

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 3 June 2021 11:00 GMT -04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Faith + Food: Empowering Local Communities
CONVENED BY	Andrew Schwartz, Center for Earth Ethics
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12801/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Germany, Guatemala, India, Saudi Arabia, 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

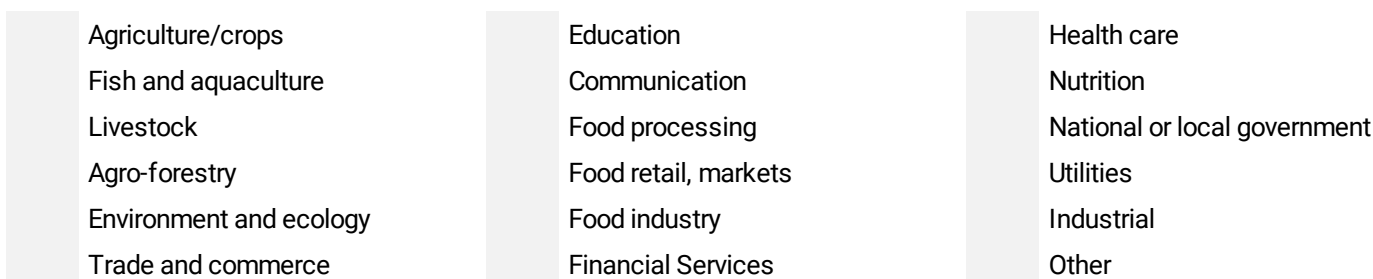
PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE



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 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 the 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 to our population by 2050. Tensions are rising and violence is happening but so too are efforts for collaboration and peacemaking. In cultivating this hybrid dialogue, 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.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

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.

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

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

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4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

We focused the conversation on the following question: Where Does Resilience Lie and Who is Responsible for Upholding it? Resilience looks at the whole food system. Resilience must be felt throughout all levels of society and built through various initiatives. It has to be felt through all pockets of the community, individuals, the household community, etc. by scaling up agroecology, regenerative agriculture to build resilience. The more we do this work, needs to

Resilience is holistic. It must be integrative, rights based, context specific, take in territorial needs of the urban + rural, and diversify the value chain. In the Massai language, the word "resilience" is not recognized as resilience is interwoven into how we live. We must deepen our understanding of what adds value to our lives in the land, from the food we eat, to why we find particular food in a particular season. Everything is connected.

Resilience lies within ourselves. Then translates into resilience of the community. Humanization of food relationship with environment. We must accept as humans, food systems rely on a healthy environment. If we are harming the environment, we are harming ourselves.

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

In order to build resilience within our food systems, we must:

Strengthen Farmer Relations

- Amplify collective buying power to create niche, local markets for farmers so they aren't at the whim of the global market.
- Incentivize localization so that farmers are able to grow bioregionally appropriate foods that serve the community as well as larger markets.
- Work with farmers to diversify crop productions and yields to fortify healthy diets
- Sit together with big farmers, and private sector and public sector, and small farmers, and experts, and civil society to come together and have conversation not in opposition, but find the causes that bind us together, not issues that drive us apart.

Create Education Based Action

- Amplify the best science, technology and wisdom of past traditions - religious, indigenous, community based, and other traditional insights.
- Create community education projects for homes and community spaces on the importance of small gardens, water storage and management and regenerative techniques that strengthen food resilience + nutrition.
- Utilize religious institutions and houses of worship to inspire community action; to transform lands, buildings and lifestyles to be green and more engaged with local food systems.

Work With Faith Based Organizations To Change Behavior

- Use ritual and practice to deal with impacts of climate change to people's mental health, climate anxiety.
- Use teachings and moral education to galvanize change in behavior to be more environmentally friendly, aligning ethical and values based approaches with a just transition towards healthier and more sustainable local food systems.

Create Food Sovereignty and Independence

- Empower the local bycrafting regulations and focus development funds towards small holder farmers and community development projects.
- Build movements detached from global food systems so that there is local resilience.
- Improve community based food systems that are able to feed those in need and produce locally to supplement global food supplies.

Include Local Communities In Policymaking

- Communities being impacted by policy decisions must be at the table where policy is being written and decided.
- Policymakers must ensure that every plan created prioritizes access to nutritious, culturally appropriate food.

Strengthen Accountability

- There must be regulations on governments and agro-corporations to make food systems secure and just.
- Strengthen oversight over the entire value chain to mitigate waste, pollution, corruption, etc
- Improve community and industry education to train towards regenerative practices and bicultural foods systems.
- Institute regulations on agro-corporations to mandate climate mitigating practices and resilience building in their value chain to account for the environmental, social, and economic implications of our food systems.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

End Extractive Food Practices

-Commodification of food systems dehumanizes the food system. We must get back to a food system that services people, that lives within planetary boundaries, and ensures access to healthy food for all people.

-Our food systems need to be reoriented towards a zero hunger, universal access to food model no driven by profits
Increased study needs to be give to look at the environmental, economic, and social implications of our food systems so that they can be tailored towards access and equity

-Commodified, globalized food systems create conditions of demand for animal proteins, which is directly tied to the deforestation of the Bolivian Amazon. In order to live within the planet's boundaries we must augment and regulate demands placed on our food systems.

-The intrusion of processed and ultra-processed foods into emerging markets disrupts local food economies and ecosystems while simultaneously driving unhealthy diets and a proliferation of NCDs.

-Globalization has disrupted the lives of people, what they grow, and what they eat. Food as a commodity automatically devalues its worth and removes cultural traditions that respected and honored food grown by and for the community

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

Community Models for Change

-Collaboration, conversation, and trade-offs must enter every level of our actions, from the cattle ranchers to the personal work we do with the land, as it all has an impact on the environment and on our food systems.

-Create a sense of community by working together while cooking together creating a complex web of community connections and trust of each other.

-Communities need to know and be part of writing policies that impact them.

-Utilizing existing resources to create change within our communities. Leveraging what we have and collecting power together.

-In pastoral communities, women are key agents of change, meeting with other women, at markets, sharing expertise, seeds, and insights. Community models must include women in positions of power and expertise to create lasting and rippling waves of change.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

Faith Based Action

- Religious Tradition's Spiritual Technologies to create change within and around using our spiritual technologies of psalm, how we approach grief, scriptures, and sacred time, reimagine these to meet needs of current time.
- Food creates a feeling of "I am embraced" that feeling connects to everyone.]go beyond human centered. These sacred forests are temples for everyone. Pollinators, birds, bumblebees are given shelter and food in these forests. Beyond human centric.
- Use faith based and work with faith based communities, work with large churches and temples, hold religion accountable.
- Utilize existing infrastructure within faith institutions to create change. See programs by Black Church Food Security Network, the Dine Advocacy Alliance, Hazon, EcoSikh, etc.
- Within the Jewish tradition, there is no understanding of Nature separate from divine reality. We are all one and connected in a divine reality of oneness. Best resilience is when we recognize this and work together to ensure we are all supported. Contributing to each other's liberation, humans and non humans.
- Empower our community thru black church food sec network to build our own community based food systems that leverage our community resources.
- Transform vacant land into community garden.
- Transform parking lots into food markets.
- Buy bulk and sell to churches that are doing food distributions.
- Working through the back church to engage the black community. Always been a hub and resource support. banks, colleges, universities.
- Assets found in community structures already supporting community resilience can be leveraged to support local food economies, access, and inclusion
- Langar - a community based food system. Organic, veg, sustainable Sikh temples all have kitchens and everyone can eat no matter who they are
- Sacred forests - temples for everything. Reimagine the utility of forests and other natural areas beyond their function as commodities for the economy
- Resilient and healthy food system require a resilience and rooted tradition in the earth
- Community rituals are important for reorienting behavior
- Carrying the wisdom of traditional communities. Every step of life is focused on how God made us in nature and the holy way of life.
- Build on the networks created by women, create opportunities for the youth to learn from their elders and traditions

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

Community based food system

- Sustainability starter kit -> help them engage with sustainable practices. Food based solutions -> plant rich diets. Recipes and food products and local initiatives and education.
- Working with policymakers to ensure those who are marginalized have access to food and prosperity.
- We also need to ask the question of why do we have to be resilient? What is driving the need to change? Food apartheid: the systematic destruction of black self determination for control of our food. Inequity marked by segregation and lower rates of land ownership. Resiliency lies on people organizing to create just equitable community centered food systems
- Creating niche markets for black farmers. Co op economics
- Amplifying our collective buying power. Create niche markets for farmers to sell directly through the community.
- Resilience and sustainability cannot solely be found in large institutions that are not grounded in the communities they serve. The small assets to build these systems are found within communities and must be supported.
- Food is the thing that brings everyone together
- Governments and International bodies must regulate agro-corporate practices to guard against unsustainable, unjust practices
- Development incentives need to promote localization, resilience, and climate mitigation
- Explore how institution's like the WHO and UN Nutrition can help us scale local pathways to resilience and community empowerment

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

None to speak to

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Empowering Local Communities**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psU0UU7S-rg&t=1s>