

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 19 April 2021 10:00 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	The role of smallholder farmers and indigenous people's knowledge, skills and experiences in boosting nature positive production to ensure safe, nutritious food and conservation of our biodiversity for a sustainable food system
CONVENED BY	Name: Asikaralu Okafor Organization: Maklumy Technology Services Limited Title: CEO
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12151/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Nigeria, 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

17

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

5 0-18 1 19-30 9 31-50 2 51-65 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

5 Male 12 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

17	Agriculture/crops		Education		Health care
7	Fish and aquaculture		Communication		Nutrition
	Livestock	2	Food processing		National or local government
3	Agro-forestry	17	Food retail, markets		Utilities
5	Environment and ecology	10	Food industry		Industrial
2	Trade and commerce		Financial Services		Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

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

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Summit dialogue was organized and convened in a physical informal community gathering bringing together multiple stakeholders from the indigenous people in coastal communities working across the food system from production to consumption including the fishermen. They are inclusive and strive to showcase as many voices as possible, capturing diverse cultural, professional and gender specific perspectives. We also recognized the utmost urgency of sustained and meaningful action at all levels to reach the respective 2030 Sustainable Development Goals involving action tracks 1,2,3,4,5 in our discussions. With this urgency mindset, the Dialogues are organized as contributions to the Food Systems Summit and to the elaboration of pathways to food systems transformation contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Finally, the participants committed to promote and contribute to the vision, objectives and the final outcomes of the Food Systems Summit with their indigenous knowledge, skills and experiences.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The indigenous people in the coastal communities are looking forward to fostering new engagements and partnerships that will stimulate the emergence of innovations and ways to advance collectively and creatively towards the future of agriculture while embracing the entire scope of opinions erupting from other stakeholders in the food system. The dialogue strategically focused on developing and scaling up indigenous knowledge and capacities peculiar to the culture and traditions of the indigenous people to inform decision makings, policy and governance at all levels for a sustainable food system. The participants were urged to give their audience for effective collaboration with multiple stakeholders in fostering the enabling environment that will replicate and scale up community actions that requires immediate take off.

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

My advice for other Dialogue Convenors about appreciating the Principles of Engagement is as follows: a) For you to have a robust and rich conversations, you should involve diverse stakeholders as participants. If peculiar to a target group like the indigenous people, don't wait for them to have internet connections or be tech savvy before involving them to take a seat at the table for a conversation in matters that affects their everyday life, take the discussion to where they are to achieve a maximum and best result. b) Don't be discouraged or overwhelmed by the complexity and tediousness of such an informal gathering or bother about the indigenous people who are not always too open nor receptive to adoption of any innovation or ideas contrary to their culture, tradition or social norm. They may neither appreciate nor value what you are doing for them by giving them a voice in the global community, still keep at what you are doing with resilient and tenacity knowing that you are doing a service to humanity.

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

As stated previously, the Summit dialogue was organized and convened in a physical informal community gathering bringing together multiple stakeholders from the indigenous people in coastal communities working across the food system from production to consumption. This independent dialogue was sponsored by Maklomy Technology Services Limited also brought together a diverse range of indigenous peoples, smallholder farmers and fishermen to discuss the summit's Action Tracks 1, 2, 3, 4,5. The point of divergence occurred in this manner in the course of organizing the Dialogue, on the day assigned that it was going to be convened, we noticed a gender disparity caused by tradition and culture in the coastal communities on arrival. The Dialogue date coincided with the community fishing day; they are in their fishing season. All the men and youth were out in the thick forests leaving only the women at home. This calls for urgent action for advocacy, awareness creation and sensitization on gender equality and inclusion of the indigenous women as stakeholders for a sustainable food system. In the course of the Dialogue also, all voices were heard, the participants complained that prior before now, the perennial flooding that occur in their coastal communities usually happens around August till October every year. But in this year 2021, it rained for three consecutive days non-stop between 10th and 12th of April and all their cultivated farmlands were washed away by floods. When this kind of thing happens, they don't get any form of help or intervention from anywhere, majority of the farmers cannot afford to buy seeds and other farm inputs to replant or cultivate back their farms, causing greater danger to food insecurity and on their livelihoods. We took the remaining part of the discussions to the fishermen where they are carrying out their activities and captured them in pictures as shared in the official feedback form.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Our Dialogue focused on identification of ways to reduce the risk of food production caused by climate crisis and the engagement of indigenous people's knowledge and empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable people to create a sustainable food system. Indigenous people and smallholder farmers understand the environmental, climate, social, economic, and health impacts of our complex food systems. Participants suggested that to reduce the risk of food production caused by climate crisis, we need to diversify and sustain production strategies that is customized to our geolocations, cultures and different variety of crops.

In shaping the transformation of food systems, indigenous peoples and smallholder farmers are to be given a place at the table with other key stakeholders to scale up their indigenous knowledge as recommendations are being developed and implemented.

On the conservation of our food heritage: Challenges posed by the extinction of our various food varieties and the way forward and challenges to food systems sustainability caused by the impact of climate change on our environment in the coastal communities. The participants robustly discussed on the conservation of food heritage and ensuring food security for ecologically vulnerable and socially marginalized coastal communities of indigenous farmers and fishermen, concluded as follows:

- i) Customize technology innovations and solutions to fit into indigenous farmers geography and climate as a strategy for boosting nature positive production.
- ii) Also, detection of warnings and early or late planting of different crops to mitigate against floods, droughts and other threats/natural disasters building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and threats.

While exploring indigenous people and small-scale fishermen knowledge and ideas in ensuring the long-term viability of our fish stocks and aquatics for sustainable food systems and indigenous people's knowledge on sustainable management of our forests to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of our territorial ecosystems. Participants acknowledged that provision of irrigation facilities and small dams using our water-bodies littered all over the place to increase production capacity of smallholder farmers for food security will create a sustainable food system.

Discussing the exploration of indigenous people's knowledge, skills and experiences to halt biodiversity loss and create abundance of food varieties, it was noted that equipping the indigenous people with the technical know-how to increase productivity both in crop production and fishing in wild rivers and provision of quality and improved seed varieties on our alluvial soils to increase crop yields is of utmost importance to ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all. Provision of storage facilities and value-addition through processing to encourage the availability and affordability of food all year round; post-harvest handling and management to curb food loss, glut and wastage will also create a tremendous shift to sustainable consumption patterns. Provision of access roads to farm locations for easy off-take of produce to where they are needed was also mentioned.

Access to finance and other project interventions by indigenous people in the disadvantaged and underserved communities. Women and youth participants also clamored to be engaged not only as producers but also as food processors; provision of localized support for them on access to funding and digital financial inclusion for processing and marketing will promote equitable livelihoods.

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

After an interactive and robust discussions with our indigenous people, the following conclusions emerged from our Dialogue:

1. We need to scale up indigenous knowledge and promote generational knowledge transfer that is rapidly dying out due to the pressures of food security and urban rural migration through adequate collaboration and partnerships with stakeholders at the national, state, local government levels, civil society organizations and the private sector.
2. To build indigenous people's skills with sustainable technology and digital tools that will integrate trainings, research and service to community to close the gender gap and enhance sustainable food systems.
3. Indigenous people are closer to nature and the importance of indigenous knowledge cannot be overemphasized because traditional farming practices are more ecologically sensitive, nature friendly and sustainable. We suggested linking grassroots organizations in need of funding with financial/donor institutions that are looking to finance green initiatives to consolidate more on the diversification of our biodiversity and enhance sustainable food systems.
4. Research institutions, Universities, civil society organizations and private sectors should be made to provide capacity building training and agricultural technologies solutions to these indigenous people in the socially and economically disadvantaged communities. We shouldn't leave it for the government alone.
5. To be mainstreamed in our policy making that agriculture should be seen as a business and not just a culture that can provide financial as well as ecological returns to our households, community and the planet.
6. There is an urgent call to action to empower the indigenous women and youth from the disadvantaged and underserved coastal communities to mobilize and become the core of generational knowledge transfer facilitating development that spreads from not just farmer to farmer but also to the children in their households and also the men in their lives.
7. It is of utmost importance to carve out tailor-made solutions not just based on research alone but according to farmers needs and provide market access and linkages, mobilizing resources and harnessing partnerships for greater leverage, innovation, and impact on nature, people, livelihoods and our ecosystems.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

1. Ecosystem Restoration through the planting of crops with different characteristics together in one place will recover lost food heritages and provide abundance of different food varieties.
2. There will be restoration and recovery of various fish stocks, other aquatics in our wild rivers and trees in the forests.
3. Increase in income and improved livelihoods of indigenous people, smallholder farmers and fishermen households.
4. Community resilience can be achieved through community enterprise and infrastructural development.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Facilitator - Discussion - Group- Template**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Facilitator-Discussion-Group-Template.pdf>
- **Photoshots**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Pictures-taken-at-the-UNFSS-Dialogue-on.pdf>