

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 1 June 2021 13:30 GMT +03:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Sustainable Food Systems – Its Concept and Practices in the Countries of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Ahmet Volkan GÜNGÖREN - Coordinator for Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security (ECO-RCCFS)
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13283/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13283/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

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

41

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

40 31-50

1 51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

17 Male

24 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

31 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

1 Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

2 Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

1 Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

6 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

7 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

3 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

21 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

6 United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

4 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The independent dialogue was designed considering the needs of the 10 Member Countries of the ECO in compliance with the principles of engagement. ECO-RCCFS invited all relevant stakeholders from ECO Member countries and aimed to facilitate a better understanding of the complexity of food systems, its practices as well as the purpose and processes of the dialogues for the UN Food System Summit. Also, the dialogue aimed to provide the participants with an opportunity to exchange their experiences in addressing the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on food supply. Turkey shared its experience in multi-stakeholder approach to reducing food losses while stimulating consumption of nutritious foods during the pandemic. An introductory session was devoted to the Summit and the principles. Another session about food systems provided further emphasis on transformation of current systems in a more sustainable way, including transformation phases as four distinct policy objectives as availability, accessibility, affordability, desirability for all. Key steps that need urgently to be taken were defined. Important steps of the transformation were underlined as: 1. Empower cross-party and cross-ministerial working groups to reconcile political and economic trade-offs across sectors, 2. Build engagement and momentum across all stakeholder groups 3. Establish specific responsibilities and accountability mechanisms for commercial and civil society entities

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

ECO-RCCFS acted urgently to meet the needs of the Member Countries in learning experiences and good practices of addressing the impact of the pandemic. Resolve/reconcile policy distortions and incoherence in incentives, identify multi-win targets that can be attractive to multiple constituencies, leverage existing interventions that can be made more food-system friendly, protect the most vulnerable and ensure a 'just' transition were reviewed by the participants. Also a special session included on the purposes and modalities of the Member Country dialogues. Since most of the participated countries had not organized the MS dialogue, the session was useful for the preparation of the dialogues. Participants of the independent dialogue listened each other and opened to the co-existence of divergent points of view. The importance of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach was emphasized across the dialogue. A comprehensive and detailed presentation was made for unpacking the complexity of the food systems approach and the need for transformation of food systems. This is followed by a facilitated discussion on the need for multi-stakeholder approach, policy cohesion and understanding of power balance. The independent dialogue took place in a multi-stakeholder manner with stakeholders from the ECO region in various fields of agriculture, food security, forestry and food safety and with different perspectives. Sharing of experiences and innovative ideas for transforming the current food systems were encouraged among the participants in line with the principles and objectives of the Summit. A case study on the food systems approach to timely address the negative effects of the pandemic on aquaculture sector was presented by Turkey, emphasizing the benefits of coordination of the government and private sector. ECO-RCCFS curated and facilitated in a way which creates a "safe space" and promotes trust, encouraging mutual respect. Establishing specific responsibilities and accountability mechanisms for commercial and civil society entities was underlined as an important step

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

The Principles of Engagement provides a very useful framework for the successful conduct of independent dialogues. It is also important to involve multiple sectors and actors, beyond traditional stakeholders of food and agricultural sector, so that participants can learn the need for cohesive action for transforming food system. In our independent dialogue, significant progress has been made in providing the knowledge of the participants on food systems concept, the urgent need for transformation and also the need for continuous awareness rising among the stakeholders across the food systems.

# 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

Major focus of the independent dialogue was to support the member countries of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to better understand food systems concept and approach, as well as the objectives and processes of the UN Food Systems Summit 2021.

Accordingly, the dialogue had a comprehensive and detailed presentation on the concept of food systems and data and evidence on food systems by a leading expert, followed by interactive discussions among the participants. The rationale, purpose and modality of member country dialogues including 5 Action Tracks was explained by FAO. Lastly, as an ECO Member Country, Turkey shared its experiences in reducing food losses, protecting livelihoods those along food supply chains and supporting the consumers in accessing nutritious foods during the Covid-19 Pandemic, as a case study of food systems approach.

### 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

- Food Systems of ECO member countries are vulnerable to various shocks. Those shocks include not only natural disasters, but also socio-economic stresses and health crisis.
- Governments need to take a leading role to ensure food systems continue to function during such crisis. However, coordination and collaboration with private sector is critical, particularly for ensuring food supply, since private farms, processors, traders and retailers play critical role in any food supply chain.
- Identifying multi-win solutions is important. Potential trade-offs need to be analyzed carefully but action with speed is required.
- Many of food system workers are highly vulnerable to socioeconomic and natural shocks. Social Protection is critical during crisis time. It is important to understand the vulnerability of food system workers (who they are, where they are, when, why and how they are vulnerable).
- Continuous effort for capacity strengthening is important to continue the effort for transforming food systems after the Summit. Regional organization such as ECO-RCC has a critical role to play in providing such opportunities.
- Enhancing availability of and access to data on key elements of food systems and outcomes is important for facilitating evidence-based discussion and policy development

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

### Topic 1: Transformation of food systems

- The participants shared a common understanding on food systems by reviewing the definition, conceptual framework and various elements of the systems.
- The participants discussed and understood what transformation of food systems mean and why the transformation is needed.
- The participants understood the potential cost of not transforming the food systems. Various data was presented, reviewed and discussed.
- The participants understood that a business as usual approach to food systems won't get us to the Paris climate change targets. The presenter shared relevant data.
- The participants understood that the multiple burdens of malnutrition are massive in the ECO region and universal and the double burden of malnutrition is rising in low- and middle-income countries.
- The participants understood that food and agriculture have a big part to play in the rise of zoonotic spillover events - animals are in close proximity to humans, either because their natural habitat has shrunk or been destroyed, or they are moved from their habitats.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

### Topic 2: Purposes and modalities of UNFSS National Dialogues

- The participants were briefed on the main objective of the UN Food Summit.
- The participants were updated on the progress of the member countries of ECO in the preparation for the UNFSS, including the nomination of the national dialogue conveyors, the national dialogue process.
- The participants were introduced about many opportunities for national dialogue conveyors and stakeholders to learn about food system concept, approach and preparatory work for the food system summit.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

### Topic 3: Food Systems Approach to COVID-19 Pandemic

- The participants were given examples of how governments can take notice, act with speed and often, act in their own interest when threatened.
  - The participants understood that “We are all in this together” type problems (such as the pandemic) require strong public institutions at national and supranational levels.
  - The participants discussed the importance for ensuring food supplies by keep cross-border and domestic trade open during the crisis.
  - The participants agreed that supporting and protecting food system workers is important
- It was suggested by participants that social protection programs to delivering healthy diets should be strengthened, during the crisis in particular.
- The participants discussed the needs for cross- country research to promote One Health
  - The participants discussed the needs for a systematic global effort to monitor pathogens emerging from animals.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Some participants raised their concern about the absence of discussions on the role of education in spreading food systems approach, highlighting the needs for nurturing future leaders of food systems.

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## RELEVANT LINKS

- **The web site of ECO-RCCFS**  
<http://www.eco-rccfs.org/>