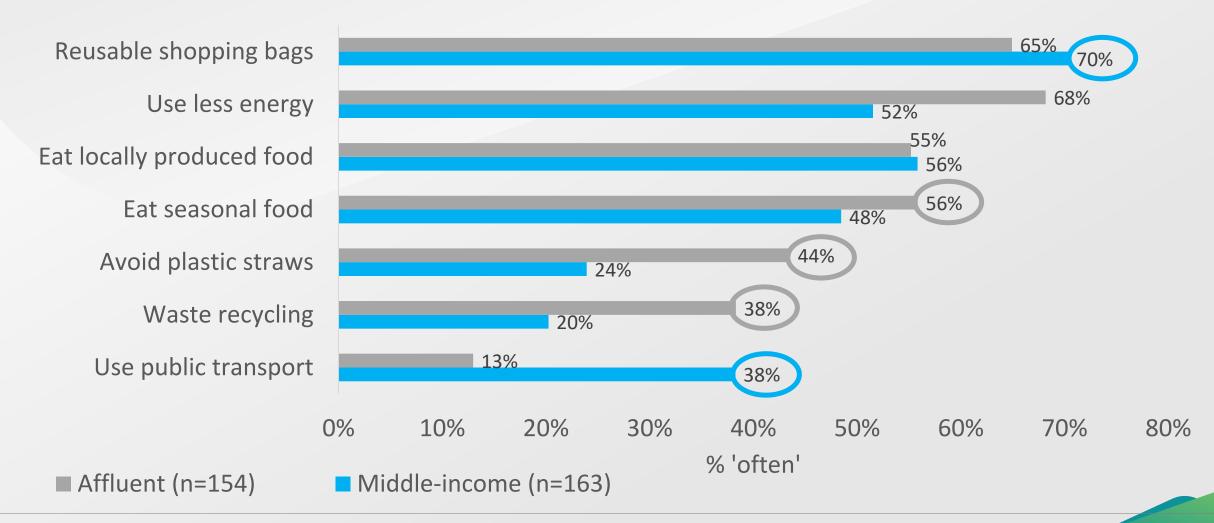


- Factors affecting meat choices.
- 'Everyday' sustainability actions.
- Who is to blame?
- Future consumer choices.

Meat choice motivations: Health ↔ Sustainability



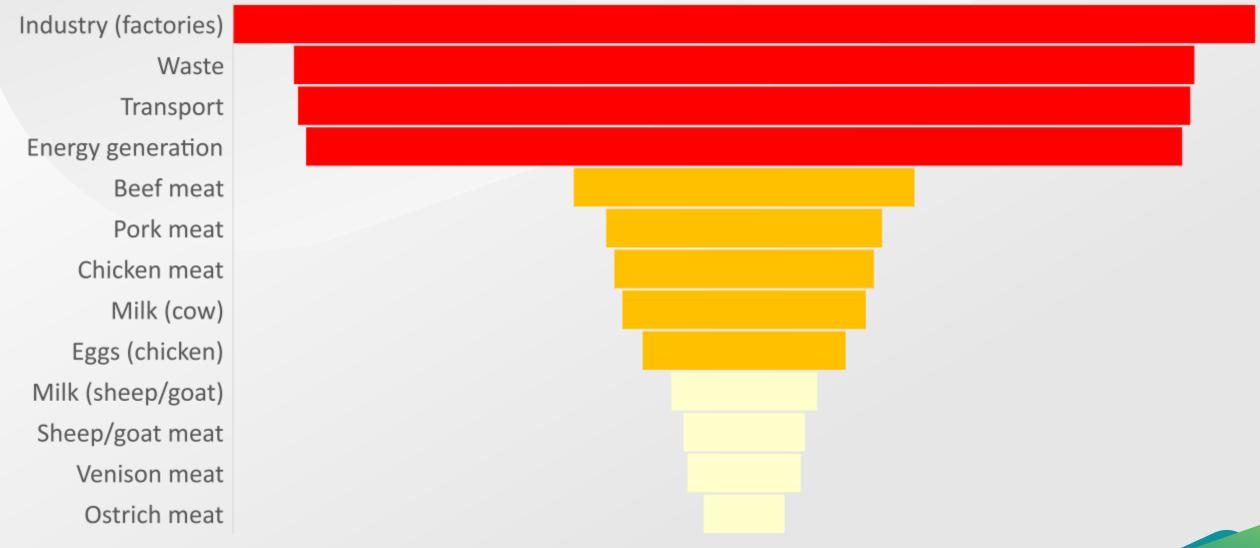
Involvement in 'everyday' actions affecting sustainability



Q: Does your household engage in the following activities?

Who is to blame? Consumer perceptions

% of sample perceiving a 'high contribution' from the particular industry:



Q: Rate the contribution of ... to CO_2 emissions and climate change

Anticipated future behaviour (1)



If consuming less meat could possibly make a positive contribution to environmental sustainability, how many meatless days are you willing to accept?

Avg 2.5 days/week

3%

3%

11%

12%

18%

16%

90%

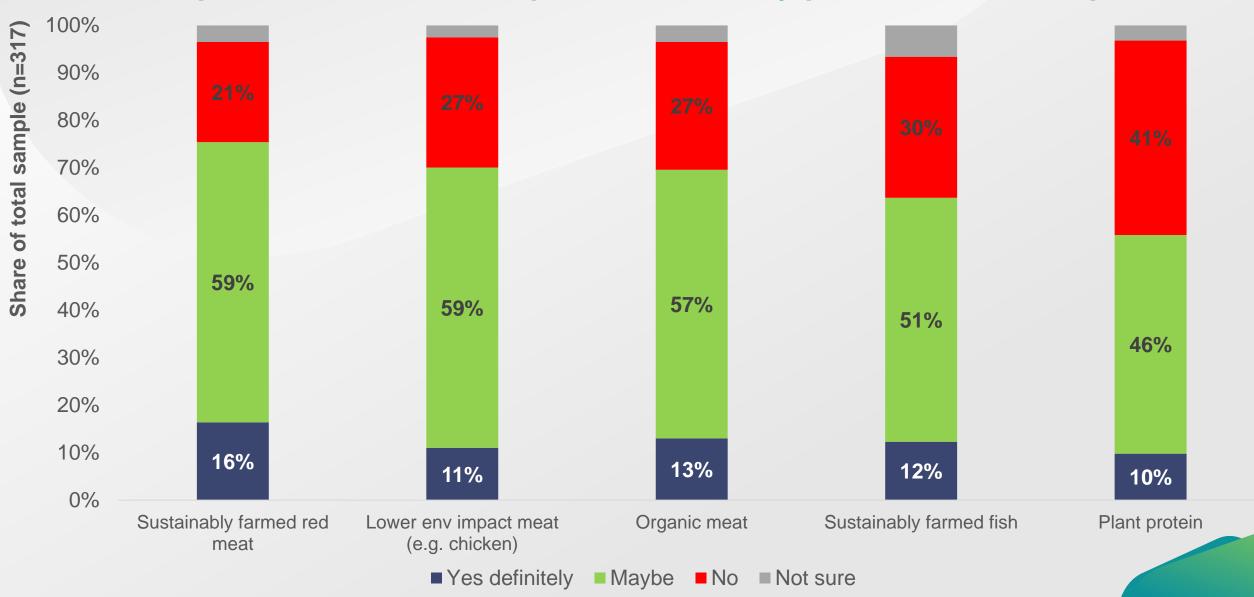
100%

WTA selected pro-sustainability protein-rich food options

Rather eat chicken than red meat 29% 64% Sustainably farmed meat 27% 63% Sustainably farmed fish 25% 60% Organic meat 25% 56% Plant protein foods 23% 57% Eat less meat 17% 63% Insect protein foods 4% 74% 16% Become a vegetarian 4% 67% 26% 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% Definitely WTA Might be WTA Not WTA Not sure

Anticipated future behaviour (2)

WTP a premium for selected pro-sustainability protein-rich food options



SELECTED INDUSTRY IMPLICATIONS

- Pro-active & scientificallybased consumer education regarding the sustainability of animal-source foods (ALL dimensions)
- Surprisingly high willingness to eat less meat - importance of meat in diet & adequate intake quantities.
 WHAT ABOUT DAIRY?
- Supply chain interventions continuous improvement towards more sustainable production systems.



Thank you

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