

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 20 May 2021 11:00 GMT -04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Faith + Food: Regenerating the Earth
CONVENED BY	Andrew Schwartz, Center for Earth Ethics
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12778/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Ghana, Guatemala, Jordan, Kenya, Peru, United States of America

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.

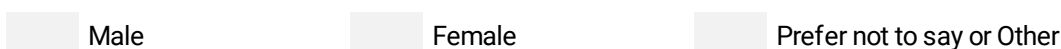
1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

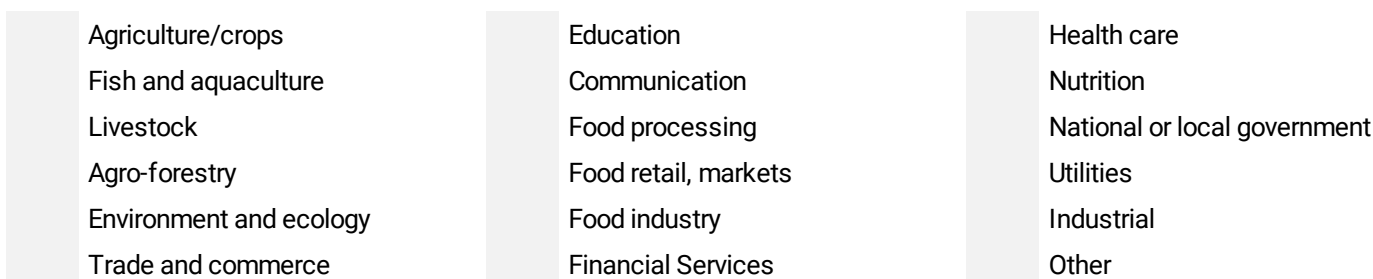
PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE



PARTICIPATION BY GENDER



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP



2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

We consciously chose speakers committed to community development and principles of justice and equity in their work. We committed to multi-stakeholder inclusivity and highlighting the complexity of problems and the solutions. Our dialogues are globally diverse, bring together multiple stakeholders, have multi-faith representation, feature Indigenous voices throughout, and privilege the voices of front line communities.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

We created a hybrid dialogue that took the core elements of multi-stakeholder, global participants and thought provoking questions and scaled it down. Rather than focus on a single action track, we created dialogues for each of the 5 Action Tracks. The scaled down dialogues allowed for robust conversation amongst the participants. We designed them so that there would be opportunities for different points of view, points of divergence and of course emergence. We, in our way, hopefully created a platform for dialogue where people come from different traditions, religious belongings, countries, industries, and ultimately points of view for how the food system needs to transform. There was no disagreement that things must change but the why and how of that change differed for all of the participants. This we believe to be the most important part - that there is no single solution and that any solutions that are created must be culturally and geographically appropriate, and meet people as people rather than as commodities or numbers on a page. True change happens in a society due to shifts in values and worldview. The world is on a precipice of such a shift as more and more are becoming acutely aware of the climate crisis and the impacts of adding another 3 billion people by 2050. Tensions are rising and violence is happening but so too are efforts for collaboration and peacemaking. Our discussion groups are much smaller but we have created spaces for the grassroots to be in conversation with the grassroots. Change can only happen when we listen and learn from one another in spaces that are egalitarian and democratic so we have tried to create such a space in our dialogues.

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

Stretch beyond typical boundaries to draw together voices that don't typically communicate with one another. This dialogue was particularly interesting because of the multiplicity of perspectives and approaches. While there was a general consensus of what needed to happen the pathways of getting there were quite different.

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 focus of this dialogue was an exploration of Action Track 3, Regenerating the Earth, focusing on shifting to sustainable consumption patterns. The panelists represented several different perspectives, traditions, and areas of expertise:

Lyla June Johnston - Indigenous musician and food systems expert
Iyad Abumoghli - Director of the Faith for Earth Initiative at UNEP
Felipe Carazo - Tropical Forest Alliance, World Economic Forum
Joshua Amponsem - Green Africa Youth Organization
Tosi Mpuna-Mpuna - Delegate of the Democratic Republic of Congo to UNFCCC
Marcelo Salazar - Health in Harmony

Main themes:
Nature positivity = human positivity. We are connected to nature.

Restoring degraded land and protecting ecosystems while connecting farmers to markets produces better social, economic, and ecological outcomes

Alliances between farmers, business, NGOs, governments, indigenous communities, and faith groups are important to prevent deforestation and degradation in a globalized food system

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input checked="" 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 dialogue highlighted an array of negative impacts and externalities in the global food system affecting ecosystems and the communities that rely on them and have sustainably managed them for generations. Panelists also discussed solutions to these challenges. The findings will be discussed based on the main themes of the dialogue:

Nature positivity = human positivity. We are connected to nature.

Land return to indigenous peoples is important to reinvigorate indigenous food systems and knowledge. The word 'nature' splits us from the natural world. Indigenous peoples have been engaged in co-creation of natural systems. For example, the Heiltsuk Nation in British Columbia hand plant kelp forests on the coastline and weight down hemlocks to create spawning areas for herring. This enabled them to harvest roe, but also to bring a caloric injection into the system to feed other animals, including bears, salmon, eagles, wolves, and sea lions
Indigenous peoples used seed distribution to cultivate thousands of plant species for food, materials, and medicine. We need to value knowledge from traditional communities, and recognize this knowledge and create instruments to pay for it - ecosystem services as payment, reduced deforestation, payments from carbon tax. This will empower traditional ways of life.

There is a diversity of food, culture, and biodiversity in forest communities. When we practice agroforestry and are connected to the landscape, a diversity of species proliferates.

There is a gap between the younger generation and the food they eat. Traditional crops are undervalued and processed foods have an outsized role. Lack of access to land and traditional agricultural practices has contributed to this gap.

We must be connected to nature and the things we consume. Once we have connected with it, can be connected with the earth and those who produce goods. We lost the system view and need to reconnect. We are at a turning point and must be radical dreamers.

Food is very connected to health, so need a systemic view of forest and the healthcare of people and ecosystem as a whole. With forest standing, will have water and less carbon and diversity of food and culture.

It's important to recognize the role of women in connecting us to sustainable food systems. In the Dine community they are matriarchal. Men are in charge of the sky and women are in charge of the Earth. The Lakota were given the sacred pipe from the Buffalo Woman 17 generations ago. They were starving and had no harmony. Everything hinges on equality. Everything else is a symptom. If we support women, we have our hand on the pulse of the next generation. Talk to those in touch on an intuitive spiritual level of what that next generation needs.

Restoring degraded land and protecting ecosystems while connecting farmers to markets will produce better social, economic, and ecological outcomes

We are no longer talking about unsustainable consequences of ag and fishery, but ecosystems as a whole, and their socioeconomic outcomes. Today our food is called fossil food because production is based on non-renewable resources, leading to soil loss and water resource degradation. We have encouraged excessive and uneconomic use of pesticides and fertilizers, water resources, and mono-cropping

In 2050 we will be 10 billion people, cities are exploding, and diets are shifting to unhealthy and unsustainable consumption. And we face an extinction crisis. And we waste 40% of food post harvest.

We need a nature positive approach - diversifying agriculture by introducing more resilient crops. We need zero waste. More than 1 Billion are under nourished. We need to use artificial intelligence, especially in areas without proper distribution. With simple applications of technology, farmers can be connected to markets, and harvest at the right time and for the right consumption patterns. Drip irrigation and subsurface agriculture help produce more with less land resources.

Alliances between farmers, business, NGOs, governments, indigenous communities, and faith groups are important to prevent deforestation and degradation in a globalized food system

We need alliances to protect biodiversity and prevent deforestation. Forest positive means we want to tackle deforestation as part of nature positive solution. One key is radical listening to communities, to create economy of care, learning from thousands of years of managing forests.

There are major obstacles, including the complexity of supply chains, market forces, and north/south prejudices. Implementation is critical because you can have unintended consequences. For example, if Europe bans certain forest products, they can end up with deforestation products not coming to Europe, but they still come to developing markets. This cuts off the link with producers. Need to have strategies to make sure there is a level playing field in terms of consumer awareness. Need to close the gap between developed and developing countries.

Faith is about believing. Beyond religion. It's about having faith in each other, and reaching an agreement, trusting each other. Without faith these partnerships can't happen.

We need to understand that faith institutions are also businesses. Faiths are fourth largest economic power and they invest in forestry, mining, industries, etc. If we want to practice what we preach, we must think about our prayers when we do business. Bring values and principles of religions and ethical approaches to investments introduce into bottom line

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

Nature positivity = human positivity.
We are connected to nature.

Honor indigenous food systems and knowledge by returning land to be managed by indigenous communities and fostering an integrated approach to cultivating food that allows biodiversity to flourish.

Connect people, particularly the next generation, to land and agriculture to counteract the effects of industrial food systems.

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Restoring degraded land and protecting ecosystems while connecting farmers to markets produces better social, economic, and ecological outcomes

Cultivate a nature positive approach by ensuring zero food waste, reducing pesticides and fertilizers, restoring degraded land for agricultural use, preventing additional conversion, and enabling small scale traditional farmers by implementing technology to help them grow traditional crops and connect them to markets using seasons as a guide.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

Alliances between farmers, business, NGOs, governments, indigenous communities, and faith groups are important to prevent deforestation and degradation in a globalized food system

Find ways to overcome barriers to effective alliances. Origin labels - showing where in the forest ingredients come from - are useful. International law and policy must be baselined to encourage the right practices, and sustainable food commodities flowing to markets while preventing or disincentivizing the wrong practices.

We must find the faith to trust each other and work together across borders.

We must value forest communities and build alliances around protecting them and also compensating them.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Although these panelists are from different countries and backgrounds, there were no major areas of divergence. They referenced a broad range of topics, but the through line is represented by the three major themes.

This isn't so much a moment of divergence as much as an epistemological questions about how we relate to and understand our place in nature.

There was an important discussion about the commodification of nature and how nature is increasingly only seen as a commodity or a resource or a product, the value of which is determined by how much it can be sold for or what it can be processed into. This value structure removes the implicit value of nature as well as the value an ecosystem or stand of trees or habitat has unto itself as well as the human community. If we continue to only value the natural world in terms of dollars and cents then we won't be able to slow the rate of destruction.

There needs to be multiple levels of valuation placed upon nature that take into account its value to the earth, to the more than human inhabitants, to the local population, to the global economy, etc. Without a broader and more representative metric of nature's true value - as well as the costs of ecological destruction - we threaten the human relationship to nature and our ability to adequately sustain the ecosystems that provide life on earth.

If we understand ourselves in a symbiotic relationship with the natural world then we have no other option than to reorient how we treat it, what we take from it, how we consume, and how we replenish and restore it. It's an important epistemological shift that if taken seriously will help us make decisions that co-benefit humans and the earth.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Speaker Graphic**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/AT3-graphic.jpg>

RELEVANT LINKS

- **AT3 Dialogue Recording**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_QMIL8P8PeI