

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 26 May 2021 14:00 GMT -03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Looking Back to Move Forward: Ancestral Roots & Regenerative Agriculture
CONVENED BY	Maya Mehta & Alejandra Bautista, The Social Gastronomy Movement
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/11913/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	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

59

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

1 0-18 20 19-30 32 31-50 6 51-65 0 66-80 0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

20 Male 37 Female 2 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

4	Agriculture/crops	15	Education	1	Health care
1	Fish and aquaculture	2	Communication	0	Nutrition
	Livestock	2	Food processing	0	National or local government
5	Agro-forestry	0	Food retail, markets	0	Utilities
6	Environment and ecology	14	Food industry	0	Industrial
0	Trade and commerce	0	Financial Services	12	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

12	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	0	Workers and trade union
0	Large national business	0	Member of Parliament
2	Multi-national corporation	0	Local authority
1	Small-scale farmer	0	Government and national institution
1	Medium-scale farmer	0	Regional economic community
0	Large-scale farmer	0	United Nations
9	Local Non-Governmental Organization	0	International financial institution
9	International Non-Governmental Organization	2	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
1	Indigenous People	0	Consumer group
8	Science and academia	5	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Social Gastronomy Movement (SGM) commits to this year's historical summit by bringing diverse and often unheard voices to the table and always embracing a multi-stakeholder approach. This dialogue was a part of a series of six independent dialogues convened by SGM, focused on the five Action Tracks and a session focused on the synthesis and our path forward as a global network. In "Looking Back to Move Forward," we focused on Action Track 3, engaging farmers in nature-positive production. The foundation of this dialogue was the idea that much of the knowledge and methodologies for regenerative agriculture exist, and the clues to a healthier future can be found by understanding indigenous and peasant farming practices. To move forward, we must give credit to the communities around the world who embrace agroecology- starting at its ancestral roots. In doing so, we wanted to ensure that we honored the cultures and histories of those who have been practicing farming in symbiosis with the land for eons- the indigenous communities worldwide. SGM convened the dialogue in a manner that prioritized the Principles of Engagement every step of the way, emphasizing inclusivity. From the start, we invited a cross-sector task force to co-create the agenda. This task force consisted of our curator, facilitators, as well as participants. To catalyze the success of this dialogue, we first asked everyone to discuss the urgency of the concept- and identify the subtopics that would be addressed in each of the breakout rooms. As there is much debate around 'regenerative' and 'sustainable agriculture and the UNFSS overall, we needed to welcome divergence. We invited dissenting opinions and asked members of the task force to ensure we had as many perspectives engaged and represented as possible.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

A) Urgency- In convening this dialogue, SGM decided on a concept, in collaboration with a cross-sector task force, to address one of the most pressing challenges of our time- regenerative agriculture. It is agreed that we need to transition to food systems that are healthy and accessible for all, and farming that slows climate change- not accelerates it. B) Commitment to the Summit- SGM serves as a bridge for those who are often misrepresented. We opened a breakout room specifically on this divergence to discover action points necessary for inclusion and adequate representation during September's Summit. C) Respect- In planning and communication around this dialogue, we welcomed diverging perspectives and a range of opinions on the subject. At the start of the conversation, in addition to the context setting- we set some house rules. Participants, facilitators, and our curator agreed to embrace the following points as a guide for conversation: 1) Welcome divergence and dissenting opinions 2) Show up, be present, and be open to creating this experience together 3) Speak and listen with truth & love, agreeing or disagreeing with respect and kindness 4) share what you know and try to learn from others D*) Recognizing complexity* Initially, our concept was focused on sustainable agriculture then shifted to agroecology, in recognition of the complexity and divergence around the terms 'sustainable' and 'regenerative.' Engaging farmers in nature-positive production is multi-faceted-, we must recognize history, policies, and socio-economic implications that have resulted in our current unsustainable agricultural system. E*) Embracing multi-stakeholder inclusivity* We invited youth, small-holder farmers, representatives of multinational corporations, and civil society. For inclusivity purposes we also had simultaneous translation. F) SGM convened this dialogue in a way that embraced the importance of connection, collaboration, and partnerships. G) Creating safe space: By implementing the Chatham House Rules, we ensured that participants could speak authentically

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

The true value is bringing together those who are willing to speak to food systems transformation- and do so for the betterment of our collective future. In a conversation like this, it is much more powerful if a small group of people connects and participates in the planning process from the start. In this case, our facilitators, curator, and some participants were all aligned ahead of the dialogue date. In our prep calls, we were all on the same playing field. Instead opening up with presentations, encouraging people to introduce their projects, we asked everyone in the meeting to answer just three questions- 1) Who are you? 2) Where are you from? 3) Why are you here? These three simple questions set the stage for people to show up and be committed to coming up with solutions, and brings a sense of understanding and togetherness. As the room included a range of individuals from different backgrounds and experiences (Youth to CEOs) this sort of personal introduction leveled the playing field and created a safe space for sharing. In light of the topic, many of our potential participants and facilitators declined our invitation. There is a global boycott of the UN's Food Systems Summit, which is taking place because many peasant and indigenous farming groups feel that there is no place for their voices within. In communication with these participants, we emphasized the power of these independent dialogues and the People's Summit- as a mechanism for welcoming all into the realm of food systems transformation, but also gave space for those who had grievances to address them in a multi-stakeholder setting. It was crucial for SGM, our curator, and our facilitators that these voices were included in the conversation and had the space to discuss the controversy. We would also advise Convenors to open up to invitations to multiple networks, ensuring that participation is as inclusive as possible. It is also important to invite people into the planning process, so the agenda is co-created and that facilitators are well acquainted. Miro Board for notetakers is great.

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

A comprehensive exploration of Action Track 3: Engaging Farmers in Nature Positive Production

Climate change poses a threat to our agriculture systems, but the relationship is mutually violent. Modern industrial agriculture is eroding food biodiversity and creating monocultures of the mind. That being said, today there is fertile ground for innovation in food systems and agricultural transformation. To build a new future for farming that is regenerative, we must take a look at history and ancestral knowledge to inform the way we move forward as global society.

Indigenous people and small scale farmers have been practicing other ways of farming and are currently producing up to 70% of the food we eat. Indigenous groups around the world have been practicing agroecology for eons and are safeguarding 80% of the world's biodiversity, while they make up only 5% of the human population.

Agroecology and other diverse forms of ancestral farming need to be acknowledged so that a dialogue between modern and ancient ways can move us towards the health of people and the planet. How do we make sure that we do not lose these traditions as we move forward?.

How do we reinvigorate a sense of belonging, and honor our own histories in order to move towards a future where food is a commons, or as Vananda Shiva would say, "the currency of life."

In this dialogue focused on emerging ideas, concerns and questions we must be asking ourselves in order to honor our past as the next generation of farming emerges.

****Specifically, the Dialogue sought to address the following questions:****

- How can history and indigenous agricultural practice inform farming of the future and nature positive production?
- What innovative pedagogies, methodologies, approaches, and learnings can inform the way that we produce food?
- How can acknowledgment of old agricultural practices inform the private sector, governance strategies, and policies, and civil society to create more equitable and healthy food systems?
- How can food communities, on a global and local level, emerge as catalysts for nature friendly production on a global scale?
- How can we engage young people in nature-positive farming?

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

MAIN FINDINGS

- We need to revalue food in a way that prioritizes the use of local ingredients and respects the pivotal role of farmers in our food system across our global economies.
- We must develop an innovative and engaging education system that brings the youth back to farming and creates alternatives to the industrialized consumption patterns that dominate our food system.
- A bridge must be made between rural and urban, young and old, and indigenous and settler communities to co-create equitable solutions that prioritize human rights- especially the right to nature.
- We must shift the historical narratives of our food system by holding institutions and individuals accountable for injustices such as appropriation, colonial and capitalist mindsets, and cultural theft.
- Equitable and comprehensive networks among producers and consumers are necessary for sustainable action.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

Corporate Takeover of the UNFSS:

The UNFSS claims to be a milestone event to transform food systems worldwide. Their vision of the future is one with equity and health for all, and the goal is to get there by giving voice to civil society in every country of the world.

However, many concerns have been raised about the approach the Summit has taken. Criticisms include: 1) The high-level of corporate influence 2) The lack of grounding in human rights 3) The treatment of diverse stakeholders as equals without recognition of power imbalances or legitimacy on any given issue 4) Lack of transformative vision or policies

Hundreds of civil society organizations are boycotting the summit arguing that while the UNFSS claims to be a "people's summit," the approach the Summit has taken undermines democratic institutions and inclusive multilateralism. These dissenting civil society groups are planning their own People's Summit prior to the UNFSS. The UNFSS has sought to encourage public, global conversations through independent dialogues like this one.

The dialogues are meant to yield system insights and priority concerns that participants hope the Summit will address leading to solutions. We must make sure that the independent dialogues actually influence the agenda and the concerns of smallholder farming groups are represented at the table come September. In order to do so, we must listen to this global call and understand that local realities need to be reflected in a global agenda.

Innovation must come from people coming together, both in an international multi stakeholder setting as well as at the grassroots level. We have to acknowledge the intricacies of each of these issues.

Why are we, as a global society, allowing for the continuous oppression and execution of indigenous communities and cultures? Around the world these communities are denied a voice- whether that be because of a lack of access to technology, visibility, or because of more violent systems of oppression. In the Amazon and Andes, indigenous communities are disenfranchised and displaced. In many of the regions where human rights are violated, it is the state and private companies denying that are denying these communities of what is inalienable. We must enforce a system of accountability to ensure that people are given the right to their land- allowing for ancestral and nature positive production to flourish. In light of the boycott coming from indigenous and peasant farming, we need to make sure that their message is heard at the upcoming Summit. We need to propose to the UNFSS a simple message: everyone must see their role in food systems transformation, not just multi-national corporations and neoliberal civil society organizations.

It is crucial that everyone, no matter their political or economic clout, can see their role in food systems change because urban communities and consumers hold power in demanding food systems change with their actions. Reciprocity between producers and consumers; land and mouth; rural and urban connection is crucial. We must build networks of relationships. We must move forward in a way that food- good food, is a commons, land is protected, and small farmers are empowered.

We need to be open and optimistic and co-create; we need to be together, unite in the fight. There are so many communities working towards a change, predominantly indigenous populations, if we talk about the future, let's make sure they are included, and their knowledge- amplified.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Engaging youth in farming, Embracing technology, & Preserving Culture: Farmers are aging, and it's a problem. In order to move forward with agriculture and allow for more innovation, we must engage youth in farming. In doing so we can embrace technology and promote cultural and ancestral knowledge- blending the old and the new.

As a global society, we need more farmers' markets to close the gap between the producers and consumers. Doing so, we have to make nature-positive production something that is attractive for the younger generations. We need more chefs cooking in the farmer markets to create awareness of how we eat, farm, and celebrate the colors and biodiversity.

We are also at a turning point where farmers are getting older, but at the same time the new generations are looking to escape cities. People are now recognizing the value of local produce and supporting small farmers, but prices are still a problem. It is essential that we democratize access to good, local food.

By connecting farmers with youth entrepreneurs we can empower farmers in ways that we haven't done yet. By doing so, we simultaneously help the aging population of farmers who are often heavily impacted by the digital divide and we are engaging youth in agriculture and innovation.

Ecological illiteracy is a huge mindset problem for a generation. Therefore, projects like rural agricultural schools to train future farmers are essential.

Bringing value to the farm. Until the farmer only provides ingredients, we will never get out of this broken system. However, youth can engage in intelligent commercial relations and partnerships with farmers to disrupt the system.

Regional Education - value what is local.

Use technology to spark curiosity amongst youth and make it growing food cool again.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

Decolonizing our Plates

What does decolonizing our plates mean?

1. preserving local farmer's and ancestral practices, beliefs, and more
2. breaking the rural/urban divide and making sure these ingredients become available to everyone, especially those who have lost accessibility along the lines of poverty and disaster, lost cultures
3. adopting a culture that values nutritious food, accountability for people who are complicit in action, asking how we can remove colonial practices from the workplace, what traditional foods can we provide that honors the people we are serving? calling out the 'bullshit' of everyone and constantly asking how we can all do better. Figuring out how to coexist with indigenous cultures
4. the theft of land, opportunity, and traditions. thinking about competition in LATAM to consume colonized products as a sign of social progress
5. all the processed foods found in communities where indigenous communities work make traditional ingredients

Questions that emerged:

How do we bring traditions back that's not stealing/appropriation?

What do we meanwhile while we are trying to keep systems accountable?

How do we activate pride?

1. as chefs, creating nutritious dishes and empower the people who create the plate along the way
2. adding value to food through the way we interact/price it. what are we valuing? nutrition? externalities? how do we measure these things?
3. through the education process we can change the conversation

Main Takeaways

superfoods are being used as a marketing strategy while making products less accessible to indigenous populations. We must implement alternative systems that challenge our capitalist model by consulting local communities and creating resiliency to truly decolonize our plates.

Create a system of accountability for appropriation and cultural theft that can make traditional foods accessible to everyone We can shift our narratives on food through education about our histories and by revaluing ingredients in a way that reflects the actual price of food.

Communication that brings sensitivity to the consumer. How effective is the use of seals? How can the industry take advantage of this, even restaurants?

Education in the industry, education for kids. How do we change our mindset from the way we consume to the industry.

Action. Better networks between producers and chefs: Accessibility to local products and income to producers. Better traceability of the products. Governments that value more the work of producers.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

****Stakeholders whose interests should be prioritized.****

The UN FSS claims to be an inclusive space where all voices will be heard; however, the active participation of large corporations in its agenda and the heavy involvement of the 'Green Revolution' questions the prioritization of civil society's efforts and perspective and, therefore, the possibility of changing power dynamics that perpetuate systems of oppression in the food systems.

****Areas that need further exploration****

- There was contention on how a capitalist economic model can be used to foster Food Systems Change. Some participants believed that our system could shift the current power dynamics, which create inequity if utilized in the right way. Others believe that a radical transformation in our system is necessary for true, sustainable change.

****Practices that are needed for food system sustainability****

- Many participants agreed that we must revalue the role of food in our daily lives and create healthier relationships with the food system. However, there was divergence on which actors create the value we place on food. Some participants agreed that it is the way we price food that determines its value. They asked questions such as "which externalities are considered in the price of food?" and "can we start valuing food by its nutritional value?" Other participants believed it is the influence of chefs and food systems leaders that create the standards people use to value food in their daily lives and the global system

****Practices that are needed for food system sustainability****

- Restaurants can be a platform for food education and behavioral change by promoting local produce and culinary traditions, closing the gap between the producers and the final consumer. Still, some participants believe this is not enough to create radical change. Public policies that foster an agriculture of peace are essential to building a fair food system.

Divergence over terms "Sustainable" and "Regenerative"

- Regenerative is being co-opted by multinational corporations --- (agroecological? there is a social movement aspect to agroecology- where ****food sovereignty is central****) comes down to the question of where power lies within the food system.

- Indigenous food practices aren't adopted by society as a whole, because of incorporation of the food system

- Over subsidized farming in the Global North has caused the loss of crop-based resources in the Global South. Modern agriculture has had a drastic impact on local economies and threatened age-old agricultural practices and family farming which, for the most part, is characterized by a symbiotic relationship between people and planet.

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	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Miro Board of Notes**
https://miro.com/app/board/o9J_lCyXyEE=/