

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Friday, 4 June 2021 13:00 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Healthy Food Systems: For People, Planet, and Prosperity
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	World Health Organization, EAT, and the Global Alliance for the Future of Food
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12007/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12007/</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

730

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

2 0-18      80 19-30      313 31-50      142 51-65      19 66-80      2 80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

175 Male      435 Female      120 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops	49	Education	208	Health care
Fish and aquaculture		Communication		Nutrition
Livestock		Food processing		National or local government
Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets		Utilities
Environment and ecology		Food industry		Industrial
Trade and commerce		Financial Services		Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

17	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	1	Workers and trade union
3	Large national business	0	Member of Parliament
22	Multi-national corporation	6	Local authority
25	Small-scale farmer	158	Government and national institution
13	Medium-scale farmer	2	Regional economic community
7	Large-scale farmer	112	United Nations
127	Local Non-Governmental Organization	7	International financial institution
106	International Non-Governmental Organization	36	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People	17	Consumer group
164	Science and academia	148	Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The organizing committee reviewed the Principles to ensure they were addressed in the agenda design and participant engagement process.

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

'Act with urgency', 'Commit to the Summit' and 'Recognize complexity': The dialogue was framed as a contribution to the Food Systems Summit by highlighting the need to recognize the complex interconnections between human, animal and planetary health and thus a need for systemic and integrated approaches to food systems transformation. 'Be respectful' and 'Build trust': We asked participants who were not designated speakers and panelists to share their insights and questions online via the chat and Q&A functions. We asked participants to engage with each other and with the speakers in a respectful and constructive way. We informed participants that all input will be summarized as input to the Food Systems Summit and shared with participants. 'Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity': We explicitly sought to engage the participants from the health sector, government actors as well as healthcare and public health professionals, as underrepresented perspectives to date in the Food Systems Summit dialogues. 'Complement the work of others': We identified two themes where there has been significant activity at government, health sector and community level to address human health (malnutrition in all its forms and antimicrobial resistance and zoonoses) to highlight the interconnections between human, animal and planetary health, the need for a new food systems narrative that upholds the three dimensions, and the call by diverse stakeholders for an integrated, holistic approach to policy reform and coordinated action across the food and health sectors.

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

# 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

As this was a high-level global independent dialogue, we curated the speakers and panelists to balance a high-level global perspective with national/local perspectives ensuring diversity from a variety of geographic regions, sectors and gender balance. We made a special effort to engage the 15 supporting organizations to help us reach out to and engage participants from member state governments representatives engaged in health policies, the public health and health care sectors, animal welfare as well as food system actors as target audiences for this event. The event started with high-level speeches from the leaders of key UN organizations and/or UN initiatives integral to the food-health nexus. The session was then divided into three deep dives, the first two focused on two different dimensions of where human, animal and planetary health intersect from the perspectives of three different countries. The third session focused more broadly on the interconnections between human, animal and planetary health. Each session was kicked off with a panel of diverse perspectives. During registration, we asked participants to respond to questions related to the focus of the dialogue to get a better understanding of their perspectives. In each of the sessions, we engaged the participants encouraging commentary in the chat, offering questions to the panelists and engaging in several polls. The event concluded with a call to action from a youth representative.

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The COVID-19 pandemic not only brought on a healthcare and economic crises, it has also radically exacerbated the world's ongoing food security, nutrition, and climate crises. At the same time, the outbreak is deeply connected to today's fragile food systems that degrade the environment through unsustainable land-use. As broken food systems push human, animal, and planetary health to their limits, policymakers and public health professionals alike must change the discourse surrounding food systems and come together so that transformative food systems change and health are put at the centre of the pandemic recovery agenda.

In this Dialogue, experts from across the health, environment and food communities explored how a new narrative about health and food systems can be used to stimulate action and drive decision-makers towards commitment making, from policies to investments, that deliver on better health outcomes for people, animals, and the planet. Participants discussed intersection points across the health-food systems nexus, identifying where targeted, multi-stakeholder action could take place and create a multiplier effect across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dialogue Objectives:

- Promote health and food systems resilience as critical to COVID-19 recovery and to realize progress across the SDGs;
- Communicate why new food systems narratives centered around upholding human, ecological, and animal health are needed (i.e., One Health), demonstrating how dominant narratives are undermining all three dimensions of health as well as the pandemic recovery process;
- Catalyze support for an integrated, holistic approach to policy reform and coordinated action across food and health sectors, exploring opportunities for health and food systems actors to work together; and
- Elevate examples from around the world, showcasing how government leaders, the health sector and other food systems actors can design policies and practices that delivered better health and sustainability outcomes for all.

### 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

The dialogue reflected on how COVID-19 has exposed the fragility of our food systems as well as the interrelated challenges of public health, food security and labour. The root of many of the world's most pressing threats to human, animal, and planetary health have been unhealthy, inequitable and unsustainable food systems. "Building back better", reducing the risk of future pandemics, and building long-term resilience requires bold leadership and commitment to both global health security and food systems transformation based on an integrated approach, addressing multiple challenges in a holistic way. Now is the time to address the root causes of food systems failures and, together, strengthen the demands for transformation with health at the centre.

Three priorities arose:

1. Adopt a new narrative that nurtures health at every stage of the food system
2. Embrace a One Health approach that addresses the deep interconnections between humans, animals and the environment.
3. Work across sectors through social dialogue to harness the comparative advantages of governments, UN, the private sector and civil society to find collective pathways forward.

This new narrative needs engagement by the health sector to position food systems transformation as a critical pathway to a healthy and resilient future. The way food is produced, distributed and consumed affects people's health through five main pathways:

1. Unhealthy diets and food insecurity has an impact on multiple forms of malnutrition, such as diet-related noncommunicable diseases (including obesity), undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies;
2. Unsafe animal food production practices can lead to the spread of zoonotic pathogens and to antimicrobial resistance;
3. Unsafe and adulterated foods, including the ingestion of foods containing pathogens, chemicals, and toxicants, leads to several forms of foodborne disease;
4. Inadequate agricultural practices can lead to pollution of soil, air, and water and biodiversity loss; and
5. Growing, harvesting and transforming food exposes food workers to occupational hazards and may have an impact on their physical and mental health.

It needs engagement by labour unions. Agricultural workers regularly face poor working conditions, high levels of working poverty, and lack of access to rights. In some countries they are specifically excluded from key legal protections, such as minimum wages, paid and/or parental sick leave, the right to organise or social protection. For the many casual or migrant agricultural workers, the situation can be even more precarious. Agriculture is one of the most hazardous sectors. It accounts for a large proportion of all fatal workplace accidents. Millions of agricultural workers suffer workplace injuries or poisoning by agrochemicals. Yet, despite all these risks, food and farm workers have continued to work during the pandemic, to ensure our food supply. In doing so they have increased their own exposure to COVID-19, as witnessed by the multiple virus outbreaks at food processing plants and farms around the world. Guaranteeing safe and healthy working conditions, better incomes, and greater protection for agri-food workers is critical, if we are to build food systems that can withstand current and future crises.

It needs government ownership and accountability based on the articulation of a shared vision defined by common interests and values. Governments need to work across silos to address interlinked challenges, e.g., ensuring affordable, healthy and nutritious foods along with social protection and decent levels of income for all. Governments can manage complex trade-offs and synergies through the adoption of a package of policies and instruments that link food systems to the nutrition, health and climate agenda, to support food system workers, farmers and fisherfolks who often have poor labour conditions to organize themselves and create negotiating power, to make multinational companies accountable for their behaviour and impact across the whole value chain, to encourage employers to provide healthy and safe food for workers, maternity care for women, and health insurance for the whole family, and to make healthy and nutritious food more affordable and accessible than junk food and other highly processed foods. Governments need to understand spillover effects from policies and instruments, i.e., through the application of True Cost Accounting.

It needs engagement especially by young people, students, and young professionals as agents of change and the carriers of the consequences of the decisions made by policymakers today. They see firsthand the impacts today and the implications for their future. They are calling for equitable, nutritious and sustainable food systems that provide healthy diets for all. They will be there to make their governments accountable for the commitments made but this means engaging them meaningfully in decision-making, policymaking, implementation and evaluation.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

Topic: Malnutrition in all its forms—undernutrition and diet-related NCDs (including obesity)

Perspectives were shared on approaches taken in Pakistan, Mexico and Nigeria.

Pakistan faces a high prevalence of undernutrition as well as overweight and obesity, and other diet related non-communicable diseases such as diabetes. While the number of people experiencing hunger has decreased in Pakistan over the last 20 years, it has not translated into better access to or consumption of healthy foods, nor improved health outcomes. This has impacted the country's health systems and the economy. Food system transformation requires policies that support economic growth and provide social protection. The government established a National Nutrition Coordination Council and the Prime Minister made malnutrition and stunting a priority by launching Ehsaas Health and Nutrition Conditional Cash Transfer Program for children under two and pregnant and lactating mothers.

While Mexico has tackled undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies over the last 25 years, the prevalence of overweight and obesity doubled in adults and quadrupled in adolescents over the same period. Although it has implemented policy measures to reduce the promotion, accessibility and purchase of unhealthy and highly processed foods and beverages, it has not addressed the production and supply of healthy and sustainable food, healthy food processing, food waste, or healthy and sustainable diets. Thus, the government created a multisectoral program (GISAMAC), which includes the ministers of health, agriculture, environment, education and economy, as well as NGOs, academia, and UN organizations. The plan includes a package of interventions in agriculture (i.e., incentives for agroecology and small farmers, food loss, public procurement, regulation of glyphosate), health (i.e., targeting children's first 1000 days, revised dietary guidelines, public awareness campaigns), food environments (i.e., taxing unhealthy processed foods, front-of-pack warning labels, food advertising restrictions), and school environments (i.e., space, curricula, and nutrition standards).

The number of people in Nigeria facing acute food insecurity has increased due to COVID-19. Food insecurity leads to poor nutrition and many other negative health outcomes such as poor physical and cognitive development among children and diabetes, hypertension and obesity among adults. Food banks respond to population health needs by targeting the most vulnerable populations, especially in contexts without a social safety net. They address community health disparities through food and related services, serving as critical infrastructure for the healthcare, educational, economic, and social sectors. The Lagos Food Bank provides meals for students, and mothers and children living in underserved communities. It also empowers women through training on how to grow their own food and sell part of what they produce, which creates pathways for more self-reliance and community resilience.

Participants agreed that current food systems have not eliminated undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, while contributing to the obesity and NCD epidemic and the deterioration of planetary health. We cannot solve the problem with isolated small interventions; we need a package of interventions based on systemic multisectoral, multi stakeholder approaches.

Actions mentioned include:

- Analyzing the type of food supported by public policy and investments and shifting focus from production of grains and tobacco for export to support for nutritious whole foods for local consumption.
- Placing equity at the center of our solutions and especially targeting vulnerable communities. Ensure that basic services are provided to low income and vulnerable populations. The same communities that face food insecurity also lack access to sanitation, clean water and healthcare systems.
- Collaborate with non-profits that work closely with local communities.

Participants voted on the biggest opportunity for governments to address malnutrition in all its forms with the top option being an integrated approach to policy.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Topic: How antimicrobials and increased emergence of zoonoses are diminishing animal health and exacerbating the human health and ecological crises

Too much antibiotics and antimicrobials are used in food and health systems. Antimicrobials are used especially in intensive farming systems to enhance productivity—for routine mass disease prevention and to promote rapid growth in food producing animals. It is also used extensively on crops. This use or misuse is the result of our current relationship with food and how we produce it. It is about how animals are reared, if they have access to the outdoors, how many are stocked in a facility, how more resilient breeds are disappearing, and it's about our diets. This reliance increases the prevalence of antibiotic resistant bacteria in animals and people. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a silent pandemic that is affecting humans, animals and the environment. Our excessive dependence has caused our systems to become unsustainable and our treatments less effective, to the extent that it is projected to kill 10 million people each year by 2050.

Perspectives were shared on approaches in the UK, Thailand and India to address these challenges.

The UK adopted a collaborative multi-sectoral voluntary approach to antibiotic stewardship in livestock production, involving the government, industry, civil society and the public. As a result, antibiotic sales for food producing animals in the UK has fallen and it is now one of the lowest users of antibiotics in agriculture amongst those countries with a significant livestock farming industry. Collaboration and sharing best practices is key.

Thailand has adopted a One Health approach by supporting multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary coalitions to manage zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance in food production systems. Following the 2004 avian influenza, Thailand established the National Executive Committee on Preparedness, Prevention and Response to Emerging Infectious Diseases chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. The secretariat is composed of relevant departments from the Ministries of Public Health, Interior, Agriculture, and the Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation. The Office of the Food and Drug Administration established the Thailand National Strategy on AMR to regulate human food and animal feed and coordinate all concerned sectors including public health and all food animal health. The One Health approach has been further strengthened through the implementation of laws and regulations, i.e., at provincial levels to actively manage public health threats.

Developing countries, such as India, and many in Africa, are not yet entrenched in over chemicalizing or over toxifying their food systems. Low and middle income countries face multiple challenges such as access to life-saving medicines, maintaining food productivity, and ensuring farmer livelihood security. They cannot afford pollution clean up or the high cost of medical treatments when common antibiotics have stopped working due to rising AMR. It is the responsibility of the global community to provide the right guidance and indicators to reflect a necessary reframing of our relationship with food and how we grow it.

Participants agreed that we need food and health systems based on a preventative health agenda and holistic approaches that take into account interconnected challenges. This requires:

- working towards the same goal through national strategic plans and committees, building a multi-disciplinary workforce, i.e., bringing together medical, veterinary, public health, pharmacists, field epidemiologists, farmers, fishers and other food systems actors, as well as effective law enforcement, effective risk communication, and a shift towards ecologically beneficial farming methods.
- working across silos to create a common platform that fosters collaboration and innovation on a holistic, integrated approach.

Participants voted on how One Health can be strengthened to address human, ecosystem and animal health, with the top 2 options being improving governance mechanisms and advocating for national One Health action plans.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

Topic: Systemic action for human, animal and planetary health

A source of both past and future pandemics is industrial animal agriculture or factory farming. Keeping thousands of animals crammed and confined creates the perfect breeding ground for disease. Industrial agriculture is also a major driver of deforestation, biodiversity loss, a consumer of more than two-thirds of the world's antibiotics, and the biggest source of food waste.

The pandemic has highlighted that overreliance on long, complex and consolidated supply chains reduces the resilience of food systems to disruptions. Short supply chains have also suffered due to the closing of informal and open-air markets, where most people in the Global South still obtain their food from. Prolonged closures of restaurants and schools, logistical disruptions, and shortages of migrant labor to harvest crops have resulted in unprecedented amounts of wasted agricultural output, which has reduced supply and led to increased food prices for consumers. Physical-distancing and lockdown measures have significantly reduced people's incomes and global food demand.

Poor dietary health is one of the most important risk variables impacting COVID-19 mortality. The virus disproportionately affects individuals struggling with obesity, overweight, diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease. Obesity, a condition exacerbated by the consumption of highly processed foods and beverages high in fats, free sugars and salt, increases the risks of hospitalization and death from COVID-19.

Participants agreed on the need for a new food systems paradigm that improves the health of people and the planet, protects biodiversity and ecosystems, and is based on ecologically beneficial approaches to food production. Approaches such as agroecology and agrobiodiversity have proven to produce nutritious food with less external inputs, which means less pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, lower water consumption, reduced biodiversity loss, and healthier soils.

In the context of pandemics, climate change and biodiversity loss, the following actions to target the system drivers were mentioned:

- Promoting healthy and sustainable whole-food diets
- Reducing consumption of animal-sourced meat and dairy, especially in overconsuming contexts (i.e. middle and high income countries), and supporting access to nutritious animal foods for those whose diets would benefit from a little more (i.e., low and middle income countries)
- Shifting to agroecology and regenerative agriculture
- Ending industrial animal agriculture

For successful food systems transformation, participants emphasized the need to:

- Place people and health at the center and create a sense of devolved ownership
- Foster collaboration between business, finance, governments, the UN, civil society and farmers.
- Set measurable targets by food companies for the reduction of livestock products, shunning those from factory farms and diversifying protein offerings
- Ensure public and private finance only supports the transition toward nature-positive regenerative farming practices
- Adopt multi-sectoral policies jointly created by the ministries of environment, agriculture, health, rural development, and other relevant areas to address human, animal and planetary health as one challenge
- Direct subsidies to support regenerative practices and the uptake of alternative non-animal-sourced proteins
- Shift investment in research away from marginal sustainable intensification to agroecology and regenerative systems

Participants stated their hopes for the UN Food Systems Summit:

- Set out a long term vision with political courage to uphold the public interest
- Ensure equity and inclusion of leading regenerative farmers
- Recognize that a "one size fits all" approach is not appropriate and that proposals are science-based, built on verified facts
- Inspire action at all levels, especially at the community/local level
- Accelerate diet-shifts away from a dependence on global industrial livestock and fishing practices towards plant-rich diets
- Channel more resources towards regenerative farming systems

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

A number of tensions arose:

- Definition of affordable food and fair prices, both for consumers and producers
- Power of commercial interests, which prioritize profits over health and nutrition, which for example weakens attempts to regulate the marketing of unhealthy foods, and conversely a lack of agency of many people to make healthy and nutritious food choices
- Power asymmetries due to corporate influence creates conflicts of interest
- Role of animal agriculture in healthy and sustainable food systems

Concerns mentioned:

- Solutions that decouple the food systems with nutritional outcomes
- Corporations undermining global health with cross-promotion and marketing
- Policymaking is free from the undue influence of transnational corporations (Partnering on solutions with those who drive the crisis creates conflicts of interest)
- Paths to progress will accept tiny changes in the system as big successes due to deference to vested interests
- Aggressive marketing by retailers and food processing industry of products high in fat, sugar, and salt and other ultra processed foods
- Reliance on pesticides and artificial fertilizers in addition to antibiotics

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