

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 20 April 2021 09:03 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Expert Workshop on Food Systems Resilience in Africa and Europe
CONVENED BY	The convening of the Expert Workshop will be coordinated by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and supported by University of Copenhagen and Wageningen University, all in the LEAP4FNSSA- Long-term Europe-Africa Partnership for Food
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12208/
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

120

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

48 Male

72 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The dialogue was organized in the framework of a collaboration between Europe (EU) and Africa (AU) in relation to Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA). Through a project named LEAP4FNSSA (Long-term EU-AU Partnership for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture Project). Participants were mainly stakeholder groups from a range of institutions in Europe and Africa involved in the partnership between EU-AU in relation to FNSSA. The dialogue was organized as a virtual dialogue with the various participants. Multi-stakeholder engagement was enabled through participation of actors from Research institutions, Universities, Policymakers from both EU and AU and Development partners. Prior to the dialogue, a study has been commissioned on Food Systems Resilience undertaken by University of Hohenheim. The Dialogue started with the presentation of the Study report. We invited 5 experts who studied the report and participated in the dialogue. The five Experts (3 females/2 males from EU-AU Institutions) made contributions through a moderated panel session, which enabled them to address specific issues in relation to the presentation and share their thoughts and perspectives on the Study report and its key outcomes and recommendations. The workshop was designed to be inclusive and participatory, with active engagement of participants through instruments of Chat box, Polling and Mentimeter contributions. Breakout Sessions: Plenary discussions on the Group Reports, showed that there was unanimous agreement across all 4 groups, that the subject of Food Systems resilience is suitable to include in priority topics for the EU-AU Research and Innovation partnership on FNSSA into the future and highlighted some research areas that could be addressed in the bi-continental platform. Polls: In one of the polls ran, 66% agreed that the Study report capture their expectations on what Systems resilience encompasses

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Generally, the dialogue cut across the principles of engagement particularly in relating to the urgency, focus on the summit, recognising complexity and the multi-stakeholder inclusivity. A key dimension of the outcomes were seven Guiding Principles that came out of the study which were extensively discussed during the dialogue and this underline the principles of engagement. The seven principles were: i) Maintain diversity and redundancy, ii) Manage connectivity, iii) Manage slow variables and feedbacks, iv) Foster complex adaptive system thinking, v) Encourage learning, vi) Broaden participation, and vii) Promote polycentric governance systems. There were discussions around diversity of understandings and perspectives with regard to Food Systems and three clear recommendations for moving forward were made. The first is the need to develop a Common Understanding of Food Systems Resilience, addressing concept, trade-offs, and metrics. There was a consensus that the UNFSS Dialogues would be a good opportunity to set these processes off. The second was to develop Science-based Policies for Food Systems Resilience, recognizing that the principles of resilience can help to forge resilience strategies in policymaking. The final recommendation was to integrate Food Systems Resilience in EU-AU partnership research agenda.

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

Yes, it is very important to strengthen the issue of commitment to the goals of the summit because of the centrality of Food Systems and giving the challenges of climate change which therefore make resilient and adaptability key element. There is also a need to consider the importance of multi-stakeholder inclusivity. We would like to emphasize the need for balance between the research stakeholder and the development and extension partner partnerships and this needs to be considered in the dialogue to ensure adequate representation.

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 mentimeter one-word analysis done shows the emphasis on three themes: Resilience, Sustainability and Participation, as core pillars in the concept and promotion of food systems resilience. The dialogue focused on the Action Track 5. The presentation was done in three segments. The first segment addressed the Conceptual Framework of Food Systems Resilience, including aspects of balancing synergies and trade-offs, as well as providing an analysis of methodological approaches used in Food Systems Resilience. This was followed with a segment addressing Resilience to Shocks and Stresses, including policy implications of resilience in Food Systems. The COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on human health and global food security were used as a case study in this analysis. The third segment provided the Conclusions and Recommendations, emphasizing seven Guiding Principles that came out as essential for building Food Systems Resilience in the face of shocks and stresses. These principles were: i) Maintain diversity and redundancy, ii) Manage connectivity, iii) Manage slow variables and feedbacks, iv) Foster complex adaptive system thinking, v) Encourage learning, vi) Broaden participation, and vii) Promote polycentric governance systems.

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 type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

The findings from the dialogue shows that the role of science in improving Food Systems resilience is key for the UN Food Systems Action Track 5 on 'Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses'. Other conclusions from the dialogue are also listed below:

- One of the greatest contributions that the LEAP4FNSSA can bring onboard is bridging the science-policy interface. How can AU-EU Science influence policy in both continents
 - How do we form a coalition of scientists and policymakers especially within Africa where policymakers are still only asking about how to increase agriculture productivity instead of looking at how our Food Systems can deliver quality diets, good jobs, equitable livelihood within acceptable planetary boundaries for the population. Until the question change, the science-policy interface will remain an interface with frictions and lack common understanding. The EU-AU partnership LEAP4FNSSA will be key here.
 - Science needs to change in a way that supports the government to ask the right questions and invest in Food Systems in the face of competing needs like health, infrastructure among others.
 - There are dissenting voices in science that require harmonization. We need a science governance system that brings the best science on the table to support Food Systems transformation.
 - How do we keep food moving within countries when there are shocks? How does the African continental free trade area policy open trade among African countries and between Africa and Europe? What kind of question should be asked to ensure the free trade area supports the Food Systems' resilience. We need data on the impact of trade on the Food Systems. How can we build the role of the local Food Systems within the region?
- In conclusion, participants were charged that, we do not only need sustainable, resilient, or healthy Food Systems, we need just and equitable Food Systems. Inclusion and equity should be key questions in the conceptualization of Food Systems. The study recommendation also include the integration of Food Systems Resilience in EU-AU partnership research agenda. This should include items such as:
- Funding of trans-regional and transdisciplinary research
 - A platform for joint learning, such as on new challenges and emerging crises (e.g. COVID-19)
 - A better understanding of the interconnections between African and European Food Systems and joint response mechanisms
 - Include Resilience in the Research and Innovation partnership as a crosscutting theme.

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✓	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The breakout session which had four groups, gave opportunities to the participants to give their thoughts on two questions below:

Q1: Do you think the subject of Food systems resilience is a suitable area to include in priority topics for the EU-AU Research and Innovation partnership on FNSSA in future? How is this important for a bi-continental platform?

It was agreed that the concept is important to include. Food systems resilience is a quite recent concept in many Africa where the focus of research has tended to focus on agricultural productivity. There is much that African scholarship can learn from European research on this topic. At the same, there also much that European scholarship can learn from African research, as well as Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Africa. This includes

- learning from local farming systems, as well as indigenous crops, species and practices. This will assist with issues of declining biodiversity on both continents, understanding how to build back better, and how to change existing food systems towards more desirable outcomes.
- A further reason why this topic is important is that research in food systems is a form of foreign policy, especially since other regions are interested in the African food system, and this is not always to the benefit of the continent.
- The final issue related to the importance of promoting inclusivity in both regions, and to closer inequalities in food systems outcomes, and in control over the food systems. This is both between Africa and the EU, as well as within countries in each region.
- Pandemic such as COVID 19 has disrupted the food system in both EU/Africa hence need to build resilience
- Conflicts are affecting Africa with negative ripple effects in EU due to migration. Food systems are not isolated and joint efforts is needed.

Challenges:

- Conceptual and terminological confusion/'opaqueness'
- Food Systems perspective not prevalent in existing policy documents
- Need to incorporate 'relevant' concerns of governments for policy

Suggestions:

- Policy brief: with proposals for common and operational definitions of Food Systems and Resilience definitions
- Re-phrasing of Roadmap ('refinement')
- Focus on interconnections of African and EU food systems ('manageability')
- Integrate value chain dynamics in a broader 3-dimensional understanding via FSs Economic, environmental, social

Q2: How can Research and Innovation (Research and Innovation) contribute to identifying pathways to more resilient food systems? This is about what research questions/ topics/ areas should be addressed in a Europe-Africa FNSSA platform (or Partnership), and linkage to Policy making.

Some areas for research include:

- better understanding seasonality, both annual and decadal, research on underutilized crops and species, what products and concepts developed in Europe would fit best in Africa, and vice versa.
- Research on informal economies in both regions. A theme was how to democratize science, making it available to all, being inclusive.
- Research in the area of seed systems, nutrition are needed?
- Intensification: What kind of technology (GAP) do we need to intensify to take care of the increasing population?
- How can we intensify and protect the natural resources to help us find solution to provide diverse food to the poor?
- Inclusiveness in policy formulation?
- Need for transdisciplinary teams
- Trade related research topics (addressing policy makers' concerns)
- Study around climate smart agriculture and seed policy to ensure ease of movement of seed across the two continents?
- Biodiversity: to look at underutilized food crops in Africa.
- Youth population is huge and how can they be included in the discuss?
- Circular economy is another area to avoid food waste
- Consumer psychology studies will be helpful to understand how consumer choose a product
- How (according to which criteria) are credits availed to Producers or to Traders or other actors in the value chain?
- Finally, farmer-led research, and research on agro-ecology.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The workshop was designed to be inclusive and participatory, with active engagement of participants through instruments of Chat box, Polling and Mentimeter contributions.

Participants were invited to share thoughts, on Research and Innovation themes, topics or issues that they see as crucial for advancing the cause of Resilient Food Systems. There was, as expected, great diversity of views. These are clustered under five broad areas indicated below:

a. The need to generate what a Common understanding of what Food Systems Resilience implies. This will include communication and the need for coordination in capturing and disseminating information and data across all levels and geographies

B. Identification of drivers influencing resilience of Food Systems and sustainability. This should include Research and Innovation for contextual recommendations for ensuring the resilience of Food Systems and the importance of Trade-offs related to ensuring Food Systems Resilience.

c. Identifying issues of vulnerabilities and losses. This should include environmental sustainability dimensions as well as local solutions based on cultural, social, and ecological systems.

d. Local Food Systems and rights-based issues. This will include exploring local Food Systems solutions that are well-resourced, people-centered, ecologically sustainable and socially just. This also include a A rights-based approach emphasizes that those most affected by food insecurity should not only be able to participate meaningfully, but that governments must be accountable for these rights

e. Other Areas of mention were 1) Gender issues in Food Systems resilience and 2) Balancing between food production, environmental conservation and management, and improving livelihoods.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Full report of the Dialogue**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Report-of-the-FSR-Expert-Workshop_Final-15-May.docx
- **Booklet introducing the LEAP4FNSSA**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Leap4FNSSA_booklet-1-1.pdf