OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM



DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 21 May 2021 13:00 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Transforming our Food Systems with the Golden Rule: from Listening to Action
CONVENED BY	Kim Polman, Co-Founder & Chair, Reboot the Future; Ashwini Prabha, Co-Founder and Board Member, Listening Inspires
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13402/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

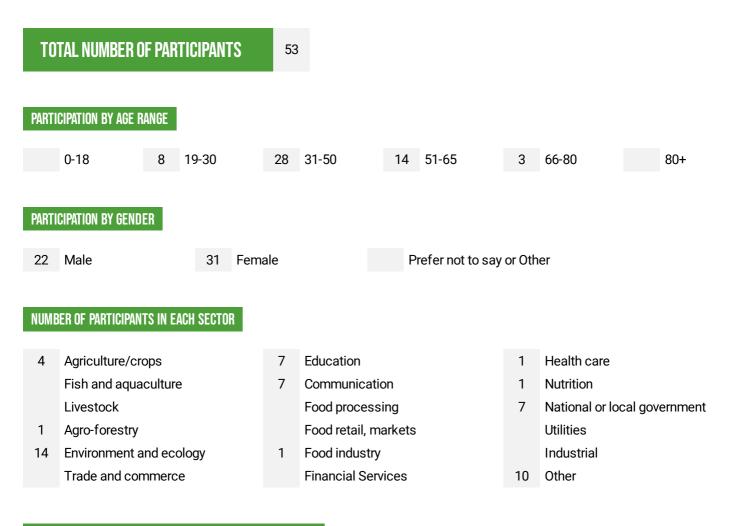
The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

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Dialogue title Transforming our Food Systems with the Golden Rule: from Listening to Action

Date published 07/07/2021

1. PARTICIPATION



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

4	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
	Large national business		Member of Parliament
1	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
	Small-scale farmer	1	Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer	1	Regional economic community
1	Large-scale farmer	7	United Nations
6	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
17	International Non-Governmental Organization	4	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
2	Indigenous People	1	Consumer group
8	Science and academia	2	Other

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2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

We did our utmost to follow the guidance provided in the method for convening, curating and facilitating dialogues as we felt they provide practical guidance for applying the principles. We encouraged the facilitators to attend the facilitator training which half of them joined - and held a specific briefing for the curator and facilitators together to share the principles and how they can ensure it is respected. Special efforts were made to be inclusive and expand our networks as part of the invitation process. This was the most difficult part. in the end, the participants reflected the constituency our organisations are a part of (international NGOs operating at global level) with a focus on environmental issues for example. This meant there were not as many representatives of businesses (of all sizes), indigenous peoples and governments as we hoped (or had invited). But nevertheless, we were pleased with the diversity in terms of countries (24 nationalities for 53 participants) and regions (Africa, South Asia, Central Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, Pacific islands).

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The dialogue reflected in particular the principle of respect, both in the way it was curated and facilitated, but also by the nature of the topics which were discussed - compassion, connection to Nature, inter-generational solidarity. People shared their insights "from the heart", starting with powerfully inspiring guest speakers and a very welcoming curator, who made it easy for participants to feel trust in the process and also speak from the heart. We also applied the principle of complementing existing work: indeed, this dialogue was inspired by the fact that many dialogues discuss what needs to be done (from agro-ecology to nutrition education and value chain development, legal frameworks, science...), but few look at the core values that underpin the actions that need to be taken to transform food systems. Efforts were made to ensure participation was as inclusive as possible. This did not prove easy but the group was particularly diverse in terms of nationalities.

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

Create a good team to organise the dialogue, in particular a diverse team that can access different networks and people from various countries. It's very useful to brainstorm in gradual steps about the content and discussion topics, as they can mature over time. Start thinking about them early, discuss them often and allow time to fine-tune them. Make extra efforts to reach out to those you don't know so well or don't usually engage with. Expect the response rate to be lower in this group so invite more than you would like to see at the event! Practical tips: Make sure to use a registration system that captures the data you need to fill the statistics above! And ask note-takers to prepare a clean summary you can copy and paste in the form. And most importantly: Have fun as you prepare - the quality the team work and atmosphere of motivation in the team transpires in the event itself.

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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

This dialogue "Transforming our Food Systems with the Golden Rule: from Listening to Action" focused on the fundamental cultural and spiritual values and attitudes that should underpin and guide the technical, financial and functional solutions being discussed for the Summit if they are to genuinely lead to sustainable and equitable food systems. It was inspired by the "Golden Rule": "treat others and the planet as you wish to be treated".

The discussions focused on the following six topics which were guided by the following framing:

1. The role of compassion, care and listening in food systems transformation

Since learning to control fire, the hearth has been at the heart of what has bound Homo sapiens together. The specialisations of cooking, hunting required new skills in our ancestors cooperation, empathy, trust and communication. Where do these capacities for empathy reside in our food ecosystems today? Is there empathy between the consumer and producer? Between the seasonal fruit-picker and the supermarkets? Between the dairy farmer and the cow? Between the farmer and the land? How do we build a true empathy between these different nodes in our system in the next decade?

2. Reconnecting and Listening to the Earth to guide food systems transformation

Since Descartes split mind from body, and human from Nature, humans from many parts of the world have learned to see themselves outside of the natural world, and absorbed the credo that our role is to dominate, control and exploit its resources. A technocratic analysis of food production has served us well in maximising yield every year- and yet now threatens to collapse the very ecosystems on which we depend.

How do we reshape our cultural connection with the natural world, and retain our sense of embedded-ness within nature, as part of its inherent cycle, rather than its master? Can we foster a sense of respect, wonder and the sacred into our relationship with food?

3. Drawing upon the voice of our elders and supporting the youth: Intergenerational solidarity In the Global North, our enhanced diets and healthcare are lengthening our lifespans and thereby transforming our societies where the elderly are in the majority. The Global South, by contrast, is overwhelmingly young. At the same time, our parents' generation is consuming planetary resources at a rate which will bequeath our children with a badly damaged biosphere. How can we acknowledge in our food systems solidarity between our ancestors and our descendants? How can we encourage our children to shape new, better habits, while acknowledging their rights to give them a chance of sustainable, nourishing ecosystem in ten years

4. Education

Education - whether in the home, in schools or society at large - is the process whereby we seed the practices of our next generation while adapting the current practices of all generations. If we were to change the culture of food in our society, where would we start? What are the best habits to acquire as a child?

How can education ascribe a deeper purpose to the food that we eat and prepare?

5. Partnerships and dialogue

Food systems are often pyramidal and vertical, with engrained power imbalances and values distortions. The supply chain from farm to fork is a silent one, disconnected and silo'd.

How can we move our relationships in food from a one-way broadcast to a conversation? Who is excluded from this conversation? How do we listen to them? And if we were to treat the Earth as a partner rather than a supplicant, what would be the terms of engagement look like?

6. New citizenship and the Life Economy - valuing Nature, health, care John Perkins says that we need to enable A 'Life Economy', one in which we prioritise living, organic ecosystems; what we have now is the opposite, a 'Death' economy. A life economy is one that pays people to clean up pollution and regenerate destroyed environments. A life economy also develops new technologies that do not ravage the Earth.

What would a global citizens charter look like that had a life economy at its core? What role would food play in such a charter?

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
1	Human rights	1	Governance
1	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		1	Environment and Climate

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MAIN FINDINGS

Two issues stood out as core challenges: the loss of connection essential for the well-being of people and planet, and the negative impacts of exploitative economic models.

But the conversations focused mostly on the solutions to reestablish connection and compassion to foster food systems that are regenerative, equitable and nourishing in all senses of the word.

Loss of connection and compassion

Participants observed a loss of connection at several levels: "As food systems shift from local production through to larger industrial methods, there is often a disconnection with land and scaling down of compassion." "Food has been disconnected from story, people, and landscape." The culture of food is generally inherited from one's parents but today "this inheritance has been broken" as "food is just something on a supermarket shelf and has no story".

Destructive economic system and power imbalances

"The pandemic revealed the limits of globalization and unrestricted capitalism." "We take food from this food system that entails labor violation, soil exploitation, etc. This is destructive on so many levels, but it is sold to us like happy farms." "Our current centralised distribution of food extinguishes dialogue (...) 90% of the retail economy belongs to dominant corporates leading to expensive and definitely not local food."

The limits of this model were illustrated by an example from Senegal, where people used to produce their own organic food, share meals and assure more food security and less waste. The introduction of cash crops broke this equilibrium: today what used to be savanna is a desert. People living near the river can't drink the water because of pesticides or parasites.

Emphasis was given to the economic difficulties faced by the more vulnerable and less represented, especially agricultural workers and small farmers whose rights are seldom ensured, who lack livelihood security and have limited options, as well as poor consumers.

One group observed: "Until we decouple the food system from economic growth, it will be challenging to change things."

Love, empathy and compassion

These were the starting point and heart of all discussions: "The predicate for all those working in the food system must be one of empathy." "We need to find ways of extending love and compassion across all levels of the food system", from the farmer caring for the land to a cook preparing food with love.

Participants aspired to see "mechanisms of inter-relatedness and inter-connectedness" restored. They called for "community, reconciliation and healing." How can this be done?

Reconnecting to Nature

The importance of reconnecting to and valuing Nature was central. "Nature has its rules: if we understand them, we can implement a new, symbiotic economy" and "while dominant cultures sustain a sense that our species stands apart from the natural world, others have always nourished a deep sense of connection and harmony with Nature." Bridging indigenous knowledge and science can help foster a "mindset reboot", including one that "accords trees, water, soil the dignity and intelligence of living things".

Education

Education was seen as the key to changing mindsets and heart-sets. "With knowledge comes compassion so together we can collectively manage a more sustainable system." Education is essential to understand where food comes from, to awaken one's sensitivity to Nature, to encourage youth to engage in agriculture, to understand the 9 planetary boundaries, and to transmit core values.

The following have a fundamental role to play: governments, schools, universities, parents and families, the private sector, NGOs, chefs, industry leaders, farmers, and indigenous peoples. "We also need to let food itself be the teacher."

Communication and dialogue

One group called for the need to "evolve a common language of empathy between ourselves and the Earth, and at every junction of the food chain." It highlighted the opportunity of digital spaces as "open public infrastructure where we can connect as farmers and citizens."

Appreciating true value

We need to understand the true value of food and its true social and environmental cost. Some called for "food equity" supported by legal measures, investment, and policies. We require a "new economy" and "a more sophisticated and attuned understanding of financial flows, especially what we invest, and the necessity of seeing those investments flow into the hands of those who have their hands in the soil."

Some observed that "there's more money in circulation than ever but we are not happier" and called for the need to "redefine basic notions", such as "health, wealth and happiness".

Going local

The group exploring partnerships emphasized the importance of going local: "The ecology of the future will be place-based with energy and action resting with local authorities. This will lead to better governance, and engagement with people and

authorities." "Any platform through which people can communicate, must bring voices from the ground to obviate restrictive hierarchies."

Inclusivity, respect and dignity All groups called for inclusivity, respect and dignity, recognizing the need to hear the voice and empower farmers, women, youth, indigenous peoples and minorities. Participants advocated for nonconventional partnerships and open dialogue that fosters creativity.

In brief: "We can support reconnection by asking ourselves: 'is this choice going to cause harm to people or nature?' And realise that these are both the same.

ACTION TRACKS

KEYWORDS

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

1. CARE AND COMPASSION

Vision : Care and compassion for ourselves, others and Nature, inherent to the way food is produced, processed, sold and consumed.

a) We need to see love and compassion at all stages of the food system and across all actors, from farmers, through to production, processing, packaging, distribution, consumption and disposal.

• Love and compassion is most commonly associated with the production level of the food system, particularly small farmers, who are so connected to the ebbs and flows of the land through their daily work.

• But love can be experienced at all levels of the food system, including consumers, it all depends on the individual actors. For example, mothers cooking for their families or chefs cooking display love.

 As food systems shift from local production through to larger industrial methods, there is often a disconnection with land and scaling down of compassion. We need to find ways of extending love and compassion across all levels of the food system, possibly through fostering a greater connection to the land. Also, by learning from the other elements in the food system, we can raise awareness of how one's own behaviour can be influential. With knowledge comes compassion so together we can collectively manage a more sustainable system.

b) We need to find ways of supporting and engaging small farmers. It's a difficult career which young people aren't attracted to, partly because the conditions are tough and there is limited legal protection. This is creating uncertainty in the long-term and farmers could disappear. By engaging universities and academics more, we could connect young people more to farming/the land, and create a different vision.

c) We need love and compassion for those actors in the food system who are more vulnerable and less represented. In particular, attention is not being paid to agricultural workers including their rights and compensation. They are often not recognised and lack livelihood security and assets such as land ownership. They are not represented by Trade Unions. We need to find ways of protecting these actors.

d) Anywhere in the world there are conditions and constraints that need to be considered, and which are being impacted by climate change:

- The constraints and conditions are so problematic in our current food system that farmers don't have any options. They have so much feeling for the land, but the constraints are uncontrolled. A farmer needs to be incentivised by owning the land, so they can apply sustainable practices. We need to support them to adapt with sustainable practices.

e) Until we decouple the food system from economic growth, it will be challenging to change things.

ACTION TRACKS

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1	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress			1	Environment and Climate

KEYWORDS

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2. CONNECTING AND LISTENING TO NATURE

Vision: A renewed and deepened connection to the natural world, nourished by respect, wonder and a state of listening, guides the transformation of our food systems towards restoration and equity.

In places like Senegal where people used to produce their own organic food, share meals and thus assure more food security and less waste, the introduction of cash crops broke this equilibrium. Today what used to be savanna is a desert, nature is becoming poorer. People living near the river can't drink the water because of pesticides or parasites.

Nature has its rules: if we understand them, we can implement a new, symbiotic economy. As a society we are part of a whole, bigger macrobiotic which embeds nature: we must realize that our well-being and survival depends on Earth, and viceversa. While dominant cultures sustain a sense that our species stands apart from the natural world, others have always nourished a deep sense of connection and harmony with Nature.

We can integrate indigenous people into academy, master classes, where they can support reconnection with nature. Education is the key of future generations; building bridges between indigenous knowledge and sciences may lead to a mindset reboot.

Paradoxically, business people who contribute to the disruption of the ecosystem may seek restoration of nature in their free time. Can we help people drop this mask, bearing in mind that actions should be coherent with values, and deepen our connection with nature in business and negotiations?

Be curious about how food arrives on our tables. When we use chemicals on food, we have to be aware that we are consuming them.

The pandemic revealed the limits of globalization and unrestricted capitalism, we have a chance to pursue the few big companies who control the food industry. Policy makers must seize this by encouraging regenerative approaches and pushing action more toward the SDGs. We need to drive the the global food system in regenerative agriculture and redefine profitability. We need to redefine basic notions: what are health, wealth, happiness? There's more money in circulation than ever but we are not happier.

We must find ways to connect with nature while feeding everyone. We need to consult everyone in order to solve these challenges: divisions will not work in terms of food security and nature regeneration, efforts to restore Nature must be participatory.

By according trees, water, soil the dignity and intelligence of living things, we can support reconnection by asking ourselves "is this choice going to cause harm to people or nature?" And realise that these are both the same thing.

ACTION TRACKS

KEYWORDS

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

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3. INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Vision : Our food systems are grounded in and foster solidarity between generations. They provide opportunities for the youth, build on the experience of our elders, and meet the needs for nutritious of all generations.

Food has been disconnected from story, people, and landscape. Connection with food is generally inherited from parents but, generally speaking, today "inheritance has been broken". There is little to inherit in a world where "food is just something on a supermarket shelf and has no story".

Our parents encouraged good practices at home, but these are lost once we start school and emerge into the wider world. The food system we in the West inherit from our parents is the 40-50's food system of convenience and which was supported by an emerging advertising sector which focused on the spectacularizing of food.

In Michigan, speakers mentioned "Taste the Local Distance", an organisation whiose core idea is "taking the small holder farms and making them more mainstream.", specifying that it is not just about artisanal food, but also about building ties with education: "a real change can be made when children go get food and see and know how that food was made and who made it".

"We need A 10 year program and should take national funding to do that".

Another participant agreed on the "broken connection in this intergenerational food transition", reflecting upon the fact that in multicultural societies all of the beautiful food traditions have been subsumed by the industrial food production and processed foods.

An interesting aspect that he brought up was the perception people have of the background of the food they consume: "we take food from this food system that entails labor violation, soil exploitations etc. This is destructive on so many levels, but it is sold to us like happy farms." What he would wish were done for the next generation is thinking more about local food and labelling and focusing attention on understanding where our food comes from, eliciting more interest in indigenous food systems.

The role of "indigenous knowledge in food systems" was commonly stressed.

ACTION TRACKS

KEYWORDS

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4. EDUCATION

Vision : The education and cultural values shared with children and all consumers empowers them to make healthy food choices for them, the planet, and for all members of society.

The group identified 8 areas where education on food and nutrition needs to happen.

First, governments have an important role to play in guiding the public and private sector towards healthy food through taxes, policies, funding, etc.

Second, schools should ensure that education on healthy food and nutrition is included in curricula and that healthy diets are promoted in school meals. Food is vital for children to be able to learn. However, education on food and nutrition is so much more than just memorizing facts. Education on food and education should be needs-based and experiential for children.

Third, parents and families at home also have a role to play in teaching children about the value of food, especially through important cultural experiences, such as cooking or farming. In this context, ancestral knowledge on food and nutrition should be promoted.

Fourth, the private sector can also leverage its marketing and advertising for good and help educate children through labels or packaging. This is especially vital as children do not only learn in school but also in supermarkets when they see food advertised and marketed.

Fifth, NGOs and other stakeholders in the area of food and nutrition need to use synergies and collaborate more often rather than working independently.

Sixth, chefs and other thought or industry leaders can also help with education on food and nutrition by making it fun.

Seventh, farmers can bring us the production side of food closer to us and educate us on how to farm.

And lastly, we need to learn from food and let food be the teacher itself.

ACTION TRACKS

KEYWORDS



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5. PARTNERSHIPS AND DIALOGUE

Vision : Cooperation, empathy, trust and communication establish the foundations for partnerships that enable food systems to provide nutritious foods and social, cultural and economic opportunities for all.

The empowerment and the voice of local, indigenous farmers and their networks is key.

A sustainable food system of partnerships will be a movement at the local level, and that of the town, city, public institutions. The ecology of the future will be place-based with energy and action resting with local authorities. This in turn will lead to better governance, and engagement with people and authorities.

Our current centralised distribution of food extinguishes dialogue. Very few farmers can perhaps manage more than 3 partnerships, and 90% of the retail economy belongs to dominant corporates such as Tesco or Walmart, leading to very expensive (and definitely not local) food.

The priority must be absolutely all about getting the value of the food trade really reaching where it's needed.

If Via Campesina - the practising farmers working with nature- is boycotting the Food Summit, we need to engage them and why they feel it's not listening to them and their needs. We therefore need practical actions involving key stakeholders - farmers, workers, etc- that will work with real practical legal, investment, policy, and other solutions

We recognise we live in challenging times. Promoting biodiversity will only proceed in dialogue with policy makers. But the wrong governance emerges when we exclude women's voices, minorities and indigenous peoples

Any platform through which people can communicate, must bring voices from the ground to an obviate restrictive hierarchies. The predicate for all those working in the food system must be one of empathy, in which nonconventional partnerships are allowed to emerge, inc National representatives from the local farmers. Discussions must remain open, formulated around an action plan with a necessary creativity with whom you engaged, bringing those who really know the food system, giving people a voice, actors that live there, maintaining the environment, visions together.

Stop the world: People have the right to negotiate

The food system in the future will embed values and principles

- Community and reconciliation
- A healing, almost medicinal resiliency
- Dialogue and engagement

• Our energy, supply, network, dominated by large companies, will be reconfigured more equitably from centralized to people, and especially more representative of women

Food equity will include increasing income for small farmers; favouring farmers more as participants, and consumers less so, with more accessible financing and easing capital flows to farmers directly.

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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KEYWORDS



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6. LIFE ECONOMY

Vision : Citizens actively engage in the construction of a "Life Economy" which recognizes, protects and nurtures life - namely health, Nature, social and personal well-being and creativity.

By 2030, we want to re-establish a regenerative relationship with the soil based on traditional practices, but which also facilitates transitional systems to bring food producers and consumers into a new economy.

We need to establish a common understanding of essential baseline markers and substances, such as the wellbeing of our soil and the watershed.

Simultaneously, we require a more sophisticated and attuned understanding of financial flows, especially on what we invest, and the necessity on seeing those investments flow into the hands of those who have their hands in soil.

We need a better and more commonplace understanding of the 9 planetary boundaries and learn best the language of the wellness of the earth and how it correlates to the wellness of the beings.

We need to see the climate crisis in terms of crisis management and use learnings from how we deal with man-made conflicts- and realise that we are indeed at war- and get smart fast.

We need to see the mechanisms of interrelatedness and interconnectedness, equal to complexity, restoring our sense of complexity and learning from nature.

Policy makers need to look at the true value of food, not just look at its cost but also its impact on people and health

We require a design that supports living systems, where humans are understood as interlopers, all we need to do is allow earth to do what it knows best.

Value is currently distributed, and captured at retail level. if you want to change, you have to act on consumers, not just production and producers. Poor people can't afford to buy food for a healthy diet, so they cannot make that choice.

We need to think how we empower those two groups, think about how policies are set, as both voters and consumers. Many of the dialogues are dominated by public sectors and large NGOs and we need to think about how to bring these other voices into the decision making process.

Business is increasingly looking at the necessity of having a systems approach. On this level, we need to understand the true value of food, and also the true cost associated with it: the social and environmental cost.

Science, data and innovation are key, reflecting the hidden cost of land use, and who bears this cost.

We need to evolve a common language of empathy, between ourselves and the earth, and at every junction of the food chain, where we have accord respect and dignity to every vendor, consumer, retailer, farmer, butcher, restaurateur and even to the animals and soil itself.

We require a language of equity, working with natural bio-markers such as soil and watersheds, to create a common language amongst all stakeholders.

We need to bring all parties with us, using digital spaces as open public infrastructure where we can connect as both farmers and citizens.

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ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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KEYWORDS

1	Finance	1	Policy
1	Innovation	1	Data & Evidence
1	Human rights	1	Governance
1	Women & Youth Empowerment	1	Trade-offs
		1	Environment and Climate

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

No particular areas of divergence emerged amongst participants.

ACTION TRACKS

Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

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KEYWORDS

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