

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 9 April 2021 09:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Toward Sustainable Food Systems in Rwanda: Advancing Equitable Livelihoods and Value Distribution
CONVENED BY	Convenor: Mr MUSABYIMANA Jean Claude, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI). Co-convenors: 1. Dr NDABAMENYE Telesphore, Technical Advisor, MINAGRI; 2. Ms NEZERWA Martine, Chief Digital Officer, MINAGRI
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/10147/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Rwanda

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

120

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

Principles of engagement under UN Food systems dialogues respected

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

Diversity, inclusivity and complementarity

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

☒

Yes

☐

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Action Track 4 focuses on inequality and power imbalances at household, community, national and global levels. They are consistently constraining the ability of food systems to deliver poverty reduction and sustainable, equitable livelihoods. For food system to advance equitable livelihoods, we must look at poverty across the food value chain, the groups whose livelihoods are most limited by current food systems practices, and the discriminatory practices and norms that limit equitable livelihoods, in particular for those whose livelihoods are most marginalized (women, youth, people with disabilities). The dialogue focused on 3 thematic areas:

- Promoting productive employment and decent work for all: This thematic area included topics such as employment creation, decent work, and rights at work. Discussions revolved around challenges in creating inclusive work opportunities along the food system/value chain, importance of skills development and roles of the private sector such as traders/off-takers, agro-input dealers, and processors. Rwanda's main employment challenges include working poverty and underemployment (<35 hrs/week), which are underlying causes of the higher poverty rate among rural residents (49%) compared to urban areas (22%). Despite the importance of the agriculture sector in Rwanda's economy, we are yet to create sufficient employment opportunities and the majority of workers are in subsistence agriculture. Through the national dialogue event, we will explore challenges and opportunities in the food system in order to promote more equitable value distribution.

- Raising income and social protection programs: This thematic area focused on the role of the Government through its programs and policies in raising income for all. Home Grown Solutions such as Girinka Programme and Ubudehe have made positive impacts in economic and social spheres among the vulnerable populations. For example, since its start in 2006, Girinka Programme has provided cows to over 300,000 families. It has contributed in doubling the milk production between 2010 and 2015, helping reduce malnutrition as well as improving household income. In addition, this thematic area looked at how smallholder farmers have increased their incomes through agriculture productivity increase and market access. Further modes of integrating smallholder farmers into productive and improved value chains for increased agriculture revenues will be explored. This thematic area looked further into what's next - what more can be done in the food system to raise income among the vulnerable populations? The discussion focused on the roles of the Government and its programmes and policies relevant to the food system as well as discussing the role of the private sector and potential for public private partnerships in supporting the existing initiatives and creating new opportunities.

- Redistributing/mitigating social and societal risks: This thematic area explored the risks of unemployment, increased health inequalities, financial instability, reduced education attainment and how we can redistribute/mitigate them. In the agriculture context, it would also be important to consider the weather/climate-related risks and how we mitigate the negative impacts on farmers. Small-scale farming is often considered more environmentally sustainable than industrial scale systems. While over 60% of the workforce is in agriculture and its sub-sectors, their informal form of employment creates a risk, making it difficult for many to access financial services. We need smarter investments in small-scale farming, through strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships. The discussion will focus on how smallholder farmers can mitigate social, societal and environmental risks and the role of the private sector.

ACTION TRACKS

	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
✓	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
✓	Human rights	✓	Governance
	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
			Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

Promoting productive employment and decent work for all: The discussions on this topic revolved around brainstorming on ways to improve the employment conditions and structures that are more inclusive and productive by trying to identify the different barriers around creating employment for marginalized groups and how to reduce and/or eliminate those barriers. During the discussions, the definition of decent work was also looked at and ways of increasing available decent work opportunities in the food system.

Participants highlighted the need to set up appropriate credit funds to address the limited access to finance for small scale entrepreneurs and marginalized groups, setting up minimum safety net measures to answer challenges around overexploitation and lack of safety net for marginalized groups at workplaces.

Raising income and social protection programs: this topic focuses on the role of the government in raising income for all. The participants looked at the success of the different government social protection programs. It was noted that there was a lack of clear graduation pathway out of the social protection programs and the need to establish social protection graduation programs and guidelines including clear and quantifiable indicators and capacity building needs to make sure beneficiaries willingly participate in groups, hence increasing ownership. It was also recommended that these programs promote geographical coverage and enforcement of social registry to improve beneficiary targeting. The participants also insisted on the need to enhance coordination among the lead institutions to ensure smooth monitoring and evaluation.

Redistributing/mitigating social and societal risks: the participants looked at how to improve the legal and societal structure to become more inclusive of marginalized groups. It was important to first identify the risks to smallholder farmers and smaller business operators to improve their livelihoods, barriers on improving financial instability, the impact of climate risks on smallholder farmers and how to mitigate all these risks. The participants highlighted the need to build around the notion of cooperatives and farmers' organizations as key instruments to increase awareness on good agricultural extension and advisory services as well as establishing a commercial/agricultural bank since it was observed that financing agricultural activities is still a big hurdle. Banks need to also start putting in place specific lines of credit, financial literacy programs need to be initiated and insurance services need to be promoted.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Topic 1. Promoting productive employment and decent work for all

Existing challenge within food systems

- Limited access to finance for small scale entrepreneurs and marginalized groups i.e. smallholder farmers, people with disabilities, ...
- Lack of safety net for marginalized group at workplace
- Limited inclusion of marginalized groups into agribusiness opportunities
- Limited skills and access to employment information
- Limited agro-processing industries mostly in rural areas where most marginalized groups reside

Game changing solutions

- Setting up an appropriate credit funds to facilitate small holder farmers access to affordable financing (i.e.: tailor making loan conditions to crop seasonality, farmer (borrower) category and at a reduced interest rate)
- Facilitate creation of agro-processing industries in rural areas spearheaded by private sector (linkage with farmers' groups and cooperatives through contract farming frameworks, ...)
- Encourage participation in short cycle and remunerative value chains such as fruits, vegetables, ...)

Topic 2. Raising income and social protection programs

Existing challenges:

- Lack of clear graduation pathway out of the social protection programs
- Limited coverage and lack of proper beneficiary targeting
- Limited consultation and coordination among government institutions leading the social protection programs thus leading to limited ownership of beneficiaries
- Limited linkage between marginalized groups and the private sector

Game changing solutions

- Establish social protection graduation programs and guidelines including clear/quantifiable indicators,
- Promote geographical coverage,
- Enforce social registry to improve beneficiary targeting, and
- Enhance coordination among lead institutions

Topic 3. Redistributing/mitigating social and societal risks

Challenge:

- Production issues: significant crop production loss, climate change risks, soil acidity, access to inputs
- Lack of awareness of good agricultural extension and advisory practices
- Financing: lack of collateral, weak financial literacy, lack of tailored products for small holder farmers

Game changing solutions

- Increase agriculture and livestock productivity through improved access to quality inputs, irrigation, mechanization, and sustainable water and soil management considering awareness on climate change and weather risk mitigation strategies
- Establishment of a commercial/agricultural bank, banks to put in place specific lines of credit with a threshold amount form agricultural commercial activity, financial literacy programs, promotion of insurance services

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

ACTION TRACKS

KEYWORDS

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	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production		Human rights		Governance
	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods		Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress				Environment and Climate