

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 8 June 2021 09:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Swiss National Food Systems Summit Dialogue “From Challenges to Actions”: Stage 3
CONVENED BY	The Delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13519/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Switzerland

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

112

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18 15 19-30 65 31-50 31 51-65 1 66-80 0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

50 Male 61 Female 1 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

7	Agriculture/crops	10	Education	3	Health care
0	Fish and aquaculture	2	Communication	0	Nutrition
3	Livestock	3	Food processing	37	National or local government
2	Agro-forestry	2	Food retail, markets	0	Utilities
8	Environment and ecology	8	Food industry	0	Industrial
1	Trade and commerce	0	Financial Services	26	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

7	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	0	Workers and trade union
3	Large national business	0	Member of Parliament
7	Multi-national corporation	9	Local authority
0	Small-scale farmer	29	Government and national institution
0	Medium-scale farmer	1	Regional economic community
0	Large-scale farmer	1	United Nations
14	Local Non-Governmental Organization	0	International financial institution
2	International Non-Governmental Organization	7	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
0	Indigenous People	3	Consumer group
13	Science and academia	16	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The third stage of this Swiss National Food Systems Summit Dialogue (FSSD) was held virtually on 8 June 2021. It brought together more than 110 food systems representatives. During this event, the participants took part in BREAK-OUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS on topics related to food systems transformation. These discussions constituted the core of the event. In order to build on each other's experiences, proposals and contributions and to promote a lively interaction, the discussion groups consisted of stakeholders who had SPECIFIC EXPERTISE on the topic discussed in their group, but also of non-expert participants who could bring a NEW AND DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE. Each participant was allocated to a discussion group prior to the event. The group discussions brought together a wide range of stakeholders and allowed for a CONSTRUCTIVE AND FRUITFUL EXCHANGE. The CHATHAM HOUSE RULE applied to all the discussions in the break-out groups, in order to create a safe space for exchange in which NEW IDEAS could be generated and BOLD SOLUTIONS found. In addition, participants were reminded that mutual respect is the basis of a true dialogue, and that it involves listening and being open to different points of view. The stakeholders were encouraged to be actively engaged throughout the event. Besides the break-out group discussions, they were invited to submit questions and comments in the chat of the virtual platform during the plenary sessions.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

In order to address food systems issues through a HOLISTIC APPROACH, MULTI-STAKEHOLDER GROUP DISCUSSIONS were organised. The topics discussed in each break-out group were formulated in the form of short, ambitious statements, to be realised by 2030. In their exchange, the participants were asked to think of concrete actions allowing to achieve the statement of their group, bearing in mind potential synergies and trade-offs. The eight statements – discussed in eleven groups – were developed on the basis of the FIVE ACTION TRACKS (ATs) OF THE FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT (FSS), and of the food systems approach of the 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (SDS), as well as of other strategies of the Federal Council. In this way, the dialogue also contributed to the discussion in Switzerland on the development and implementation of various policy instruments. With its SDS, the Federal Council sets out how it intends to implement the 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) over the next ten years. The SDS indicates four strategic directions to accelerate the transition to more sustainable food systems in Switzerland and abroad. These directions are: 1) fostering sustainable diets; 2) decreasing food wastage; 3) increasing sustainability along the food value chain; and 4) strengthening the resilience of the food system.

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

N/A

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

In preparation for the Food Systems Summit (FSS) in September 2021, Switzerland decided to implement a MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT DIALOGUE (FSSD) AT NATIONAL LEVEL. This Dialogue took place in THREE STAGES, from March to June 2021. Through this innovative approach, interested actors had the opportunity to contribute to the FSS by discussing their roles within their food systems, reflecting on new forms of joint action, and getting involved in building the food systems of the future.

The third stage of this Swiss National FSSD was held virtually on 8 June 2021. Under the title "From Challenges to Actions", it brought together more than 110 FOOD SYSTEMS REPRESENTATIVES, with the aim to identify pathways to sustainable food systems by 2030, to discuss how to implement these pathways, and to talk about possible intentions from the different stakeholders.

For this purpose, the participants were invited to engage in BREAK-OUT GROUP DISCUSSIONS on a specific topic of importance for the transformation of our food systems. These discussions constituted the core of the event. The EIGHT TOPICS proposed for this third stage were: 1) Sustainable food environment; 2) Sustainable food demand and sustainable diets; 3) Sustainable production; 4) Climate change mitigation; 5) Adaptation to environmental changes, resilience and food security; 6) Food waste (avoidable waste and losses); 7) Socio-economic dimensions of the agri-food sector; and 8) Entrepreneurship, innovation, science and technology.

These topics were formulated in the form of short statements, describing an ambitious situation to be realised within ten years and serving as a common goal for the discussion group. In their exchange, the participants were asked to think of CONCRETE ACTIONS to be undertaken by themselves or their respective organisations IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS in order to achieve the statement assigned to their group by 2030, bearing in mind the synergies and trade-offs inherent to this transformation.

The eight statements – discussed in eleven groups – were developed on the basis of the FIVE ACTION TRACKS (ATs) OF THE FSS, and of the food systems approach of the 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (SDS) of the Federal Council. In this way, the dialogue also contributed to the discussion in Switzerland on the development and implementation of various policy instruments. The SDS indicates four strategic directions to accelerate the transition to more sustainable food systems in Switzerland and abroad. These directions are: 1) fostering sustainable diets; 2) decreasing food waste; 3) increasing sustainability along the food value chain; and 4) strengthening the resilience of the food system. All of the eight topics of the FSSD were aligned with these four directions of the SDS.

This event constituted the third and last stage in the process of the multi-stakeholder National FSSD of Switzerland. It built upon a first national workshop held on 23 March 2021 during which participants addressed the challenges of their food systems and discussed concrete actions to support their transformation, and a series of "City Dialogues" organised in May 2021 in three linguistic regions of the country by the Cities of Bellinzona, Basel, Geneva, Lausanne and Zurich in collaboration with Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation on behalf of the Federal Office for Agriculture of Switzerland (FOAG) to discuss possible solutions at local level.

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

The GROUP DISCUSSIONS allowed for a constructive and fruitful exchange, in a pleasant atmosphere, and reached the following main results:

- (1) Participants called for the development and implementation of a **HOLISTIC, CROSS-SECTORIAL FOOD STRATEGY**, respectively **POLICY**, which would cover agriculture, nutrition, environment and public health, with **QUANTITATIVE TARGETS**. Its objectives should be defined at national level by the Confederation. Some participants suggested revising the Swiss Food Pyramid, to integrate in it the three dimensions of sustainability. Others expressed the need to develop a **COMMON UNDERSTANDING** of what healthy and sustainable foods are.
- (2) In addition to policy measures, participants recommended to seize the momentum created by the preparations for the Food Systems Summit to establish a **REGULAR DIALOGUE** with a **SYSTEMIC APPROACH** at national level. In one group, the stakeholders discussed the creation of a “**HOUSE OF FOOD – IMPACT HUB**”, mainly as an independent body supporting existing local networks and ensuring their coordination, bringing together main actors and experts. Collaboration must take place with **ALL STAKEHOLDERS ALONG THE VALUE CHAINS** and with the **WHOLE SOCIETY**. Currently, the population seems not to know the Swiss agriculture well enough.
- (3) We should tackle the **WEAKNESSES** and **IMBALANCES** along our food value chains, such as the inequitable **REPARTITION OF THE VALUE ADDED**, unfair prices, and low income of farmers. Some participants were of the opinion that we need to change our paradigm, by considering the value/quality of food holistically, rather than seeking to maximise its output/quantity. Several responses exist, such as: increased **TRANSPARENCY** and the setting of the **TRUE COST OF FOOD**; income security for farmers through a guarantee or scheme to share risks; and a better recognition and remuneration of ecosystem services.
- (4) Participants identified **AWARENESS RAISING** and **EDUCATION** as primary means to transform of our food systems. In order for the consumers to take **INFORMED DECISIONS**, we need a system that collects, processes and publicises information, in a – again – **TRANSPARENT** and **HOLISTIC** manner. We should set up a clear, consistent and comprehensive **LABELLING**. In several groups, participants supported the introduction of a **SUSTAINABILITY INDICATOR** for **BOTH DOMESTIC AND IMPORTED** products, or even of a double system providing the **PRICE TO BE PAID** and the **TRUE PRICE/COST OF FOOD INCLUDING EXTERNALITIES**. **MARKETING** targeted at children should be limited.
- (5) In contrast to efforts building upon our individual responsibility, participants also discussed **BANNING** unsustainable items from our shelves. In other words, **WE SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN THE CHOICE ANYMORE TO BUY UNSUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS**. To accompany these measures, we would need an adequate social policy for households with reduced financial means. On a related note, criteria of sustainability should complement, or even replace, those of prices in **PUBLIC** and **PRIVATE PROCUREMENTS**.
- (6) **RESEARCH, INNOVATION, DIGITALISATION** and **NEW TECHNOLOGIES** were considered crucial to transform our food systems, provided that they are **SITE-ADAPTED**. Innovation must be understood broadly, including non-traditional knowledge generation. **PREPAREDNESS** activities, such as surveillance, should be better communicated to producers, bridging the gap between farmers and scientists. The legal framework should better support the application of new technologies, including through entrepreneurship, and help young farmers start farming.
- (7) Some of the current farming methods and practices must be reviewed if we want to **MITIGATE** our environmental impact – on climate, but also on biodiversity. Participants considered using feed additives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, applying a carbon tax, and renouncing to **SOYBEAN** meal from tropical regions in livestock feed. One major suggestion to **ADAPT** to climate change consisted in developing models to determine which elements of our food systems would be most affected. Some participants stated that local consumption and short supply chains should be favoured, in order to retain control over how food is produced. Finally, the **AGRICULTURAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING** should integrate the topics of climate change and sustainability.
- (8) In terms of **FOOD WASTAGE**, we must optimise our valorisation of **BY-PRODUCTS** and facilitate access to **SURPLUSES**, as well as improve the legislation on **BEST-BEFORE DATES**. We also need a legal basis to apply already existing technologies assessing **EDIBILITY** of food items.

In addition, the stakeholders communicated a wide range of intentions during the break-out group discussions, related to several sectors along the food value chains.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
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- ✓ 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 - 1/8

TOPIC 1: SUSTAINABLE FOOD ENVIRONMENT

In two separate groups, participants discussed how the food environment in Switzerland could become more sustainable, involving stakeholders in the processing, retail and catering industries, and enabling consumers to eat according to the recommendations of the Swiss Food Pyramid, as follows:

- (1) A “HOUSE OF FOOD – IMPACT HUB” should be created, as an independent body to support existing local networks (e.g. through providing data measuring sustainability along the value chains) and to ensure their coordination. This House of Food could possibly bear an additional supervisory, normative function. It should be organised as a network, or permanent working group, bringing together the main actors and experts. However, participants also wondered how to fund this House of Food, and to guarantee its independence.
- (2) A REGULAR DIALOGUE with a SYSTEMIC APPROACH should take place at national level. The participants suggested that, to ensure exchange and networking between actors, the House of Food could hold an annual conference. In general, they recommend that this dialogue utilise existing structures (e.g. platforms), and reach “multipliers” (e.g. teachers, all levels of administration, and food industry). Amongst others objectives, it should seek to communicate on the 2030 AGENDA, to bridge the gap between producers and consumers, and to focus on major levers such as the plant-based proteins VS animal source foods, as well as the fight against food waste.
- (3) We should better DISSEMINATE KNOWLEDGE. Issues related to sustainable food systems and sustainable diets should be integrated into EDUCATION CURRICULA (e.g. of pupils, students, doctors, dietitians, restaurateurs, and intermediaries), both theoretically and practically. We need to communicate on the value and meaning of food. Several initiatives already exist, but due to lack of capacity, resources and/or interest from teachers, they sometimes have difficulties to reach beneficiaries in schools. In addition, increased TRANSPARENCE (e.g. labels on sustainability for both domestic and imported items) and AWARENESS RAISING should facilitate the transmission of information to consumers, and make sure to reach people who are not yet sensitised. The participants advised to target young people, and recommended to make use of social media and work with influencers. Specific funds should be dedicated to these different activities, through commitment at political level. Some participants also suggested revising the Swiss Food Pyramid, in order to go beyond its currently exclusively nutritional approach and to integrate the three dimensions of sustainability.
- (4) Our FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS should support the implementation of more sustainable food systems. In particular, participants called for the creation of a HOLISTIC FOOD POLICY and more COHERENCE AT FEDERAL LEVEL (e.g. nutritional recommendations VS agricultural policy on sugar, and shift of subsidies to healthier foods such as fruits and vegetables). Overall, CROSS-SECTORAL COORDINATION should be improved at local and national levels, through sectoral agreements, related policies, virtual marketing platforms and local networks.
- (5) PROCUREMENT, both PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, could serve as powerful way to make our food environment more sustainable. A related ALLIANCE should be constituted. The participants underlined that criteria of quality should be re-thought (e.g. to market crooked carrots), as well as quantity (e.g. not to have all items available in supermarkets until closing time).

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 - 2/8

TOPIC 2: SUSTAINABLE FOOD DEMAND AND SUSTAINABLE DIETS

In this group, stakeholders discussed how to make people better aware of the importance of sustainable diets – in their environmental, socio-cultural, healthy and nutritional dimensions – and how to encourage them to better observe the recommendations of the Swiss Food Pyramid, as follows:

(1) In order to foster sustainable food consumption, participants identified several measures, such as: RAISING AWARENESS of consumers and providing them with adequate INFORMATION on supplied items; in SCHOOLS, having compulsory nutrition courses, making fresh and sustainable products more easily available (e.g. in vending machines and canteens), and organising field visits to farms; establishing the TRUE COST OF FOOD through taxes; in the CATERING SECTOR, limiting the size of portions and offering the possibility to take home unfinished meals; and maintaining BORDER PROTECTION to guarantee access to fresh, quality products. Although participants talked about the food demand, they called for a transformation of the FOOD SUPPLY, towards more sustainable products. These various measures require the involvement of all stakeholders, and a good collaboration between political representatives, public actors, the civil society and the food industry.

(2) Specifically, we should set up a more consistent and comprehensive LABELLING, and reduce its current complexity. The participants supported the introduction of a COMMON SUSTAINABILITY INDICATOR for domestic and imported products, which would facilitate the comparison between all items. As a condition to this, we need to develop a COMMON UNDERSTANDING of what healthy and sustainable foods are. In addition, MARKETING targeted at children should be limited.

(3) Participants discussed the definition of a 2050 FOOD POLICY, which would cover agriculture, nutrition, environment and public health, in a CROSS-SECTORIAL manner. This definition process should be bottom-up, and provide a framework for joint reflection (e.g. (extra-)parliamentary committee). The means dedicated to the 2030 Agenda should be increased.

ACTION TRACKS

	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
✓	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
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	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 - 3/8

TOPIC 3: SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

In two separate groups, stakeholders discussed how plant and animal productions, as well as the processing, retailing and catering sectors, could promote a more sustainable agriculture, with regard to local conditions, biodiversity, animal welfare, nutrients, natural resources, as well as circularity, as follows:

(1) **PLANNING AND INCOME SECURITY** for farmers should be ensured by political framework conditions. Participants pointed out the fact that markets require swift (re-)actions, while producers only have limited room for manoeuvre, as they depend on natural processes (e.g. from seed selection to harvest). Therefore, they need a guarantee, respectively a scheme to share risks, in order to make sure to sell their products on fair terms. In addition, the participants called for a better **REPARTITION OF THE VALUE ADDED** along the supply chains, as part of the economic dimension of sustainability. To achieve this, farmers need, on one hand, to tackle the issue of margins and prices, in particular those set at the retailing level. In their exchange with the retailers, farmers should seek to involve representatives from the industry/sector and some decision-makers. On the other hand, they should reduce their dependency on inputs suppliers (e.g. for seeds and plant protection products). On a related note, participants asked for more **TRANSPARENCY**, together with the **TRUE COST OF FOOD** (e.g. black box between producers' and consumers' prices). Finally, the provision of multiple **ECOSYSTEM SERVICES** by farmers should be better **RECOGNISED, VALUED AND REMUNERATED** (e.g. food production, cultural landscape preservation, biodiversity conservation, and cultural values).

(2) Collaboration must take place with **ALL STAKEHOLDERS ALONG THE VALUE CHAINS** and with the **WHOLE SOCIETY**. Some participants identified **CONSUMER** education as essential to transform our food systems, and suggested to have a direct dialogue between farmers and consumer organisations. Currently, the population seems not to know the Swiss agriculture well enough. In response to this situation, farmers should communicate more concretely about what they do. The **TRADING, RETAILING AND CATERING** sectors must as well participate to the efforts towards more sustainability. A good example of economic value added and improved sustainability lies in the selling of regional products. In procurements, criteria of sustainability should replace those of prices. Finally, the **INDUSTRY/SECTOR** and the **ASSOCIATIONS** have an important role in defining what sustainability means to them, and in setting related goals, possibly on a voluntary basis. We should develop a **FOOD POLICY**, for instance through a food parliament or citizens' council.

(3) **INNOVATION, DIGITALISATION** and the adoption of **NEW TECHNOLOGIES** were considered crucial means to make agriculture more sustainable, however under the condition that they give a direct benefit to farmers. Participants warned that technological innovation is not a silver bullet and that it must be **SITE-ADAPTED**. They recalled that globally uniform solutions could cause a loss of biodiversity (e.g. seeds), and that we should pursue a sustainable intensification and increase resilience in the system (e.g. animal breeding). Specifically in terms of digitalisation, one meaningful application could be the implementation of a tool to collect data on the environmental footprint of all actors in the food value chains. Finally, the participants also asked themselves how to foster the **TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE**.

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 - 4/8

TOPIC 4: CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

In this group, stakeholders discussed how to reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint of the domestic final food demand along the whole value chain in Switzerland and abroad, as well as the GHG emissions of the domestic agricultural production, acknowledging that this transformative process should ensure fair socio-economic conditions to affected actors, as follows:

(1) Some of the current **FARMING METHODS AND PRACTICES** need to be reviewed if we want to lower our environmental impact – on climate, but also on biodiversity. Participants identified several options, such as: the utilisation of **QUOTAS** to decrease livestock; the use, in animal nutrition, of **FEED ADDITIVES** to reduce GHG emissions; the creation of a **CARBON TAX**; and the introduction of **CERTIFICATES** by units of fertilisers. In implementing these measures, the Confederation should publish guidelines, and the research should evaluate their impact. One important additional step would consist in renouncing to **SOYBEAN** meal from tropical regions in the livestock feed, through incentives rather than bans. In general, the production should be **SITE-ADAPTED**. We should think of which foods could be produced locally around cities, then in the broader region, and then at national level or even beyond. In the same line, we should prioritise seasonal products over imported ones. Finally, the **AGRICULTURAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING** should integrate the topics of climate change and sustainability.

(2) Participants agreed that we should adopt a **SYSTEMIC, CROSS-SECTORIAL APPROACH** (e.g. addressing sustainability, environment and health). Amongst others, they discussed: the setting of sustainability criteria in **PUBLIC PROCUREMENTS**; the introduction of **LABELS**; and the fight against **FOOD WASTE** (e.g. through a better use of proteins from slaughterhouse waste, harmonised methods of measurement, and awareness raising for consumers). Beyond this, the general **COMMUNICATION** around climate change should be improved. We should show that all parties have a role to play, and that a broad coalition of willing actors already exists.

ACTION TRACKS

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

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/8

TOPIC 5: ADAPTATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES, RESILIENCE AND FOOD SECURITY

In this group, stakeholders discussed how the Swiss food system could become more adaptive to the consequences of global warming and to other environmental challenges, and more resilient to crises and shocks, while ensuring food security and nutrition for present and future generations, as follows:

(1) **PREPAREDNESS** activities, such as the surveillance of natural disasters, plant pests and animal diseases, should be better communicated to producers, to bridge the gap between farmers and scientists. We should not only respond to climate change in Switzerland, but also abroad, underlining that the domestic and foreign food systems are closely interlinked. In addition, we must regain **DIVERSITY** and ensure practices, varieties and breeds that are locally **ADAPTED** (e.g. through replanted seeds). Generally, **TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATION** are crucial to strengthen our resilience. The legal framework should better support their application, including through entrepreneurship. One major suggestion consisted in developing models to determine which elements of our food systems would be most affected by climate and other environmental changes. Participants also recommended to identify the foods that we should produce primarily in Switzerland.

(2) **WEAKNESSES** and **IMBALANCES** along our value chains should be tackled. Some participants were of the opinion that our current political and economic framework hinders the realisation of sustainable food systems in their socio-economic (e.g. unfair prices, and low income of farmers) and environmental dimensions. We need to change our paradigm, by considering the value/quality of food holistically, rather than seeking to maximise its output/quantity. Citizens should be sensitised and empowered (e.g. through urban farming). In terms of **FOOD SECURITY**, local consumption and short supply chains should be favoured, in order to retain control on how food is produced. Incentives should help young farmers start farming and adopt new technologies. Regarding imports, it was even suggested to enter into international "solidarity" agreements with countries, to ensure fair conditions to producers abroad.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/8

TOPIC 6: FOOD WASTAGE (AVOIDABLE WASTE AND LOSSES)

In this group, stakeholders discussed how to reduce avoidable food waste in Switzerland and avoidable food losses along the value chains of food consumed in Switzerland – ensuring that food produced in Switzerland and abroad reaches Swiss consumers, as follows:

(1) AWARENESS RAISING and EDUCATION are key to fight food wastage. Food skills should be strengthened (e.g. knowledge about best-before dates, recipes on the use of leftovers, and improved information on packaging), involving the administration(s), media, schools, farmers, and industry. Related criteria could be integrated in sales promotion measures. In addition, employees in the industry/sector should be better sensitised about food donations – the initiative should be taken within companies, not imposed from the outside. A double system providing the PRICE TO BE PAID and the TRUE PRICE/COST OF FOOD INCLUDING EXTERNALITIES should be introduced, and a bold pricing policy should be implemented to internalise as much as possible these external costs (e.g. raising prices of out-of-season food items).

(2) We must optimise our valorisation of BY-PRODUCTS. We should seek to increase the demand of consumers for by-products (e.g. wholemeal flour) through information and awareness raising, to better use by-products for feeding animals (e.g. whey proteins instead of soybean proteins), to facilitate access to by-products for start-ups to develop new products (including non-food), and to recycle by-products or convert them into energy. We should also ensure an easier and quicker access to SURPLUSES. We could develop apps informing donation recipients, and IT systems controlling processes and ensuring coordination. We should adapt the legislation on BEST-BEFORE DATES – participants noted, however, that in Switzerland it is often indicated "to be consumed preferably before" on packages, and suggested to have an extended best-before date to facilitate resale or donations. Finally, technologies assessing EDIBILITY already exist (e.g. droplets placed on packaging to inform if its content is still consumable), and we now need a legal basis to apply them.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 7/8

TOPIC 7: SOCIO-ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS OF THE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

In this group, stakeholders discussed how actors along the food value chains could benefit from a fair distribution of the value added and decent employment conditions, in Switzerland and abroad, as follows:

(1) Participants identified consumers' **AWARENESS RAISING** and **EDUCATION** as important measures to support people with their food choices. Related topics should be taught (e.g. at primary, secondary and/or vocational level). We should focus on kindergarten and schools (e.g. provisions of sustainable, including healthy, food for children), as well as catering in high schools, universities and large companies. Campaigns should be launched, and advertising of unsustainable products should be limited (e.g. in case of high amounts of sugar, similar to the situation with nicotine and alcohol). In addition, we could bring together famous cooks via social media. These various efforts should be targeted at those who are not convinced by the necessity to transform our food systems, yet. Ultimately, consumers are responsible for getting information and applying it (e.g. check ingredients, as well as production, processing and distribution conditions). On a related note, **PUBLIC PROCUREMENT** should make sure to favour sustainable food, including for imported products, beyond the exclusively economic criteria of prices.

(2) The **TRUE COST OF FOOD** should be set (e.g. through price premiums determined on the basis of sustainability report by stakeholders, the introduction of incentives in the form of taxes, the complete alignment of the Swiss direct payments with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or declarations on water consumption and greenhouse gas emissions of products). To calculate this true cost of food, a coherent methodology should be developed. Our system should become more **TRANSPARENT**, including by disclosing the **DISTRIBUTION OF THE VALUE ADDED** along the value chains.

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 - 8/8

TOPIC 8: ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In this group, stakeholders discussed how to make the agri-food sector more sustainable, entrepreneurial and innovative, while considering its know-how and the quality of its products, applying results from scientific research and development, using the latest technologies, benefitting from digitalisation, being future-oriented and ensuring food security and nutrition, as follows:

- (1) In the first place, participants declared that we need a **FOOD STRATEGY**, with clear **QUANTITATIVE TARGETS** related to our food systems (e.g. on food waste and greenhouse gas emissions). Objectives should be defined at national level by the Confederation. It is regrettable that Switzerland's Long-Term Climate Strategy, which specifically addresses the greenhouse gas emission from the food and agriculture sector, does not include any target on food consumption. Likewise, there is no holistic food strategy comprehending both sustainability and health issues.
- (2) The participants also recommended seizing the momentum created by the preparations for the Food Systems Summit and **CONTINUING THIS NATIONAL DIALOGUE**, possibly in the form of an annual event, as well as through working groups, exchange platforms and living labs. In general, the communication, collaboration and networking between stakeholders along the value chains were considered beneficial, in particular for what regards producers and consumers.
- (3) We need to ensure that **CONSUMERS** are in a position to take **INFORMED DECISIONS**. For this, we need a uniform system that collects, processes, consolidates and publicises the necessary, adequate information, beyond an exclusively economic approach, in a **TRANSPARENT** and **HOLISTIC** manner (e.g. through labels, check-tools, and databases). **DIGITALISATION** can play a key role in implementing it. Participants argued that the private sector should seek to be more involved – acting beyond purely marketing purposes – and that the public sector should lay the foundations for such a system. They stressed that, to make sure to reach consumers and to support them in making sustainable purchases, the provided information needs to be clear. **AWARENESS RAISING** activities, with concrete indicators making possible to assess their impact, as well as **EDUCATION**, can complement these measures.
- (4) In contrast to efforts aiming at providing information and raising awareness amongst consumers, which build upon our individual responsibility, participants also discussed the applications of requirements and conditions that would lead to ban from our shelves the unsustainable items. In other words, **WE SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN THE CHOICE ANYMORE TO BUY UNSUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS**. In implementing these measures, the participants recognised that we would need to accompany them with an adequate social policy, to guarantee the access to sustainable products to all households, including those with reduced financial means.
- (5) **INNOVATION** and **RESEARCH** should be promoted. For this, silos must be overcome, including at federal, canton and city levels. Innovation must be understood more broadly, including non-traditional knowledge generation. On a strategic level, niche projects must serve as a basis for scaling up activities, and innovative, progressive projects should allow for fostering transdisciplinary activities, even on a small level. Finally, there is also a need for participatory, bottom-up research.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The GROUP DISCUSSIONS gathered more than 110 representatives, who affirmed their will to contribute to the transformation of our food systems, without denying nor shifting responsibilities to other stakeholders. Although participants tended to agree on the issues at stake, several challenges and trade-offs were identified:

(1) **POLICY FRAMEWORKS:** There was considerable discussion concerning the role and impact of politics, including at federal level. Although measures from government in form of regulations and prohibitions could be effective in transforming our food systems, participants also pointed out that this would strongly interfere with the market. It was also argued that only individual responsibility could ultimately generate sustainable patterns of action. While some participants emphasised that even small, local projects can make waves and are promising due to their bottom-up character, others objected that no fundamental change is possible without adequate political framework conditions. Similarly, awareness raising was declared as important, but in general, it has a limited impact compared to more structural measures such as subsidy policies and imports regulations. The groups concluded that a healthy mix of all factors is necessary: bottom-up and top-down processes; large distributors and the state; initiatives at local, regional and national level; regulation and personal responsibility.

(2) **PRICING:** The discussions identified the pricing policies as a sticking point in the sustainable transformation of our food systems. On the one hand, some participants were convinced that the Swiss population generally spends little on food, and that producers and other stakeholders need to be compensated adequately in order to switch to more sustainable practices. Some considered pricing mechanisms and the distribution of the value added and margins to be a black box. On the other hand, it was noted that no one wants to buy unsustainably, but that pricing is still crucial for certain segments of the population when it comes to purchasing decisions. With this in mind, there was a divergence on how true cost accounting could positively contribute to sustainable behaviour.

(3) **STANDARDS AND LABELLING:** There was some disagreement on the effectiveness of standards and labelling. In particular, some participants argued that it is difficult to properly evaluate and measure the compliance with these standards (e.g. on greenhouse gas emissions). In addition, standards and labels might limit access to markets for smallholders and even allow greenwashing.

(4) **CONSUMERS' LEVERAGE:** There was a divergence on the question of what elements and/or activities of the value chains has the bigger leverage effect in making our food systems more sustainable. Whereas some participants found that direct marketing and a relationship between consumers and producers are crucial, others stated that the "large" market is still the driving force in our food systems and can in turn be less influenced by consumers. Also, advertisement, understanding of sustainability, political frameworks, time and income are key. Thus, transparency is important and relevant but does not guarantee action.

(5) **HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE DIETS:** Whereas many participants emphasised the need for information and awareness raising about healthy nutrition, others countered that there is no recognised definition of what sustainable (including healthy) diets are. Participants also expressed the necessity to revise the Swiss Food Pyramid in order to include the three dimensions of sustainability (economic, social and environmental) in it.

ACTION TRACKS

✓	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
✓	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
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✓	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

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Switzerland National FSSD participants sectors and stakeholder groups**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Switzerland_National_FSSD_participants_sectors_and_stakeholder_groups.pdf
- **Switzerland National FSSD thematischer Inhalt DE**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Switzerland_National_FSSD_thematischer_Inhalt_DE-1.pdf
- **Switzerland National FSSD contenu thématique FR**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Switzerland_National_FSSD_contenu_thematique_FR.pdf