

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Wednesday, 19 May 2021 17:30 GMT +05:30
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Mobilizing Resilient Community-led Food Systems
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	The Movement for Community-led Development
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/10167/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/10167/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	No borders

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

### PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18      26 19-30      53 31-50      21 51-65      3 66-80      0 80+

### PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

47 Male      56 Female      01 Prefer not to say or Other

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

11	Agriculture/crops	16	Education	3	Health care
5	Fish and aquaculture	5	Communication		Nutrition
4	Livestock		Food processing	11	National or local government
3	Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets		Utilities
9	Environment and ecology		Food industry		Industrial
1	Trade and commerce		Financial Services	35	Other

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

12	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
3	Large national business		Member of Parliament
2	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
11	Small-scale farmer	5	Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer	2	United Nations
22	Local Non-Governmental Organization	1	International financial institution
38	International Non-Governmental Organization		Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
1	Indigenous People		Consumer group
	Science and academia		Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

We worked diligently to ensure the inclusion and participation of different voices and stakeholders in the Dialogue. As a lead up to the Dialogue, MCLD started mobilizing members by inviting people working with the Food Systems Summit in various capacities to speak at our meetings to create an understanding around the Action Tracks and levers of change. We invited members to start thinking about community-led food systems to share best practices through a specially curated blog series (available at <https://mclcd.org/mobilizing-resilient-community-led-food-systems/>). A committee comprising members from different parts of the world including Benin, Mexico, Netherlands, India and the US was created to design the dialogue process and identify participants and facilitators representing various stakeholder groups. We ensured representation of not just NGOs, INGOs and government, but also small scale farmers, local organizations, academics and multinational corporations. Facilitators ranged from youth activists to CEOs. All facilitators were taken through a preparatory process to ensure that they were familiar with not just their action tracks but also the summit principles. Facilitator guides were prepared along with suggested questions for engaging the participants. Breakout groups were kept small to ensure participation of all people. Three powerful women speakers from three parts of the world were invited to set the tone/agenda for the meeting. They spoke to gender, small-holder farmers and indigenous people's role in the food systems.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Our aim was to provide a platform for Movement organizations to provide their input and hear from a variety of voices on a subject that matters to us all - community-led development. We paired community-level voices with those from international organizations, private business voices with those of local NGOs, and provided an inclusive environment for those voices to be heard. During our dialogue, we essentially practiced what we preach within the Movement, which is closely related to the Summit's principles of engagement.

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

Inviting such a varied group of stakeholders into the same room can be challenging, especially as we all speak not just different languages but also use the same language differently depending on which part of the sector we represent. We addressed this by providing participants with a pre-dialogue participant kit with information about the Summit and Action Tracks and reading about community-led food systems. This guided our conversation and enabled us to speak the same language around the subjects that mattered to us all. We also created these kits in Spanish and French for our participants and ensured that breakout rooms were available in all three languages- English, French and Spanish - to enable people to participate freely and meaningfully without barriers of language.

# 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

We used the method outlined in the Convener Reference Manual, with adaptations to ensure meaningful participation and engagement by the different stakeholder groups particularly small farmers and local CBOs that have limited access to technology and wifi. Our opening plenary consisted of three speakers, who were instrumental in framing the context of our dialogue's specific topic. Each speaker addressed a different aspect or theme of community-led food systems, and each delivered their remarks in a way that inspired our discussion groups. The importance of having the speakers set the context through their own work and concrete examples was reiterated by many participants in a follow-up meeting a week after the dialogue. Our speakers framed the overall topic but did not introduce facilitators or specific action tracks. Instead, facilitators introduced themselves to their groups and briefly introduced the action tracks. In addition to this, participants already had received kits with relevant information. This ensured they were better prepared for the discussion and that they could directly ask facilitators if they had questions around the AT or the framing of the discussion. Our discussion groups were 40 minutes long - the small size of the groups ensured meaningful participation by all. The groups were organized thematically, each tackling a specific action track. All participants had pre-selected their AT. Groups were pre-created to ensure diversity in the room. The Spanish and French language groups did not focus on a single AT, but on the themes identified by the participants. Additionally, we wanted to engage many speakers throughout our dialogue, so our curator was not the only voice in the event. We elevated youth voices, thought leaders, and Movement members to deliver different parts of the opening and closing remarks. In this way, we truly were acting within the Principles of Engagement of the Summit by embracing inclusivity, recognizing the importance of diverse stakeholders and voices and ensuring that people build on each other's work,

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

Community-led food systems are systems in which communities have the power to address their own nutrition and food security needs. Projects within community-led food systems are often local, collaborative and engage the entire local food system.

On May 19th, the Movement for Community-led Development (MLCD) hosted an Independent Dialogue which focused on mobilizing resilient, community-led food systems. Our dialogue was centered around exploring localization in global food policy and discussing people-based solutions to the problems our food systems are facing at the grassroots level. The overarching theme of the Dialogue was that resilience starts at the community level and that community-led food systems must be prioritized in order to achieve the Five UN Action Tracks.

Prior to the Dialogue, participants were asked to think about their vision for a community-led food system, barriers to strengthening community-based food systems in their community or area of interest, strategies to address these barriers and changes needed at the policy, implementation and funding level to build resilient community-led food systems and the role of different stakeholders in making these changes.

In order to explore more specific areas of our focus, MCLD invited three keynote speakers: Dr Jemimah Njuki, (Director for Africa, IFPRI), Dr. Myrna Cunningham Kain (Member of the Food Systems Summit Advisory Committee) and Dr. Madhura Swaminathan (Chair, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation). These speakers situated the role of gender equality, Indigenous knowledge and small-scale farming into the broader discussion of community-led food systems.

Following our speaker's presentations, participants separated out into ten discussion groups based on the five UN Action Tracks to discuss policy proposals for the Food Systems Summit.

To learn more about Community-led Food Systems read this paper by John Coonrod: <https://mclcd.org/2021/03/31/systems-thinking-for-community-led-food-systems/>

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

## MAIN FINDINGS

### 1. Modes of Action: Need for Community and Policy level initiatives

The Dialogue highlighted the need for both community-level and policy-level action. Participants agreed that food systems cannot be transformed through homogenous modes of action, but rather through synergies between community-level and policy-level initiatives. In terms of community-level action, participants agreed on the need for advocating with governments and big retailers to prioritize local foods, campaigning to eliminate the use of plastics, and prioritizing education surrounding sustainable and nutritious foods at the early childhood level. In terms of policy-level action, participants discussed the need to shift government policy towards better natural resource management and more nutritious / sustainable systems of production, reduce energy costs for small farmers, invest in research that improves the economics of sustainable / nutritious food, and support international agreements to measure gender data in farming.

### 2. Working with Indigenous communities and Paired Dialogues

The need to establish paired dialogues or partnerships between Indigenous knowledge holders and scientists was reiterated in the Dialogue. Indigenous knowledge, values and practices have traditionally been disregarded and excluded from the discourse on food systems despite the fact that they have created food systems that are biodiverse, nutritious, climate resilient, equitable and rooted in sustainable livelihood practices. Indigenous food systems have not only ensured the food sovereignty, health and wellbeing of Indigenous communities over generations, but have contributed to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development for the benefit of all humankind. A paired dialogue between Indigenous knowledge holders and scientists could therefore generate and improve knowledge surrounding food systems, climate change, the management of crops and seeds and other topics alike. Other solutions for working with indigenous communities included:

- \* Conducting research with indigenous peoples and gathering more evidence on indigenous knowledge systems
- \* Creating a trust fund, managed by indigenous communities, to support work
- \* Supporting indigenous land tenure and community systems of protection and management
- \* Strengthening the landscape approach with a comprehensive and holistic vision that aims to recover and strengthen the production of traditional medicines, seeds, crops, livestock, sources of wild and indigenous foods with high nutritional potential (local superfoods)
- \* Facilitating the commercialization of indigenous products by supporting community-based businesses and economic initiatives of Indigenous peoples

### 3. Gender Equality through improved policy and data

Since women face countless barriers including access to resources, lack of land rights, social norms and institutional barriers, the role (and importance) of women within food systems must be prioritized. Women are typically visible in production, processing and trading sectors, however their visibility diminishes as we move up the value chain. This is problematic as there is a notable connection between gender equality, food systems, food security and nutrition. As our speaker Dr. Jemimah Njuki noted, "the countries with the highest gender inequalities also tend to be the hungriest". In order to overcome extreme gender inequality within food systems, participants suggested the need for gender-sensitive data collection, gender empowerment programs at the state level and legislative action to involve women in policymaking. ICT can also be used to provide agricultural advisories and training to women in farming communities

### 4. Youth Involvement for sustainability

Discussions revealed the importance of exploring the involvement of youth in food systems in order to strengthen their future structures. Youth have the ability to take ownership of the local food systems in their community. If given the opportunity to positively and meaningfully engage in their local food systems then they can transform these systems and make these systems more sustainable. In countries such as Haiti, succession of food producers is not assured to sustain / safeguard future food systems because younger generations / populations are not interested in a career in producing food. Strategies to effectively engage younger generations in creating a sustainable food system include:

- \* A combination of farm and school structures to build understanding amongst younger generations of their local food systems.
- \* Programs that facilitate conversations between older and younger generations regarding existing food systems. An existing generational difference in communication style can hinder the education of youth in food production.
- \* Younger generations should be involved in village banking so they can save money / begin farming practices.

### 5. Building Networks of small-holder farmers

Smallholder farmers who form the bulk of the global food systems face numerous barriers from access to technology to high production costs, lack of storage facilities and unequal access to markets. Examples from India ( Group Federation of Small Farmers Initiative in Tamil Nadu by the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation) and other parts of the world show the importance of creating federations of small farmers who can not only serve as a pressure group to highlight their interests but also leverage funds from banks and governments and undertake collective action for ensuring better access to technology and local infrastructure.

## 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

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/7

The discussion groups were structured around the 5 Action Tracks along with language groups in Spanish and French which looked at an overview of action required to strengthen community-led food systems:

Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

Two groups explored this topic. Their vision for creating a community-led food system included implementing policies that are inclusive towards indigenous communities. A key issue discussed was how to best support the longevity of indigenous farming practices. While smallholder farmers produce crops that possess market value, there is a long-term risk of losing indigenous seeds in local food systems. Furthermore, existing policies do not currently support the practices of indigenous communities. GMOs are currently in danger of wiping out the sale of indigenous seeds on the market and nutritious / organic food from local communities are not receiving enough market value. Access to information for farmers, importance of WASH and lack of diversity in the local food plate and in choices available to farmers also surfaced as important issues.

Urgent issues towards ensuring the availability of nutritious foods in local communities involve:

- \* Supporting the longevity of indigenous farming practices
- \* Supporting land accessibility for women
- \* Examining policies surrounding food systems that are not region or country specific
- \* Budget contributions towards strengthening the availability of nutritious foods in existing food systems

In order to support the inclusion of nutritious food in local food systems, the following solutions were proposed to be undertaken at a community-based level:

- \* Working with communities to prepare better methods of storing food in order to safeguard food against natural and economic shocks
- \* Supporting / continuing practices of growing nutritious foods within households and trading produce between households that occurred during the pandemic.
- \* Rethinking / restructuring the system of local market supply in providing nutritious foods to markets in big cities. This often contributes to lack of nutritious food in local rural markets.
- \* Supporting household farming to encourage farmers to produce foods for local consumption.
- \* Effectively disseminating nutritional information from health experts to communities
- \* Addressing climate change in local farming communities to educate farmers on the importance of crop diversity.
- \* Providing farmers with access to diverse seeds and with capacity strengthening.

Some of these actions require work at the policy level while others need community level programming and advocacy by local CSOs, INGOs and community groups.

### 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



## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/7

### Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns

This group's vision for community action to shift to sustainable consumption patterns involved supporting early childhood education on sustainable nutritious food, placing community pressure on governments and big retailers to prioritize local foods, building better rural roads and local transport systems to reduce the "time-to-market", and campaigning to eliminate the use of plastics.

They recognised the need for concerted action at the community level and advocacy to ensure an enabling policy environment with the government.

Policy ideas included shifting government policy away from solely increasing production towards better natural resource management and a more nutritious and sustainable system of production, reducing the energy costs for small farmers (electricity costs are too high for cooking and they contribute to deforestation), addressing monopolies by fast food companies and investing in research that improves the economics of sustainable nutritious food.

### ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/7

### Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production

This group's vision entailed rebuilding the current food system to capitalize on new and knowledge while pairing it with indigenous knowledge to ensure sustainable practices. To achieve this vision, the group discussed solutions that seek to empower communities in tangible ways by investing in them and not imposing solutions imported from the global North. This could be done by providing resources directly to communities, developing strong community level partnerships and providing support for community-based decisions on how to use those resources. This would entail having the decolonizing aid conversation within the food systems framework and shifting power from global to local. Other solutions discussed involved integrating technology and indigenous knowledge, educating local producers on the implications of unsustainable practices, and putting human rights at the heart of community based food systems with land and territory acknowledgement.

Solutions that seek to reconcile new technology with indigenous knowledge should be community-focused and include processes, roles, and timelines that allow for community input and influence in the outcome. Suggestions to strengthen the input of the indigenous community in food-system processes included:

- \* Gathering more evidence on indigenous peoples knowledge systems
- \* Conducting more research with indigenous peoples
- \* Creating a trust fund managed by indigenous people to support work

### ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/7

### Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods

The group discussed methods to overcome gender inequality for people who identify as women, enabling economic, political and institutional infrastructure that promotes equitable livelihoods, and involving men and boys into the conversation on women in agriculture.

Methods discussed to advance equitable livelihoods in local food systems by working with international and state governments, local communities, and men and boys included:

- \*collecting measurable gender-sensitive data, especially around women's work
- \* supporting international agreements to measure gender data in farming (and other activities)
- \* supporting legislative initiatives to address gender inequality like joint land ownership in India
- \* engaging men in discussions of women in agriculture
- \* supporting gender empowerment programs at a state level
- \* recognizing the role of cooperatives in building resilience and ensuring youth are included in these cooperatives

Specific examples of cooperatives and collective action were brought in from India. Plant Clinics were established to provide agricultural advisories via phone, tablet, and other information communication technology (ICT) tools to women in farming communities in Tamil Nadu in southern India. This enabled people from all over the region, be they literate or illiterate, to access information in a comprehensible manner, resulting in lower input costs, increased productivity, and the use of safer farming practices (such as using less pesticide sprays). Similarly the Group Federation of Small Farmers initiative in Tamil Nadu consisted of a large number of women and over 800 farming groups mostly from tribal communities in India. They functioned as a Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) leveraging funds from banks and the government to bring new technology to small farmer communities.

The group recognized that current economic, political, and institutional structures maintain the unequal power dynamics in our system and made the following recommendations to address these:

- \* Educating community members on issues of farming practices, nutrition, and rights in order to mobilize the voices of individuals, particularly women
- \* Using ICT technology to foster awareness and engage women's voices in policy issues; demystifying computer and social media skills
- \* Altering "one size fits all" policies that work well in certain areas but poorly in others

### 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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/7

Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.

This topic was discussed by two groups. The discussion centered around self-reliance in local communities and the engagement of younger generations in transforming local food systems to make them more sustainable. Participants recognized that the current global food systems are unable to deal with shocks; the COVID 19 pandemic clearly demonstrated that when the global systems and supply chains ground to a halt, local food systems proved to be much more resilient to the shock.

Barriers towards strengthening community based food systems within this Action Track included difficulties in transporting farm produce, lack of access to farming technologies, lack of youth involvement in community-led food systems, and inadequate local infrastructure to store food. The groups discussed the advent of food insecurity in communities which were heavily dependent on external markets either for getting agricultural produce and seeds or for selling local produce. This was exacerbated by the lack of adequate post harvest storage facilities that resulted in produce going bad and disheartened farmers. In contrast, communities that produced and consumed most of their food locally were less affected by the pandemic induced lockdowns and travel restrictions.

Strategies to address these issues include incorporating a use of community pantries to reduce the loss of excess produce, creating community gardens to address issues of food stability during the pandemic, and practice of community-supported agriculture where the produce and profits feed local markets, reducing the transport and infrastructure required to support food systems. The groups discussed specific examples from countries like the Philippines and Afghanistan to address the crisis. These included supporting women to start and run organic community farms in the Philippines which were not only environment-friendly, but also ensured that families dependent on remittances (that stopped due to the pandemic) had a source of income and access to nutritious food. Or using the traditional methods for drying and storing food as in Afghanistan which are inexpensive, have low environmental footprints and require low-technological investment even as they prevent spoilage.

Importance of youth involvement in local food systems by providing training and support services like access to banking and farm schools were also considered imperative in order to develop resilience in these systems.

### ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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### KEYWORDS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
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<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/7

Discussion Group with French-Speaking Participants: All ATs

A community-led food system is one that is articulated around local assets, resources, and knowledge. Furthermore, the system is inclusive, and functions on the basis of justice and equality. The main barrier facing our food systems is the lack of a local food system supply chain that values local assets. To overcome this obstacle, we need the involvement of the government, in terms of investment, regulation, training, and communication. Relentless activism of the Civil Society and the support of scientists and researchers is also essential.

Solutions proposed towards supporting a community led food system supply chain include the involvement of key actors such as community members, scientists, and researchers. Proposed solutions to this issue are:

\* Involving the government in investment, regulation, education / training and communication

\* Incorporating the support of scientists and researchers to support this issue

\* Supporting an attractive scheme for private sector actors to match social and economic aspects within a resilient food system

### ACTION TRACKS

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### KEYWORDS

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 7/7

Discussion Group with Spanish-Speaking Participants: All ATs

Visions for community-led food systems within this group involved incorporating diverse actors such as women and indigenous populations into existing food systems, protecting and promoting local food systems, and generating community ownership of these systems. The group recognized the need to speak of not a single food system but the diversity in food systems.

Barriers towards achieving these visions of community-led sustainable food systems are a lack of support for small-scale production practices, the impact of climate change on production and crops, and a general lack of access to land tenure and means of production to bolster local food systems. Solutions discussed towards overcoming these obstacles include implementing public policies that are community-centered and strengthening local community members' sense of their own resilience and capability. The group also acknowledged that producers alone are not responsible for ensuring resilient and sustainable food systems - consumers also need to share this responsibility.

### ACTION TRACKS

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

One area of divergence that emerged during the Dialogue was the discussion of modern technology within food systems. Although modern technology may present unique opportunities for food systems, many participants raised the concern that community-led food systems often lack access to such technologies, making them unable to reap the potential benefits. Moreover, while certain participants believed that modern technology can offer unique avenues for innovation and improvement, others suggested that it can create a plethora of issues. For instance, the use of modern technology within food systems can create a vast amount of environmental degradation, which can have devastating effects on local ecosystems and livelihoods, as well as climate change. Additionally, while certain aspects of modern technology (i.e. automation) may potentially reduce labor costs of food production and processing, they may also increase energy costs and create displacement, which can be extremely harmful to small-scale farmers and their communities.

The conversation of modern technology within food systems also extended to Indigenous communities. Although modern technology has created a variety of issues for Indigenous peoples (i.e. poor water quality, deforestation and displacement), participants alluded to the potential for collaboration between modern technology and Indigenous systems. Rather than prolonging the tension between the two systems and constantly viewing them as diametric, we should find ways to integrate them to promote harmony and resilience.

Another area of divergence within the Dialogue was the emphasis placed on supporting Indigenous or small-scale farming communities in order to strengthen local food systems. Discussions around Action Track 1 touched upon how absence of adequate knowledge coupled with low incomes and need for survival may drive small holder farmers to adopt more "marketable crops" and GMOs which may lead to the extinction of indigenous seeds and crop varieties.

The dialogue did result in very clear examples and recommendations for strengthening both these stakeholder groups within the food systems. Small farmers experience low, inadequate and fluctuating incomes and face barriers such as high production costs and an unequal access to input and output markets. The Plant Clinics and Group Federation of Small Farmers Initiatives from India demonstrate the positive impact of collective action on the livelihoods and incomes of small farmers.

Indigenous people have long been stewards of the land. Traditional indigenous practices and values have not only ensured the food sovereignty, health and wellbeing of Indigenous communities over generations, but have contributed to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development for the benefit of all humankind. National and independent dialogues are necessary to alter the narrative of labeling community-led and indigenous food systems as underdeveloped systems. Dialogues analyzing the relationship between indigenous knowledge and food systems play an essential role in the development of community-led food systems.

One area to consider is that could organization of small holder farmers into federations coupled with a strong policy environment that recognizes, documents and seeks to support indigenous crops and knowledge provide small farmers with the information, incentive and infrastructure to invest in local superfoods?

### ACTION TRACKS

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### KEYWORDS

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

# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Plenary with Keynote speakers**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n05u1n4xLwc>
- **Brief report back from discussion groups**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7GEB5ITcK8M&t=2s>