

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 20 April 2021 09:30 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Social sustainability in the food system
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Per Callenberg, State Secretary to the Minister for Rural Affairs
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12257/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12257/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Sweden

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

### PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

10

19-30

52

31-50

32

51-65

23

66-80

8

80+

### PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

28 Male

94 Female

5 Prefer not to say or Other

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

2 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

3 Livestock

Agro-forestry

6 Environment and ecology

2 Trade and commerce

41 Education

13 Communication

3 Food processing

4 Food retail, markets

5 Food industry

3 Financial Services

2 Health care

Nutrition

25 National or local government

3 Utilities

3 Industrial

12 Other

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

15 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

3 Large national business

4 Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

2 Medium-scale farmer

2 Large-scale farmer

11 Local Non-Governmental Organization

4 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

45 Science and academia

9 Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

6 Local authority

18 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

5 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

2 Consumer group

1 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The instructions for the dialogue were used and the curator and facilitators highlighted the principles.

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

**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**

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

Focus: Facilitate a dialog around the key questions; What is social sustainability? What does social sustainability look like in Sweden and in an EU-perspective? Is it possible to measure social sustainability and does it matter when it comes to the attractiveness of jobs now and in the future? Can social sustainability be communicated to a consumer? Does social sustainability contain conflicts of interest and if so, what are they? How do we make sure that the social sustainability continues to be relevant in a transformed food system? These are some of the questions that will be discussed during the webinar on social sustainability in food systems.

The dialogue was in the format of a digital webinar in three parts; part one was set up as a seminar with invited speakers who highlighted different aspects of social sustainability in the food system with a focus on the national (Swedish) food system. Part two was organized as group discussions and part three consisted of individual feedback from the participants via Mentimeter followed by sharing of those reflections in plenum. The group discussions and the individual feedback covered the following questions:

- Is there any aspect of social sustainability in the food system that has received too little attention and should be highlighted more?
- What indicators do you suggest for this aspect?
- How can we raise the awareness of the social sustainability dimension nationally?

## 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

Participants showed great interest in discussing social sustainability in the food system and after attending the dialog the participants had gained a larger understanding of what social sustainability is. Social sustainability in the food system needs to be addressed more often. In Sweden we tend to focus more on economic and environmental sustainability and put less priority on the social dimension. This is a complex subject that inadvertently leads to different types of justice issues and discussions about who/where the price for economic and environmental sustainability is paid. What is the goal and what are the tools to get there? More dialogues and discussion on this topic are needed both in general with people involved in the food system but specific actions by the authorities is also needed.

There is a need to engage in continued discussions on this topic at all levels; openly and transparently. We need to dare to highlight practical obstacles to a socially sustainable everyday life for primary producers (holidays/replacements, childcare, etc.). There is a need to review current business models and review the past and ongoing structural rationalizations to understand and learn where change is needed. Different actors need to consider new paths for social sustainability in 'their' part of the system. More resources for research to make social sustainability measurable and explicable is needed. Social life cycle assessment is an accepted concept and helps to shed light on the issue, but there is a need for more and more reliable data. It is important to involve actors that are or can be affected in the conversations and solutions. There exist some indicators to follow up social sustainability in the food system but it that enough and will we achieve the necessary transformation? There are many goal conflicts associated with achieving social sustainability for all parts of the food system (may be in relation to economic or ecological sustainability, or in relation to other parts of society and its social sustainability).

We need to have continued cross-disciplinary/cross-sectorial discussions about social sustainability in the food system, what it means and how it can be measured. In that we need to:

- Make social sustainability issues visible
- Continuously identify stakeholders in order to broaden/develop discussions
- Create forums for meetings and discussions
- Raise and discuss the question of responsibility
- Raise and discuss the issue of indicators and "data"

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

The importance of social sustainability in the food system

- Appreciated topic of discussion, but difficult (e.g. how to measure?) and maybe therefor not so talked about
- Social sustainability in primary production is important for national food production – both different rules and regulations and the perception of vulnerability among producers – decide if they will continue or discontinue the business
- Ecological or economic (growth / profitability) sustainability is more often in focus. It is often with “economic growth” arguments that many actors downplay the importance of strengthening social (and environmental) sustainability. Social sustainability should/must be central within the framework of the planetary boundaries (ecological sustainability) with economic sustainability as a tool for achieving social sustainability. See how this can be illustrated, for instance “the wedding cake” <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/research-news/2016-06-14-how-food-connects-all-the-sdgs.html> or the “donut economy” [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doughnut\\_\(economic\\_model\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doughnut_(economic_model))

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

### Indicators of social sustainability

- Social sustainability more qualitative (e.g. how things are perceived) than economic and environmental sustainability where it is easier to put quantitative indicators. Hard to measure values such as status, recognition, the relationship with society and consumers and society's norms are perhaps most important for the long-term sustainability of Swedish agriculture.
- Social life cycle assessments (LCA) very interesting to develop further because there is always a need to measure. But there is a big lack of available and reliable data.
- Are those indicators that are in place enough? Do we measure the things we want to measure?
- How can goals around social sustainability be set? And how to deal, in the present, with changed norms around social issues in the future?
- How to handle trade-offs between different social sustainability aspects. Which aspects are more important? Where can most damage control be made? Is that possible to decide?

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

Transparency in research communication good for policy makers

• As commented by one of the politicians that were participating in the dialogue: "X's transparency in her presentation on difficulties and trade-offs in a difficult field of research was very refreshing. It is very important for us politicians, but very toned down in the public debate."

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

How to develop how social sustainability is handled/discussed

- Food can be seen as a commodity, but you can also look at food as a right. That discussion is large internationally but is not discussed in the same way in Sweden.
- It is important to recognize that there are different prerequisites and possibilities in different parts of the country due to geography, climate, population density and more.
- Many rules and regulations dealing with social sustainability exist, it is rather the compliance that is lacking.
- There is a lack of designated goals in e.g. the national (Swedish) food strategy on social sustainability. Will social issues with relevance to the food system be treated as less important because of that?
- The discussion on food production in Sweden often has profitability (economic) as a starting point: "The farmers must get better revenues for their products", "Consumers must be prepared to pay more for good and nutritious food": But, how to produce good and nutritious food that does not exclude people/increase social injustice because of higher food prices?
- Symbolic questions

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Please view answer under question 4C

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