

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 18 May 2021 14:00 GMT +07:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Innovation to Boost Climate-Smart Nature-Positive Food Production in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Region
CONVENED BY	Margaret Yoovatana - Chair, ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN); FAO RAP - Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; Simon Leiva - Coordinator, Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12274/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12274/</a>
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

221

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

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?

We organized the dialogue based on all the principles of engagement. We invited stakeholders from most food systems stakeholders in the South East Asia region and beyond, from farmers to academics and activists. We emphasized the importance of respect throughout all processes and chose prominent leaders to be the facilitators at each table.

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

The dialogue reflected urgency, respect, diversity, trust, and other principles. This manifested in the feedback we received during and after the dialogue, which was very positive, and a wish to continue the dialogues and implement the solutions.

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

We would advise following the principles of engagements and the FSD method. We have realized it helps create a very positive and productive process

# 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

On the 15th of March 2021, the ASEAN-Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN), in partnership with the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) and UN FAO Regional Asia Pacific Office (FAO RAP), convened the first series of a three-part Independent Summit Dialogue under the UN Food Systems Summit dialogue process. Meeting brought together over 150 participants to generate innovation ideas to support nature positive sustainable food systems.

Building on the innovation ideas gathered, ASEAN-CRN in partnership with GACSA and FAO RAP, convened the second series of the three-part Independent Summit Dialogue series to give stakeholders from the ASEAN region an opportunity to deepen and connect the innovation ideas to strengthen food systems in the region.

The second dialogue builds on key outcomes of the first dialogue in this series and takes a deep dive to connect the “innovation idea generation to support nature positive sustainable food systems.” The dialogue was aligned to Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production.

This dialogue sought to answer the following key questions:

- 1. What is needed to catalyze public and private investment in innovation systems for R4D in the region?
- 2. How can we better realign and coordinate national international research efforts to facilitate innovation and ultimate achievement of the SDGs?
- 3. Which innovations are ready for scale up and what is needed to take these to scale?
- 4. How can we strengthen dialogue platforms to promote innovation and idea sharing?

To facilitate engagement guided by the values of sustainable development and informed by both science and experience, participants explored opportunities to scale up nature positive sustainable food systems under three main pillars:

- 1. Protect natural systems from new conversions for food production
- 2. Sustainably manage existing food production systems
- 3. Restore and rehabilitate degraded systems for sustainable food production and ecosystem services

### 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	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation		Data & Evidence
	Human rights	✓	Governance
✓	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

## MAIN FINDINGS

This dialogue formed part two of a 3-part series dialogue aimed at connecting Innovation Ideas with Food Systems.

The major highlights of the key issues emerging from the breakout sessions included:

1. What is needed to catalyze public and private investment in innovation systems for R4D in the region?

- Smallholder farmers, who still make up the vast majority of farmers in the region, are already actively practicing nature positive agriculture and growing interest in agroecological principles
- There is growing interest by private sector in fostering sustainable production models
- Each partner comes to agriculture with different expectations, so catalysing action will require different actors to work together in partnership
- There is need to understand the gaps between available technologies and the capacity or willingness of farmers to adopt
- Focus on partnership also reflects well the investment environment for climate-smart and nature positive agriculture
- There are more public and private actors working to find innovative ways to deliver finance resources to farmers and provide incentives for other value chain actors
- There is need to improve understanding of stakeholders needs and potential adopt and/or scale up climate-smart and nature-positive innovations for agriculture.

2. How can we better realign and coordinate national international research efforts to facilitate innovation and ultimate achievement of the SDGs?

- There is need for new digital technologies that collect and organize information on farm conditions and options to improve productivity, address climate variability and address potential environmental impacts
- There is need for more discussion and collaboration on how to help farmers and agri-businesses build and capture consumer markets for sustainable produce
- There is a need to show the impacts of improved practices - needs to be improved evidence on how changes in farmer practice can drive improvements in sustainability. This is going to be a crucial for building sustainable markets for nature-positive agriculture.
- There should be more attention on the knowledge and needs of farmers and consumers in developing climate-smart and nature positive agriculture products and markets.

3. Which innovations are ready for scale up and what is needed to take these to scale?

- There are already be a number of technologies and approaches that we could taking off the shelf - agroecology for example. Such technologies to address interrelated climate and water management risks such as irrigation are perhaps not ground breaking, but will be essential
- It was noted that in the past these have been public investment
- Some specific on-farm technologies included:
  - o New varieties and the use of underutilized species: farmer-led varietal selection
  - o Agroforestry
- There are a number of digital technologies and platforms that are being scaled, for an example how social media and digital platforms have been used in some countries to help link farmers to markets following the impact of COVID-19. In addition to how farmers are increasingly using platforms like YouTube on how to learn about new innovations

Innovations are not necessarily something totally new. Innovation is equally about how local, old and new knowledge and technologies can be applied in new contexts or scaled-up. With this basis understanding there are a wide range of innovations ready for scale. Achieving scale may be about aligning interests - takes us back to partnership and respect.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

Protecting natural systems from new conversions for food production

Key issues:

- Public sector's role on enabling policy environment is very crucial
- Leveraging some public funds to scale up innovations such as the livelihood programs for communities in the forest as well as social forestry
- Projects that can be funded for scaling up should be localized problems and the solutions are driven by the farmers themselves
- One such innovation that also promotes biodiversity conservation is the nursery agri-business. Maybe the government can invest in the multiplication of plant varieties that are resistant to climate change and local varieties, particularly in seed development.
- Thailand has been promoting as ASEAN seed hub so maybe this can be linked to projects of the government
- Thailand is also promoting this plant-based food hub. This plant-based food hub can be a solution to recover from the pandemic.
- The innovation on seaweed as feed to reduce methane gas emission can address concerns for food security as well as climate change.
- Involve the academe as they have an important role in empowering and educating the farmers
- Philippines has good innovative projects that can be scaled-up e.g., rice network
- Private and public sector should work together/collaborate
- The public sector referred here may include research organizations, the academe, and civil society organizations
- Promote 5P's and not just the 3P's: private, public, producer, people partnership
- Decision making tools are very important for policy recommendations: forecasting tools; yield forecasting, big data, drones and other tools important for policies or decision making
- Role of youth in agriculture should be further explored
- Jackfruit can be a replacement for meat. This is an innovation that Thailand would like to promote in ASEAN plant-based food hub.
- There should be a way on how society can pay back the farmers as payment for ecosystem services.

### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

Sustainably manage existing food production systems.

Key issues:

- Investment in irrigation systems and water harvesting technologies, so as to help local farmers adapt to the situation of water scarcity or depletion due to long drought, which is brought about by climate change.
- Building water storage and rainwater harvesting systems/capacity of farmers R&D is important to enhance the resiliency of the farmers on the ground
- There is need for policies and strategies to manage land-uses and how to mitigate land conversion
- There was also a sharing on strong state regulation and management
- There is need to look at innovative financial systems
- Transdisciplinary action is of utmost importance
- There is a gap between technology, the situation and the farmers - innovations should be patent-free and easy access to the farmers
- The interlinkages and connections that exist within the global food systems should be leveraged to ensure social protection and inclusivity and environmental and economic sustainability for the entire society.
- Investment in state-of-the-art data science methodologies and collection systems.
- We must make use of knowledge sharing platforms for inter-sectoral and multi-institutional approaches and inclusive multistakeholder engagement processes should be a priority
- I also think that we need strong state regulations to ensure that conservation and management as much as production are taken into account

Lessons from COVID has brought elements on technology investment, which is critical such as digital platforms and online platforms

The farmer should be enabled and empowered

- Farmer end-to-end supply value chain – engagement at policy level and mapping out the value chain

We should always have the farmer in the middle and always focus the farmer to the private sector and investment and R4D, government.

- reduce the distance between Lab to field for the maximum benefit

Invest on platforms that promote development of tech and sharing of knowledge and encourage lessons sharing – stimulate the role of development agencies to promote these initiatives

### ACTION TRACKS

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### KEYWORDS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

Restoring and rehabilitating degraded systems for sustainable food production and ecosystem services.

Key issues:

- Adoption of digital technology is common now, but there is a strong need to ensure that digital technology links the value chains more closely. It helps farmers and consumers and production to consumers in terms of using resources and in allocating resources.
- Aside from the classic digital technology and softwares, there are also suggestions of using virtual innovation platforms which is a bit more friendly in areas or in countries where communication infrastructure is not really that good like in the Philippines.
- Adopting a type of circular economy and the example provided was the use of bio-waste turning it into fertilizer, etc. This is more sustainable in terms of being able to use resources that are already at hand.
- In relation to rehabilitating degraded systems, there was a concern about being able to invest, particularly in social forestry. But at the same time, there are issues in going into this type of big projects, which really needs big investments. So, policy will be very important because public investments will be needed especially for long-term projects and for wide-ranging type of social forestry projects.
- Solution to support smallholders who produce sustainable products.
- There is need to scale up the amount of information so that we are able to inform everyone that there is a market, that there is a demand for sustainable products.
- Farm to table concepts to support smallholders - some supermarkets and small shops are already moving towards sustainable products, but this is not yet enough to support the smallholder farmers at this time.

### ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

ACTION TRACKS

KEYWORDS

	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all		Finance		Policy
	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns		Innovation		Data & Evidence
	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production		Human rights		Governance
	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods		Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress				Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Not many areas of divergence were brought up due to time constraints.

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
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KEYWORDS

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation                | <input type="checkbox"/> Data & Evidence         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human rights              | <input type="checkbox"/> Governance              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade-offs              |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate |

# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## RELEVANT LINKS

- **ASEAN-CRN Food Systems Dialogue**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwPScosK7cc&t=2s>