

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 24 May 2021 18:00 GMT -06:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Mejorando nuestra comida al darle vuelta a la tortilla (y a nosotros)
CONVENED BY	Bibi la Luz Gonzalez - Come Mejor Wa'ik; Escuchemos Guatemala / Nueva Narrativa; Maritza Méndez de Oliva - nutricionista
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/11179/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Guatemala

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

1 0-18 20 19-30 31 31-50 20 51-65 8 66-80 0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

30 Male 50 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

15	Agriculture/crops	20	Education	6	Health care
1	Fish and aquaculture	9	Communication	20	Nutrition
	Livestock	2	Food processing	12	National or local government
	Agro-forestry	19	Food retail, markets	7	Utilities
	Environment and ecology		Food industry	7	Industrial
2	Trade and commerce		Financial Services		Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan	Workers and trade union
Large national business	Member of Parliament
Multi-national corporation	Local authority
Small-scale farmer	Government and national institution
Medium-scale farmer	Regional economic community
Large-scale farmer	United Nations
Local Non-Governmental Organization	International financial institution
International Non-Governmental Organization	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
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?

The dialogue has been in preparation since 2020 and done now in end of May 2021 aligned with the UN Food Systems Summit. The convener part of multiple initiatives, including the Food Systems Dialogues, FACT Dialogue and Taskforce, and Global Shapers Community, they all aligned in integrating multiple perspectives in one dialogue. Especially, the Global Shapers launched the Davos Lab Dialogues to contribute to the World Economic Forum Special Annual Meeting as a roadmap post-pandemic. So, the independent dialogue merged Davos Lab into the UN Food System Dialogue with some of their pillars. Calling on all people who need food to live to join, this was the most inclusive dialogue in Guatemala so far and did to its best capacity to join together multiple sectors to come together as one. We had 10 focus groups: 1) Nutrition and education; 2) Health and consumption; 3) Social gastronomy; 4) Communication and advertising; 5) Agriculture and environment; 6) Gender, youth and migration; 7) Legislation and public-corporate partnerships; 8) Trade and entrepreneurship; 9) Culture and Identity; 10) Technology for the future of food. Before the dialogue and in initial part, the participants were prompted with a code of conduct for the dialogue in order to respect the participants and their perspectives. Please see more on the document attached.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Act with urgency: in the presentation we emphasized to meet the UN SGDs, food systems are at the core to transform Commit to the Summit: personal and professional views and stories were enabled here to address the elephant in the room. Be respectful: radical listening was done and also emphasized to identify the elements in their life/work were stumbling blocks to achieve food systems transformation, and which ones they are willing to give up for the greater good. Recognize complexity: in one single dialogue fixing the food systems is too high aspire, but it sure was a starting point with a new dynamic such as this one. Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity Complement the work of others: numerous of the focus groups also touched upon each other. Build trust: having facilitators who are genuinely trusted and committed, to transmit that energy and trust. We also used Chatham House Rules with respect at the core.

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

Know your audience passed the suggested multiple choice of their background. Something to engage people from all walks of life is to identify with simple wording with the problem and the solution. In this sense, in our registration form we asked those registering to comment in two word how the would describe the food system in Guatemala; and then in three words what they are doing to improve it. It is a great sense to know the general perspective and a reality check.

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

The major focus of the dialogue was to follow the main title of it:

Improving our food by turning the tortilla around... (and us too)

[Mejorando nuestra comida al darle vuelta a la tortilla... (y a nosotros/os)]

- Improve: bettering our transformation [mejorando]

- Food: a colloquial way to refer in Spanish [comida instead of alimentos]

- Turning around: using the motto of UNGA "Turn it Around"

- Tortilla: a staple food in Guatemala, the most common food from corn (but also subject to numerous diseases and modern slavery that have been normalized).

- Turning the tortilla around: a saying in Spanish: [darle vuelta a la tortilla] to really flip the scenario

- Our / us: to be part of the problem and the solution, and identify us and all in the food systems (and not just the same, therefore a real "People's Summit" as mentioned by Dr. Agnes Kalibata).

The main prompt was to rethink or have in mind:

- malnutrition: it's entire focus and not just one form of malnutrition, but their intertwinement (in Spanish not only speaking with the too-frequently used technical term "desnutrición crónica" but incorporate "malnutrición").

- transparent collaboration: there have been too many collaboration from corruption, big benefits for a very few decision-makers neglecting the service to the entire population.

- systems thinking: to change system we need to go back to the roots of the issues, back to basics and prepare for perhaps needed uncomfortable moments and questioning to move forward better.

The dialogue focused in all five action tracks altogether and by specific focus group. We used Zoom for the dialogue, and once finished, an optional interactive world we called Mejora-Topía (Better-Topía).

Convened and Curated by Bibi la Luz Gonzalez (Eat Better Wa'ik - Come Mejor Wa'ik).

Thank you for this opportunity, it was incredibly valuable, and hope our findings press into a real change within our country and its commitment to transform to improved 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
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- ✓ Governance
- ✓ Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

With around 60% of attendance of those who registered on time before the closing time, we got a very diverse group of attendees, while also the facilitators experts in their fields (and also plenty more from the focus groups). Moreover, we got registration from various countries and within Guatemala from 16 departments.

- Food Systems: the first findings we highlighted (also please see attached here) were the registration form answer of describing in two words the current food system in Guatemala. The majority was negative (with some exceptions). Also, most of them who answered are doing within their reach some improvements.
- Education: it is present in all focus groups as the most pressing and needed push and new ways of educating.
- Government: not doing nearly enough and let the population down. the need of strong and purposeful public policies and responsible leaders.
- Women: major driver and leaders in improving individuals and communities
- Identity: go back to basics from our grandfathers/mothers and our own foods, and cultural and heritage respect.
- Support: financial support for smallholders and youth (funding and scholarships).
- Communication: in all forms (ads, text, visuals) in all spoken languages in Guatemala and way for nutrition to be attractive.
- Innovation: doing so having humanity at the core and bring up new skills into Guatemalan to advance forward in technology from food.
- Economic realities: disparities on economic opportunities and aspirations.

By popular demand, we will re-convene in the same groups, inviting more people after the Pre-Summit in July. This was a fantastic starting point to bring so many stakeholders and people within one single space and dialogue, over broad, overarching and intertwined topics.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/10

1) Nutrition and Education:

How do we improve food systems with nutrition and who should do so?

- We must link food systems and water systems and the issues concerning both.
- We can all engage better with food systems as we are part of it, open our minds and palate.
- Smallholder farmers need accompaniment in the production of their produce.
- Go back to ancestral plant tradition and everyone should have a home garden / orchard: learning by doing.
- Teen and youth nutritional education is a must in order to have a second chance in improving their nutrition and future generations; if there is a process of developing strategic nutritional education, malnutrition will be reduced. Education has the power the impact personal and family decisions on food. We can follow previous learnings from food and nutritional security.
- Food systems were already fragile and were fractured even more during COVID.

Food systems transformation is everyone's duty, not only the government. Change must start from local participation and community decisions. What Government does have in full responsibility is to rescue the land / agrarian structure of the country. Food systems beyond being sustainable, equitable, and resilient, especially in a country with weak systems and vulnerable to natural disasters. Education is key to reach an adequate consumption of food: this should be the country's priority.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/10

2) Health and consumption

- Nutritional education must be contextualized / specific for the population, ideally easily understandable and accessible to all (schools, health centers, etc...) and for that laws need to be created, including laws to promote companies towards social benefits and cleaner products.
- Little shops should sell healthier option and their vendors could be the agents of change, receiving themselves that nutritional education too.
- False food concepts and ideas should be torn down and change mindsets, since there is a "food ignorance" that give way on bad consumption habits, related to non-communicable diseases.
- Food industries/companies/businesses should seek their clients' health and not just their profit.
- Motherhood and breastfeeding needs improved education, understandable, and re-valued.
- Advertisement focalized towards people's passion, by being "cool", the misconceptions about brands being better than their milk, beliefs difficult to breakdown.
- Wages are a big topic, which limits in their decision making of food, and often being similar price with the healthy foods, they opt for junk food: education.
- Guatemala's economy does not support smallholder farmers and local economy, in Guatemala we have everything healthy but we don't consume it, hence high overweight/obesity indexes, malnutrition.
- Education and learning through the senses: teach what fruits taste without sugar and with no additives.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/10

3) Social gastronomy

- Local/national food has lost its value from the people who produce, and those who comprise its value chain. Also, the consumer in what we are eating. Losing our heritage, people are so disconnected that don't recognize with what they are cooking, what they are eating, or don't care the origin of the food they eat.
- Globalization has played a major part in big industries to invade the markets (market place), and took advantage of the needs of the people to give food that does not nourish and only "feeds" quick and easy as the norm of food and eating habits. That sowing the connects land, plate and human being was lost the moment the farm workers and agricultural workers got devalued (diminished), hence Guatemalan gastronomical and cultural heritage.
- Bargaining to smallholder farmers is diminishing and devaluing. Education plays a big role, since value education in their works worth has not being taught, and also the lack of voicing the importance of their work. And also lack of education of how to maximize (use all parts) of the food.
- We must bring awareness into our cultural and wealth in local gastronomy, to humanize the processes from
- Social gastronomy is a responsibility of all, for an individual and collective awareness so that all can move forward. We are all channels of communication and education, and that message should be pure, prepared to de-learn and learn adequately the value of food and Guatemalan gastronomy.
- Through community kitchens all that cultural heritage can be translated, building community is a key aspect of collective change, to bring workshops for that knowledge to be replicated. Teach mothers to empower them, to recuperate the gastronomical heritage to pass on through next generations. Gastronomy education must also be done at a very early age. It's in our hands to transmit the information in the most adequate way and in clear formats.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/10

4) Communication and advertisement

- Racism and classism portray images that within food and health “fit”, and the word “profit” is still very constant.
- Promote that mothers portray healthy products, even if manufactured, as more attractive, to transform the abstract of nutrition into something interesting, in advertisement, to bring people together, and tastes good.
- Needs collective effort to burst out of an “aspirational bubble” and go into the wellness the parents seek with tremendous effort, and how that goes in line with food.
- Focus communication towards mothers, access to land and organic farms, and have workshops there.
- Labeling is key to warn and inform the consumer in capital and big letter: eg: high in sugar, fat, salt, etc... so as to promote greater repercussion, reflexing, and awareness. Work with colors to make it more inclusive. Ban the use of animals to get kits attention, too much visual pollution with ads.
- To bring back the value of produce (in a 3-month methodology) and have worth-wile figure promote it.
- Cook book with local produce, such as naturally grown superfood, such as Chaya. It is an ethical manner in which communication is driven, especially towards good, healthy food.
- Since the traditional communication is so entrenched, difficult to change in 10 years. The future of communication should be representative, and not related being fit or something nutritious to only a certain group.
- Having a city, village, marketplace without so abusive advertisement, and with a more attractive communication of nutritious products for children.
- Production of greater products that use dry fruits or any other food from the vegetable kingdom (beets) and create these healthy public-private partnerships.
- Having a communication in each language spoken in Guatemala.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/10

5) Agriculture and environment

- Agriculture and environment contribute towards food systems, here are problems and solutions:
- Lack of public policy, long term vision, no deepening into local perspectives of politics and policies, there is a reduction of land tenure for production, no sources of accessible funding, food donations, systemic institutional weakening o, and their capacity has been lost.
- Solutions: do unexpected (wild) changes with existing cultural and productive models, recuperate institutional capacity (specifically within social and human capital, trained, qualified), investment in watering resources, accessible financial aspects, diversify agricultural (agropecuario) production and consumption (keeping an wary eye on animal protein). Promote regenerative agriculture to recuperate soil fertility.
- On public policy: one sole effort that encompasses every stakeholder (much like this dialogue), to unify and bring together needed financial resources, to recover institutions with one motto for animal and plant farming: research + extension + funding for the sustainable food systems to guarantee access, availability and consumption of healthy foods.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/10

6) Gender, youth and migration

- A Guatemala recovered, energized and strengthened from childhood, youth, women and adults, having access to food and quality education, inclusivity of opportunities especially indigenous communities, poverty rates would be low, and education would be a key tool to reduce malnutrition.
- Study scholarships and entrepreneurship so as to avoid push migration, to have greater opportunities at home to bring local income.
- Specialized support to scholars or involved, and strengthening of communities, with a socio-emotional support. Empowerment of women and also all people.
- Continue education with investment, and knit support chains with government, corporate and civil society.
- There needs to be political will, and therefore government budget in areas.
- Migration is has many push factors, but one of the causes for and from migration is malnutrition.
- Increase women participation, especially women leadership: women can turn the tortilla around towards an improved empowerment of women in diverse areas to improve education.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 7/10

7) Legislation and public-private partnerships

- Legislation is key to bring synergies, convergence, together, and for all to do our part. Partnership take is to greater challenges: how we keep communication with at least minimal common points.
- Competitiveness: how to overcome it and look for a common purpose.
- If there weren't any food systems: how would you build it? What are the minimal common points to work to work to reduce topics, such as undernourishment?
- What we eat is a great challenge for humanity, and today's diets are not appropriate for the health of people and of the planet. There is a vicious circle that some population have a food deficit.
- A study suggested that during the pandemic, many people opted for canned products because of their long lifespan, and also found that Guatemalans cannot have a balanced diet because of their income. The diet grows in carb since it is the cheapest they can find (or think that is the cheapest).
- Food reality depends of economic realities. Sometimes such industrialized products are the only food reaching those who can't afford.
- What is thought will happen is that the food industry will change towards biotechnology, more genetically modified foods, etc.
- Fundamental to increase the efficiency of foods and create conditions to do so: partnerships, State, businesses to support those who can't have food or consume the calories necessary. Today those partnerships are weak, and be better regulated. And even incentivize good positive legislation to enhance good practices (like Chile).
- There is still a lot of missing data on food, therefore labelling to enhance consumer decision making. The state of food, a lot of decisions have changed towards processed foods and unhealthy because of the information that media, product and marketing does. There is still a lot of ground to cover in partnerships, these discussions should be transparent and honest to work together.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 8/10

8) Trade and Entrepreneurship

- Impact hugely in food systems with a big opportunity: packaging from small and medium businesses with smallholder farmers towards sustainability.
- Promote a honest market ecological and without packaging, promote local economy, diversity of production (local superfoods), healthier consumption (fresh, diverse).
- Importance people understand the real concept in order to have wider business opportunities towards health.
- Smallholders farmers into tech tools, information for them to be even more relevant.
- Generate sustainability seals throughout ALL the value chain, and us as consumers to take better choices.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 9/10

9) Culture and Identity

- Has been plagued under multi-causal poverty for years (especially food and nutritional insecurity, no dignified work, access to healthcare and housing) affecting 70% of population.
- The State is the big absent to respond to this issue and even solve it, since there are not public policies in ministries nor national development agencies to tend for this, and care for people's lives as the Constitution seeks. State irresponsibility, coopted with mafias within all institutions, it is practically left for civil society to tend to this, united to demand accountability of irresponsible leaders and head of government on a continued basis, so as to generate a new culture of responsibility, a new culture of inclusion in government plans and action, new shifts toward sustainable consumption, livelihoods, with a spirit to improve, and turn the tortilla around of the change Guatemala needs. State neglects Mayan and ancestral roots
- Change a culture of blindness, of a blinding advertising culture of damaging foods (fried, sodas, canned) or agricultural chemicals and pesticides. A need to generate a counter-culture against the unregulated products and propaganda (like in Europe from health entities).
- Civil society claim to international organizations to press on government to regulate.
- New culture of protection and respect of ancestral Mayan traditions towards the care of the earth, elements, and people.
- Education from the fathers, grandfather and grandmothers, to be treated with respect, dignity and continuity of wisdom.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 10/10

10) Technology for the future of food

- Humanity can lead to innovation, and has done so with controversy: animal protein accelerates climate change, then meat created in a lab. Agriculture totally modified genetically, now wheat more resistant to plagues and climate shocks, higher nutritional content. Vertical agriculture and underwater, recycling 90% of water. Robotization, automation, biofortified confused with GMF.
- Perhaps developing countries are not ready for this, or are they?
- Importance then of native seeds, have a bank of native seeds and a record and data of their traceability.
- How to adapt technology in food sovereignty, technologies need to adapt to our environment and specificities.
- Preserve food to preserve culture, and learn to understand how we function. Need for horizontal communication pathways to understand and be part.
- Biodiversity, education in schools, technology education for food.
- Water management technology. How to scale cheap agri-labour market with technology, and not replacement. How much of everything do we really need?

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There were almost no divergences in the dialogues and focus groups. Here are some points that brought more tension:

- Media and advertisement: although there was a focus group on this, within the group there was resistance to ethically advance when communicating to children (or parents); and other groups also targeted advertisement to negatively influence food decisions.
- Ways to cook: using cooking techniques that don't diminish even more the value of nutrients of food (eg: slow cooker instead of pressure cooker).
- Large corporation and labor wages: exploitation in rural areas and agricultural lands is a known fact, however there was a corporate entities tried to come afloat. Also, although education was a major finding, if people are not targeted within the first 1000 days, their brain will not function to even improved quality education.
- Public sector: there was an extreme convergence that public administration (government) in Guatemala is a major driver of the "catastrophic" outcome of food systems (if any): so it is put here here since there is divergence with outside perspectives with that of the administration's one.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Answers to Food Systems now**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Preguntas-en-el-formulario-de-inscripcion.pdf>

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Waik website on Food Systems**
<https://www.waikgt.org/2021/05/03/dialogos-del-food-system/>