

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Saturday, 22 May 2021 14:00 GMT +08:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	China Dialogue - Plant Based Diet & Lifestyle as Driving Force for Food System Transformation in China
CONVENED BY	China Vegan Society, Good Food Fund (CBCGDF), UNFSS AT2 China Action Hub
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/11783/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	China

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

0-18	32	19-30	82	31-50	51-65	66-80	80+
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PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

38	Male	76	Female		Prefer not to say or Other
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

6	Agriculture/crops	9	Education	8	Health care
8	Fish and aquaculture	4	Communication	3	Nutrition
	Livestock	13	Food processing	2	National or local government
	Agro-forestry	13	Food retail, markets		Utilities
6	Environment and ecology	17	Food industry		Industrial
25	Trade and commerce		Financial Services		Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

37	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
3	Large national business		Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
4	Small-scale farmer	3	Government and national institution
1	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer		United Nations
	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
3	International Non-Governmental Organization		Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People	4	Consumer group
8	Science and academia	51	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Changes in the food system are of vital importance to achieving climate goals. Among the solutions that shift to sustainable consumption patterns, there are three most important measures to change human health and the health of the planet: large-scale shifts to plant based diet, reducing food waste, and changing the way food is produced.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Three parallel forums were set up around the topic to discuss the importance of plant diet to the current food system from different perspectives - faith based communities and plant based diet, the 2030 goal of reducing meat consumption by 30%, and the promotion of plant protein and veganism. Post dialogue roundtables were organized as well by industries and regions to carry out more in-depth exchanges and discussions.

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

It is important to clarify the issues that the dialogue hopes to solve or discuss; various stakeholders need to be taken into consideration, from topic design to guest speakers selection and open discussions that engage the audience. During planning stages, it is important to maintain open communication with the guest speakers to ensure alignment and consensus on the objectives of the dialogue.

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 focus of this particular UNFSS "China Dialogue" is to explore how plant based diet can contribute to the transformation of the food system.

The transition to a plant based diet has a direct and far-reaching impact on the transformation of the current food system, as well as public health (chronic diseases, zoonotic diseases), planetary health (carbon neutrality, biodiversity), animal welfare, food security, and rural revitalization.

Whether it can be timely and effective depends largely on how the vegan community utilizes systematic thinking, integrates issues of humanity, international policies, and modern scientific research methods to promote plant based diet and lifestyle creatively.

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. Traditional Chinese religions and their principle beliefs (i.e. vegetarianism of Chinese Buddhism and its principles of compassion), have a positive impact on food transformation. Our keynote speakers discussed plant based diet from a Taoist longevity perspective, and others advocated for plant based diet as a new way of practicing mercy release (the practice of purchasing live animals sold for food for the purpose of freeing them in nature). The combination of traditional wisdoms and the daily practices of the new generation can and do provide solutions for various challenges.

2. Engagement of government agencies and corporations play a crucial part in the transformation of the food systems. Key decision makers can and do support the process of achieving fundamental changes on a regular basis. Solutions rooted in practical needs of industries and social development are particularly impactful and effective.

3. The research and development of plant based foods have been rapidly growing around the world, especially in Europe and America. In China, as of 2020, new types of plant meat, dairy and egg products have also begun to flood the market. This new development domestically is still in its early stages. Compared with Western countries, consumer response is very different. Opportunities and challenges for the development of plant based products in the country coexist. The objective of many brands is to establish effective communication with consumers in a positive way to better contribute to changes in diet and food systems.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

1. How do faith based communities contribute to healthy and sustainable food transformation?

In the 2020's, faith based communities can make contributions in the following ways:

- Share wisdoms of faiths and provide the public with alternative options.
- Utilize traditional wisdoms of faiths practical ways so that they can be easily practiced and used to meet daily challenges.
- Continue to advocate for plant based diet as an alternative to the practice of mercy release, which has environment consequences; these purchases in such high quantities still support the local factory farms thus not solving the issue at its root.
- Inspire members of the faith based community into practices of healthy and sustainable food transformation with its guiding principles, so that the wisdoms of faiths can be implemented into dietary practices.

2. How to maximize the influence of institutions and activists to jointly promote the "2030 Initiative" (the goal of reducing meat consumption by 30% in 2030)?

Explore ways in which the plant based community and its supporters can collaborate, form consensus, and jointly promote our shared objectives.

Sustainable transformation of the food system, animal welfare, youth leadership, and other initiatives promoted by the Good Food Fund, World Animal Protection, Act Asia, and other related organizations play an important role in enhancing the public's concept of plant based diet.

Projects that solve practical issues and provide inspirations for diet transformation can support the process. For example, the Good Food Fund announced the launch of the "Meatless Monday" project in China and a list of initial participating restaurants and organizations. Representatives of some award-winning institutes also shared keynotes and visions for how they would promote this initiative.

3. How can domestic and international plant based products contribute to changes in diet and food systems in a positive way?

Guests from domestic and international plant meat and dairy brands shared with us their experience in achieving this goal. From the perspective of the supplier, it begins with product innovation, offering the public an opportunity for lifestyle changes, and ensuring quality of products and users experience

Food suppliers use localized brand strategies to spread a more environmentally friendly lifestyle, advocating young people to establish sustainable consumption habits, and obtain more recognition and support from consumers, thereby turning to more sustainable food consumption.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The practice of "mercy release" by Buddhists has a more obvious faith based background, and the key audience may be limited to faith groups and individuals. When communicating with the public, it is easy to form a stereotype of "veganism in connection to faith". Faith based communities are vegetarians. It is possible, however, to achieve more cooperative and innovative ideas in terms of advocacy.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Audience with 手帕 at the conference**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/IMG_4587-1.jpg
- **Alternative Protein as a Solution to Food System Transformation**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/IMG_4618-1.jpg
- **Meatless Monday Launches in China**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/IMG_4614-1.jpg
- **Faith Based Communities and Their Contributions**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/IMG_4652-1.jpg
- **Founder of Act Asia Presents**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/IMG_4632-1.jpg