

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 22 April 2021 11:00 GMT -04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Making nutritious foods available and accessible throughout the Bahamian Family Islands. How can we support our Family Islands local food systems?
CONVENED BY	Jeri Kelly - Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/11895/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Bahamas

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

42

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18

10 19-30

15 31-50

13 51-65

4 66-80

0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

17 Male

23 Female

2 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

5 Agriculture/crops

4 Fish and aquaculture

5 Livestock

1 Agro-forestry

3 Environment and ecology

2 Trade and commerce

1 Education

0 Communication

2 Food processing

0 Food retail, markets

0 Food industry

1 Financial Services

3 Health care

0 Nutrition

10 National or local government

0 Utilities

0 Industrial

5 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

5 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

2 Large national business

1 Multi-national corporation

4 Small-scale farmer

1 Medium-scale farmer

0 Large-scale farmer

5 Local Non-Governmental Organization

2 International Non-Governmental Organization

0 Indigenous People

2 Science and academia

0 Workers and trade union

3 Member of Parliament

1 Local authority

14 Government and national institution

1 Regional economic community

1 United Nations

0 International financial institution

0 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

0 Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Principles of Engagement were first introduced during the opening remarks of the Convenor as part of welcoming the participants. It was mentioned during the speech by highlighting the Principles phrases. Following this, the Curator explained the importance of the Principles and provided each description as it relates to the Dialogues. These Principles were further emphasized during the Minister's remarks as he placed their importance in the context of transforming the food systems.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Specific aspects of the Principles that were noted was the agreed need to act with urgency to determine game-changing ways of improving the food system in its entity. Participants were respectful in their discussions as they listened to each other and commented on specific points made by others that changed their viewpoint on possible solutions. This showed that each other recognized the various multi-stakeholder work. In addition, the complexities of the food system were recognized as comments fluctuated from environmental, financial and policy issues. In concluding the Dialogue, a shared dedication to the Principles of Engagement amongst participants was acknowledged and trust that future engagements and commitments will be upheld.

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

The take-away advice to other Convenors is to ensure that these Principles are stated at the beginning of the Dialogue to set the expectations of the discussions. Once this is acknowledged and accepted by participants, they will understand that their voices are equally important to creating change.

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

In preparation for the Dialogue, the Convenor, Curator and Facilitators participated in two training courses to ensure that the method of conducting a Dialogue was understood to be implemented. The method used was similar to that which was advised. The below delineates the flow of the Dialogue: Opening Remarks - Jeri Kelly, National Convenor -Introduce self; technical check for good connectivity; -Noted the reactions icon to raise hand to participate -PSA Video played for general awareness of the Food Systems Summit and to allow time for additional participants to enter -Took an Ice breaker Poll - Introduce Curator/Master of Ceremony Welcome - Dr. Johnson, BAHFSA - Curator -Welcome participants -Outline the Principles of Engagement for the Dialogues -Stated the format of the Dialogue -Reiterate that it is a People's Summit and we want participants to be engaged "to hear from the game changers" -Introduce Minister Pintard Remarks by Minister Pintard - Overview of the Food Systems Summit -Importance of the Dialogues and Principles of Engagement, and Action Tracks - Engaging other Ministries, Organizations, Women Group etc. to host dialogues Presentation of the Theme and Discussion Groups - Dr. Johnson (Curator) -Present Facilitators then Break Out Session Break out Session/Discussion Groups - 25mins Plenary - Summary of Discussions - 10mins Questions and Answers Closing Remarks - Kelly -Thanking persons for attending and reminding them that they are able to host their own Food Systems Dialogues - MAMR will assist with preparations In preparation for the Discussion Groups, the Facilitators developed prompt questions amongst the team. Participants were asked to state their preferred Discussion Group to be placed during the registration process. During the Dialogue, participants were placed in their selected groups and examined the food system in the perspective of that Discussion Topic. Facilitators indicated that all voices were heard and following the plenary session, participants were allowed to further add remarks. Facilitators noted that the time for discussions was short but this suggests more Dialogues to be held.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Action Track 1 - Ensure Access to Safe & Nutritious Food for All

Topic: Making nutritious foods available and accessible throughout the Family Islands. How can we support our Family Islands local food systems?

Description:

The concept of food security is most often perceived as “being able to secure sufficient food for oneself” generally overlooking the principle dimensions of accessibility, availability, stability, and utility that is required to achieve an overall food security. This Dialogue will examine two key pillars of Food Security - ‘accessibility’ and ‘availability’ by discussing the challenges faced in the Family Islands’ local food system value chain. The objective of discussions is to identify transformative ways to support local island communities in improving their circular economies through efficient 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

Food Safety and Quality in the Family Islands (rural islands)

There is a great concern that food on the rural islands are of less quality and are at risk of being safe. There is the decision to focus on educating all stakeholders (farmers, food transport, retailers, and consumers) on food safety throughout the supply chain. The use of community-based food certification programmes was considered to be a feasible option of determining food quality and safety.

Access to Agriculture and Marine Finance

Over the past year, there has been a significant attempt to provide farmers and fishers with access to funds for development through increased funding grants. However, this is still limited to the main islands and the criteria set for obtaining funding does not include the large scope of agricultural and fisheries needs, thereby still limiting potential impact. A decision has been made to educate persons on grant writing for seeking additional capital as grant funding is readily available but often farmers and fishers are limited in capacity for developing proposals. Furthermore, new connections will be sought to offer the sector accessible lines of credit through digital currency and blockchains.

Waste Management to improve local food production

In efforts to combat the impacts of climate change, private stakeholders have committed to further collaboration with the government on work on Climate Action. Through building the capacities at the political level on waste management policies and at the territorial level in practice, it is agreed that each actor will adhere to their responsibilities in managing waste. Whereby implementing policies and governance or by composting on the fields and not littering in the oceans. There is a commitment towards small acts for a big impact.

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 - 1/3

Discussion Topic - Local Food Production, Value Addition and the Craft Cottage Sector

Challenge (i): Limited access to new technology and agricultural inputs (e.g. new varieties, packaging materials, irrigations, solar energy, etc.)

Solution:

The government can continue to provide incentives, materials, and financing to farmers/producers to boost interest (especially for youth) in the sector as agriculture is an expensive and often laborious venture.

Challenge (ii): Decline of our extension support system

Solution:

Strengthen our extension support system to assist farmers/producers with improving production through traditional farming and to capitalize on the use of new technologies.

Assist farmers/producers with broadening expanding their clientele through agro-tourism and marketing strategies so that they can reach consumers that would not be reached otherwise.

Assist farmers/producers to develop niche markets and help them to be prepared for external markets.

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 - 2/3

Discussion Topic 2: Food Transport and Market Information Systems

Challenge: inefficient food transport (mainly vessels) to and from rural islands; Quality of meat imported has decreased due to the pandemic; Inconsistency of food supplies; mishandling of food throughout supply chain; Lack of proper training in food safety, proper manufacturing practices and HACCP standards.

Solutions:

Provide training to build capacity in different topics of interests to farmers/producers; to build awareness on how to maximize the value of their production; and to encourage farmers/producers adopt value addition that is tailored to their level of production. .

Facilitate training through mentorship for people in the cottage industry.

Standardize production/ manufacturing of food using a system similar to cooperatives. (i.e. Establish a general plant for processing to enable farmers/producers to use modern and more appealing packaging.)

Consider community based food standards certification

Improve transport and cost of goods.

Refrigerated vessels are needed.

Consider the use of drones to improve transport.

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 - 3/3

Discussion Topic: Family Island Circular Economy

Challenge: Young people leaving the Family Islands (rural islands)

Solution:

We must think of sustainability in order to keep young people from leaving the islands and to attract others that have already left as well as new ones. Providing incentives (i.e. good job opportunities) and infusion of capital on the islands will assist.

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Participants were on one accord with the opinions shared. There is the dire need to begin the work towards improving the food system as these forms of discussions are usually had but rarely acted on due to limiting human and financial resources.

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