

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Friday, 21 May 2021 10:00 GMT -04:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	The Driving Forces of Change
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	ProVeg International and Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/11649/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/11649/</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

38

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18

13 19-30

14 31-50

9 51-65

2 66-80

0 80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

12 Male

26 Female

0 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

2 Agriculture/crops

0 Fish and aquaculture

1 Livestock

0 Agro-forestry

3 Environment and ecology

0 Trade and commerce

3 Education

3 Communication

3 Food processing

2 Food retail, markets

4 Food industry

0 Financial Services

3 Health care

5 Nutrition

2 National or local government

2 Utilities

2 Industrial

3 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

2 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

1 Large national business

3 Multi-national corporation

2 Small-scale farmer

1 Medium-scale farmer

0 Large-scale farmer

3 Local Non-Governmental Organization

6 International Non-Governmental Organization

2 Indigenous People

3 Science and academia

1 Workers and trade union

0 Member of Parliament

2 Local authority

0 Government and national institution

2 Regional economic community

2 United Nations

1 International financial institution

0 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

2 Consumer group

5 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

ProVeg International and the Buddhist Tzu-Chi Foundation had a clear ambition: bringing together different stakeholders from all sectors to make sure everyone is represented at the table, thus acknowledging that shifting food systems is not an easy task and needs discussion and consensus-building. We hand-selected the participants in order to ensure inclusivity of as many different sectors, regions, and cultures as possible and a civil discussion. Though we had specialists participate, the dialogue was primarily geared towards non-specialists and focused on personal experiences. In the several breakout sessions, we also ensured that every stakeholder group is represented to avoid repetitive talks on similar areas of expertise and foster more creative and ambitious exchanges.

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

Among all the principles, our dialogue reflected most specific aspects of the following ones: - Act with Urgency: In every breakout session, we acknowledged the fact that we are in the middle of a climate-emergency and that we need to find concrete and practical solutions to tackle this crisis as well as environmental degradation and food-security. - Recognize complexity: Food includes many components. Food is not only what we eat; it involves a whole system from production to consumption. In our talks, we recognized the need for transformation at all stages, from the systems that produce, to the individual behaviors that inform our consumption patterns. As these stages varied depending on the stakeholders, solutions must be adapted to those. - Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity: By inviting stakeholders from all sectors and mixing them into different breakout sessions, we ensured both diversity and inclusion of our stakeholders groups. It was important to recognize the voice of everyone for each topic. - Complement the work of others: Organizing the dialogue into various breakout groups, focused on different dimensions of what informs behavior change, we were able to explore various perspectives that were able to complement our discussions.

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

The Principles of Engagement are very important to create a safe space where each individual feels empowered to express themselves and engage in a direct, yet respectful exchange with stakeholders that might not agree. If you want every invitee to be able to participate in an inclusive dialogue, showing them you are respecting these principles is the first step you need to take. Make sure each participant understands he/she/they will be contributing to the breakout group discussion and not only be a passive listener. Additionally, by upholding Chatham House Rules, we could ensure that honest conversation about our challenges could be present.

# 3. METHOD

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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

In this dialogue, our approach was to explore the reasons behind food choices, digging into resources from behavioral science to market analysis and the impact of faith and culture.

Recognizing that the Food Systems of today are unsustainable, leading to deforestation, climate change, destruction of ecosystems, food insecurity, and malnutrition, a transformation is urgently needed in order to ensure the survival of mankind and all living beings on Earth. Global leaders must strongly comply with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change to meet its ambitious climate targets. However, in order to make these changes, the public must first be able to accept a fundamental shift in dietary choices.

According to the IPCC, industrial agriculture is responsible for one third of global greenhouse gas emissions. Agriculture uses about 70% of global freshwater and occupies very large parts of land: It is estimated that around 40 % of the terrestrial surface is used as croplands and grazing lands. In some parts of the world, this represents a significant cause for deforestation. Drivers linked to food production cause 70% of terrestrial biodiversity loss as a result of the growing demand for resources. In addition, as the loss of habitats forces wildlife to move closer and closer to civilization, zoonoses become an increasing concern. Food insecurity has resulted in an epidemic of hunger (especially in the Global South): Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, almost 690 million people worldwide were undernourished. Meanwhile, in the Global North, more than 70% of the US adult population suffers from obesity or being overweight as a result of poor dietary choices and overconsumption, they are therefore more likely to deal with diabetes, heart disease and other health issues.

It is clear that our current food systems are detrimental to our health and wellbeing, destructive of the environment, unsustainable, and inequitable. From the mountains of evidence and research on the inevitable collapse of our food systems, a rapid and abrupt shift in food production and consumption is necessary in order to ensure the survival of life on Earth, if not to mitigate the environmental impacts of food production then to adapt to an environment which has already been drastically altered. This implies a shift in dietary choices--a global shift towards plant-centric diets may be key to sustainability in the near future. Our dietary choices are deeply ingrained in personal identity. Despite the overwhelming evidence that a shift in food systems is not only necessary but inevitable, without public acceptance and consent to this shift, governments will be reluctant to make the necessary policies for change.

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

## MAIN FINDINGS

### Culture and Religion:

- We have grown increasingly disconnected from the natural world, and by extension, our food. The critical role of religion and culture is to help renew our relationship to the environment we live in and produce our food from.
- There is an emergent culture war between those who eat meat and those who don't, which has been co-opted into an issue of political identity as well. In order to address this divide, we must utilize both culture and religion to identify those who feel disenfranchised by emergent cultural messaging on climate friendly diets, and work with policymakers to address their gaps and needs.
- More work has to be done in investigating the linkages between the narrative of "wealth" and "progress" with the overconsumption of meat. Additionally, cultural narratives around masculinity and meat must be reshaped to ensure as we transition towards more sustainable diets, that men do not feel marginalized.
- Much of the cultural and religious messaging will not succeed unless subsidies for CAFOs and animal products are shifted towards plant based foods. So long as subsidies for animal products continue in their current shape, climate friendly diets are not an economical option for many families around the world.
- Recognizing how precious food is to our identities, as we continue to work towards a just transition of our food systems, we must not only address the systems at play, but also speak to the heart of those we are trying to change, to which, culture and religion are key levers to utilize.

### Health:

- People are on a different spectrum in relation to how easy diet change is for them. Those that perceive it to be the most difficult may find it the hardest to change
- We need to have fresh foods more present in our life – build a system of choice architecture system to make healthier foods more available to us.
- Need to change legislation – e.g. France and Spain have legislation pushing for meat and dairy to be included in every school meal
- People may be limited in their options due to health conditions (diabetes require low-carb/keto diets, those with celiac disease require gluten-free, etc) and we need to be mindful of this
- Food has a large influence on how we think. There is research on how certain gut bacteria can influence our thought processes ('psychobiome'). Sugar/glucose is also important for brain function. There have been recent studies that point out vegetarianism has some correlation with higher levels of depression and anxiety.
- Morality and food are strongly linked; moral disgust and physical disgust are both associated with the insular cortex

### Politics:

- Citizens are shifting, but not policymakers → lack of channels to give input and possibility for citizens to organize.
- We need a stronger citizens movement
- Intersectionality of the issues (connection between food practices and history, oppression, marginalization of some populations etc.)

### Economics:

- We need to change taxation of food: there is a disconnection of Food production and consumption, strengthening local supply chain, strengthening local supply chain and connecting consumer with farmer
- Consumers need to be better connected with producers, they need to pay a price which includes the hidden cost of food (True cost accounting)
- Food systems economic model: well-being for humans. How to measure growth (GBD) does not reflect reality.

### Environment:

- We need education to make behavior in the food systems more resilient and connected with nature.
- We must promote education materials for each age group and this must take into consideration intergenerational actions.

## 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 - 1/5

### CULTURE AND RELIGION

We acknowledge that:

- Religion has failed to scale to the potential of food systems transformation.
- We are disconnected from our plates.
- We need to reinstate the connection with traditional food practices: Since morality and reaction to food are both associated with the insular cortex, there is a strong relationship between religion (morality) and food. Thus, religion has a bigger influence on people's food choices than you may think (hence the many different food traditions and STRICT adherence to those traditions from followers).

In developed countries, there is an awareness that our current food systems are not sustainable, but there is no way to transform.

In developing countries, purchasing powers are increasing and we can observe a transition towards unsustainable practices, adopting the culture of the global North.

The narrative that animal products are strong in proteins and a rich food is still very present.

On the faith level, we see that the case for food theology isn't well spread and known. The relationship between faith and ecology isn't really defined. Is religion a resource or a barrier?

What we need is:

- To change societal traps on what is valuable because how culture and religion views food is the key to behavioral change.
- A policy and regulation shift with regulatory commissions and subsidies. Those have a cultural impact because they change the price of food and how we see this food.
- A cultural shift in what foods connote wealth and progress, from the "meat for every meal" as the rich man's diet, to "healthy foods" as the baseline of wealth.
- To empower faith and culture communities so they know how to advocate to local governments for policies that incentivize sustainable food systems for their communities, whether those be subsidies for plants or zoning land for community gardens.
- A coherent and unified culture that promotes environmentalism as a moral virtue. There are some religions (or faith leaders that propagate this) that emphasize that the Earth is made by God for human beings to exploit (Anthropocentrism). They've successfully created an Us vs Them narrative that environmentalism is for those who do not have faith.

However, plant-based diets are seen as a privilege coming from the "influencer culture". They're viewed as for coastal elites and that is problematic. This creates a further polarization within the population. Eating meat vs. eating plants is a culture war. How do we give access to the plant-based culture to those who aren't not part of the influencer community? We need cultures and religions that promote sustainable diets encouraging transition by patterned actions taken by culture and faith leaders.

### ACTION TRACKS

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all      |
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| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production                       |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Policy                  |
| <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 - 2/5

### HEALTH

What we acknowledge:

- People are on a different spectrum in relation to how easy diet change is for them. Those that perceive it to be the most difficult may find it the hardest to change.
- There are different barriers:
  - Health barriers and social influences can stop people to switch to a plant-based diet
  - Other barriers that prevent people from shifting towards a plant-based diet could be the lack of basic cooking skills
- Food plays a major role in the way humans think and behave through physiological and neurological processes.

What our solutions are:

- Information is important: Using evidence to demonstrate to populations the impact their diet can have on their health is an important motivating factor. This evidence should be used with health care providers.
- Healthy yet sustainable food choices need to be encouraged – but this will ultimately lead to higher prices. Whatever the food we choose we need to look at the environmental prize as well.
- People don't follow suggestions, we need to give the voice to the citizens to share the challenges of making a diet change.
- We need to have fresh foods more present in our life – build a system of choice architecture system to make healthier foods more available to us.
- We need food solutions that not only fulfill the health needs of everyone, but are also sustainable and carbon neutral.

So, could evidence be used to change our health system, for example, with health insurance costs linked to their health choices?

- Using economic incentives as a way of directing individuals to the best diet, using ways of encouraging default steps to direct people to the best way can work.
- We need ways to elevate plant-based diet, and make it the easy choice: That can happen through better legislation. We need to change legislation – e.g. France and Spain have legislation which means meat and dairy has to be included in every school meal which is not the most sustainable and healthiest choice.

### 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



## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

### POLITICS

What we acknowledge:

- Some countries are still vehemently opposed to a radical transformation of our food systems.
- Policymakers are not listening to citizens: There is a lack of channels at the international and European level.
- We cannot expect a transition without offering a concrete alternative for those losing out.
- Politics is not about ethics or the right thing to do, but rather about power dynamics and wealth.
- There are highly influential policymakers that are driven by greed, propaganda, and corporate donations.
- Propaganda plays a large role in public opinion; even bad policies have a strong chance of actualization if a significant portion of the population is convinced to support it.
- Public opinion, rather than being driven by data, science, and reason, is significantly more influenced by tribalism, emotional appeal, and appeal to authority.

What our solutions are:

- We need possibilities for citizens to organise, they should be given more freedom to do that: It might be easier at the national level to organize a stronger citizens movement. We need to make citizens feel empowered.
- We need to think about these issues in a more intersectional way to include everyone (Women, Youth, Minorities). There is a need for solutions for everyone.
- Education is necessary to create awareness. We could create an informed universal picture of what needs to be done: There is no platform like that yet.
- Policymakers need to be following the science and the consensus needs to be inclusive.

### 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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

### ECONOMICS

What we acknowledge:

- There is a disconnection between food production and consumption.
- There are always hidden costs of food.
- How we measure growth (GDP) does not reflect reality.

What we need to do:

- We need to change the taxation of food by strengthening local supply chain, strengthening local supply chain and connecting consumer with farmer,
- Farmers need to get a financial benefit when doing a better a more sustainable production
- The quality of the communication with the consumers also needs to be improved → the consumers need to pay a price which includes the hidden cost of food (true cost accounting).
- We need better tax regulation e.g. higher tax for meat, new tax models
- We need to repurpose subsidies to nature-positive production
- We need better labelling and classification to give information about the environmental impact of food (e.g. Nutriscore in many European countries for the health impact, but we could do that on the environment as well).

### 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 - 5/5

### ENVIRONMENT

We acknowledge that:

- Education is a key element from a very young age.
- Raising awareness about the impact of the traditional agricultural practices is important

What we need:

- In order to change the behavior in the food system to be more resilient and to connect with nature, we need education.
- We need to promote the education materials for each age group and this must take in consideration intergenerational actions
- We need actions to raise awareness about the Impact of the traditional agriculture practices that are not sustainable and animal industry in the food system: A shift toward plant-rich diets is important because those are healthy, they protect nature and animals.
- We highlighted the need of having a role model that can help to advocate for change at a political level.

### ACTION TRACKS

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|-------------------------------------|--|
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### KEYWORDS

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

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The main area of divergence that emerged during our Dialogue was the opposition Producers/Consumers → While producers' interests should be more taken into account with fair prices, we cannot forget that some consumers' categories are not able to make sustainable and healthy food choices. We need as well a better taxation of food products as subsidies enabling both producers and consumers to be treated fairly.

### ACTION TRACKS

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

- Finance
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- Trade-offs
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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Concept note**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FSD\\_TC\\_PV\\_Concept\\_Note\\_21052021.pdf](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FSD_TC_PV_Concept_Note_21052021.pdf)

## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Recording of the main session of the dialogue (no recording of the breakout rooms)**  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LackxkPCGxhxh0iT2lhldWKZuZrmuzlM/view?usp=sharing>