

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 27 May 2021 09:00 GMT -06:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Las Agro-tecnologías, herramientas del agricultor para la sostenibilidad agrícola en América Latina
CONVENED BY	Croplife Latin America and IICA
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13462/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of

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

0 0-18 1 19-30 25 31-50 21 51-65 0 66-80 0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

30 Male 17 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

14	Agriculture/crops	7	Education		Health care
	Fish and aquaculture		Communication		Nutrition
	Livestock		Food processing	2	National or local government
	Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets		Utilities
	Environment and ecology		Food industry	23	Industrial
	Trade and commerce	1	Financial Services		Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	0	Workers and trade union
4	Large national business	0	Member of Parliament
3	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
3	Small-scale farmer	2	Government and national institution
4	Medium-scale farmer	0	Regional economic community
4	Large-scale farmer	0	United Nations
6	Local Non-Governmental Organization	1	International financial institution
3	International Non-Governmental Organization	10	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
0	Indigenous People	0	Consumer group
7	Science and academia		Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

A broad invitation was made to various sectors involved with agriculture in several Latin American countries. In this invitation, the Principles of the Summit were shared and the topic was divided into three discussion tables. A friendly space was created in which the urgency and importance of progressing towards more sustainable food systems was discussed, building upon existing innovation and advances. The inclusion of different perspectives and sectors created interesting dialogues within each table, where current policies and scenarios and how to advance them were explored.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

• We had a diversity of sectors participating, which contributed to the debates with different approaches and with holistic proposals that seek to improve agricultural sustainability in Latin America. • Each participant contributed ideas based on what has already been worked on within their sector, and they explored how to advance on what has already been built. • During the general session and in the debate tables, an open and transparent conversation was created, in which each participant was able to share their experience, perspective and ideas. • The participation of different sectors evidenced the complexity of food systems, and the importance of involving each part of the chain in the discussion to progress towards a more sustainable agriculture. Dialogue is not simple, and requires multiple perspectives to understand and explore the different solutions that can be generated. • The participants were very interested in the subject, and expressed the importance of having these dialogues and of generating concrete solutions to a complex system.

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

The basic principle is to have a great diversity of participants. This will generate an enriched dialogue, lead towards the exploration and understanding of the complexity of the system, learn about the work that is already being carried out, and move forward together and urgently.

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 central theme of the Dialogue Agro-technologies, farmer tools for agricultural sustainability in Latin America was INNOVATION and NEW TECHNOLOGIES as solutions to improve agricultural productivity in a sustainable way and respond to the challenges posed by the Pathways of Action of the Summit and the Sustainable Development Goals, SDG.

Currently some of the difficulties faced by the adoption of new technologies by farmers in Latin America are:

- Over-regulation or outdated legislation
- Lack of confidence in science and in the scientific data that support new technologies
- The absence of suitable mechanisms to transfer technologies particularly to small / medium farmers.
- The educational lag and difficulties of access to information technologies of small farmers.

How to overcome these obstacles and move forward with actions that allow the adoption of more sustainable technologies was the challenge we raised in this Dialogue, along with another challenge faced by farmers in Latin America who export their products: the official and private obstacles that are imposed in international trade through private certifications or public policies that ignore the particularities of production in Latin America.

The participants in this dialogue discussed these issues in three debate rooms. The main proposals are set out below.

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

1. It is necessary to migrate towards an efficient and comprehensive agriculture based on sustainability that is not defined based on the production system: conventional, organic, hydroponic, ecological, etc. and focus on producing in a sustainable way with the integration of the best possible practices.
2. Small farmers must have greater access to new technologies, particularly information technologies (Apps, GPS, etc.), and maintain over time the adoption of technologies with indicators that allow evaluating their benefits.
3. Technical assistance programs should be strengthened with the participation of academia, governments and large producers with knowledge to share with the small ones. They should include more effective communication about the benefits of new technologies so that farmers can understand, adopt and use them appropriately.
4. A mediating entity can facilitate the transition and implementation of a more sustainable agriculture, connecting producers, marketers, governments and academia to apply sustainable technologies and practices that are valued by consumers.
5. It is necessary to update regulations and harmonize regulatory criteria at the regional level. In addition to science-based regulations, a positive political will is required in favor of the adoption of new technologies.
6. The academic and scientific community must play a more leading role in discussions for decision-making by governments and congresses. Many decisions about technology adoption are made under pressure from public opinion, based on fear, not science.
7. Private certifications in their objective of advancing towards sustainability ignore and minimize the socio-economic context and geographical conditions of the tropical climates of Latin America. As a result, they require production conditions far removed from the reality of Latin American fields, particularly in the control of pests, weeds and diseases.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

Discussion topic 1

How to advance in the adoption of agro-technologies that facilitate the implementation of sustainable food systems?

1. Migrate towards an agriculture based on sustainability that is perceived as part of the solution. The inefficiencies of agricultural production can be solved through the integration and correct use of new and existing technologies, such as drones, NBTs, and precision agriculture, which can be measured by indicators: carbon footprint, efficiency in the use of water, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium. This effort must be valued by the value chain that goes from the producer, the industry and the consumer, so that it can be consolidated. An integrated, articulated agriculture interconnected in sustainability will be a type of production that can evolve towards continuous improvement with measurable indicators. An integrated system also allows the triple helix, academy-industry-government, to provide solutions on a common goal, which is sustainable production. This requires a validator that allows integrating the system and a value proposition.

a. Validator or independent agent For the small and medium farmer to be able to access the main markets and for their effort to be recognized on the basis of sustainability, a dialogue and an alliance with the large marketers, the value chain, and agricultural producers is necessary. This requires that neutral institutions such as IICA have the capacity to bring large buyers to the same table, with small and medium farmers in a dialogue where neutral institutions balance their forces in the disproportion between small farmers / large traders. This mechanism makes it possible to provide sustainable solutions and strengthen the system linked to the triple helix (academy-industry-government) with a view to developing standards and practices that avoid over-regulation, allow economic access to technologies, and recognize the associated value to sustainability by the production chain.

b. A value proposition with organized farmers, digital platforms with indicators and recognition of sustainability. It is essential that farmers organize themselves into associations, cooperatives or similar organizations. The consolidation of agricultural producers' associations should be promoted as the tool through which they can be seen, heard and have the strength and representativeness necessary to work with economic agents (government, market, academia, etc.) There must be a connection of the system through public-private-social digital platforms in favor of sustainable agriculture and having sustainability indicators recognized throughout the chain.

2. It is essential to avoid over-regulation of agricultural technologies

Access to technology is impaired by over-regulation and slow and bureaucratic regulations that result in limited access to technologies and, eventually, in the illegal flow of agricultural inputs. On the contrary, science-based and expeditious standards allow the arrival of agricultural production technologies, guarantee formal access, and more sustainable production.

The European vision on the use of technologies does not take into account the needs of the main food producing countries, which translates into excessive regulations that ignore, as well as private (secondary) standards, the conditions of production and the geography of Latin America. This over-regulation may end up being imposed in the region with negative consequences by delaying the arrival and adoption of technologies or contributing to the illegal trade of the same.

3. Improving communication of the benefits of innovations and the science that supports them, and reducing the distance between academia and politics, are essential factors for a better understanding of scientific data in the definition of public policies.

Although in Latin America academia and scientists have worked to help and inform about science being the basis for legislative and regulatory decisions, greater efforts are needed in this area. It is necessary for universities and academics to be more proactive and willing to take science out of the laboratories and take it into public policy definiti

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Discussion topic 2

How to ensure that the regulation of new technologies facilitates access for all farmers, particularly those of medium and small scale?

1. Regulatory systems must be updated to promote and facilitate the adoption of the SDGs

Some of the regulatory frameworks in Latin America must be modernized in light of compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, they must also encourage the use of environmentally friendly technologies, prioritize scientific and technical data over public perceptions and be designed with regulatory criteria that are regionally harmonized. The modernization of laws under these approaches will positively impact better access to export markets, as well as greater traceability of the correct use of technologies.

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More effective communication to the general public (consumers) is also necessary for them to understand the use of technologies in agriculture and the science that demonstrates their safe use.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

Discussion topic 3:

How to overcome the obstacles to international trade imposed by certifications and residue requirements that vary according to destination markets by 2030?

1. The concept of shared responsibility is essential to advance the sustainability of agriculture

Positioning the concept of shared responsibility is necessary to avoid that all the onus that sustainability demands falls on the farmer, and is shared throughout the value chain, particularly when it comes to export products dependent on private certifications or policies such as the Green Deal of the European Union.

2. Private certifications must recognize the geographic and production characteristics of Latin America

The requirements established in private certifications must (i) be the product of a dialogue between the entire value chain, (ii) be based on science and technique, and (iii) pay special attention to production conditions in Latin America, both in terms of the existence of pests and diseases, as in its geography.

3. Consumers must understand the conditions around food production in Latin America Today consumers are more and better informed, and prefer to purchase food produced with certified socio-environmental standards, for this reason it is necessary to sensitize them so that they can dimension food production in all its complexity, especially the conditions imposed by tropical climates.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Only one area of divergence was presented related to how informed consumers are of food production.

The doubts around this issue revolved around:

- Are we talking about consumers who have a greater sensitivity to social and environmental issues, or are we dealing with consumers who are not so aware of these aspects and instead their preferences when buying are based on other reasons such as price?
- Do consumers who value a certified product really know the conditions surrounding such production?
- Is the informed consumer aware of the conditions surrounding production? Are they willing to assume part of the costs and / or financial burdens that the farmer must bear in his activity?

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Agro-technologies, farmers tools' for sustainable agriculture in Latin America**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Official-feedback-Dialogue-CLLA-IICA-.pdf>

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Abrazar la ciencia y la innovación es clave para una agricultura más sustentable**
<https://www.croplifela.org/es/actualidad/noticias/abrazar-la-ciencia-y-la-innovacion-es-clave-para-una-agricultura-mas-sustentable>