

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 4 May 2021 10:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Securing Land Tenure Rights for Sustainable and Inclusive Food Systems - Asia
CONVENED BY	International Land Coalition (ILC); European Commission (EC); GIZ; LANDac and Netherlands Enterprise Agency; MoFA of the Netherlands; Land Portal Foundation; Welthungerhilfe
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13549/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand

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

83

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18 20 19-30 42 31-50 17 51-65 4 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

41 Male 42 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

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

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan	Workers and trade union
Large national business	Member of Parliament
Multi-national corporation	Local authority
25 Small-scale farmer	Government and national institution
Medium-scale farmer	Regional economic community
Large-scale farmer	United Nations
Local Non-Governmental Organization	International financial institution
International Non-Governmental Organization	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
13 Indigenous People	Consumer group
Science and academia	45 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Given the complexity and sensitivities around the food systems summit, hence the need to build trust among stakeholders, the co-conveners organised a session to raise awareness among interested stakeholders from Asia region about land issues and food systems and the UNFSS processes, in April prior to the actual independent dialogue (ID). The pre-ID session assisted in building a wider commitment from stakeholders to participate in the ID and other summit processes. It also emphasised the need to act with urgency given the interdependency between the 2030 agenda and the food systems. The actual ID was held virtually, embraced the UNFSS stipulated principles of engagement within its possible parameters. The ID was published widely via social media and other channels for a multi-stakeholder participation. The ID was started with a keynote speech to set a tone for the discussions framed on land and food systems. In order to accommodate the diversity of opinions among the participants, the discussion was clustered into four thematic areas conducted in sub-discussion groups: i. Women and youth ii. Indigenous peoples' land and territories iii. Pastoralists, and iv. Landless communities and farmers. Facilitators and notes takers of each of the group were briefed prior to the ID on the principle of engagements. (Some facilitators participated in the facilitator training offered by the UNFSS secretariat). The ID was concluded with a plenary session where each sub-group presented to the audience a summary of their discussion including key recommendations. The audience was given an opportunity to ask questions or make any comments.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The ID was announced via social media and other communication channels of the co-conveners. This resulted in 82 people participating in the ID from all parts of the region. The participants represented women, men and the youth from family farming organisations, peasant and indigenous organisations, agroecology movements, UN agencies, international NGOs, organisations working in urban and rural areas, universities etc. The Dialogue paved the way to build new and/or strengthen and broaden the existing partnerships. The wider participation, the input provided and the commitments expressed were reflection of building trust, embracing multi-stakeholder inclusivity and overall commitment to the summit. Overall, the ID was a constructive discussion which respected diverse opinions among the participants. The solutions suggested for the identified challenges in the discussions recognises the interconnectedness and complexity of food systems and the need to find broader and holistic solutions. The diversity within the participants brought to light the complementarity in each other's work in relation to certain common challenges highlighting the need to find common solutions. For example, the challenges linked to customary land tenure issues were common to many of the sub-groups which emphasised the necessity of working horizontally among these groups.

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

The introductory session organised before the ID was helpful to bring urgency to the summit's focus, dealing with current sensitivities attached to the summit and build a larger buy-in. (build trust, act with urgency, commit to the summit) Having a keynote speech at the beginning of the ID was helpful to both save time in thematic discussions to avoid dealing with generic issues together with paving the way for a more focused discussions. (recognise complexities, build trust, commit to the summit) Building alliances with a group of organisations to co-convene the ID was helpful to reach out to a wider stakeholders base, increase visibility and build legitimacy to the ID process. (embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity, compliment the work of other, build trust)

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 principal focus of the independent dialogue was to bring attention to the centrality of secure land rights in building sustainable food systems with the objective of bringing land issues to the discussion processes of the summit and integrate into its outcomes.

The entire food system of the world is inextricably connected to land. Hence, if there is a fundamental positive change in the way we manage land we can make the global food systems sustainable, whilst simultaneously reaching the targets of climate-change mitigation and averting the dramatic loss of biodiversity. Overall, it will cater to achieving the intended targets of the 2030 sustainable development agenda.

The current food systems are evidently inadequate in addressing poverty, hunger and malnutrition worldwide. Almost 80 percent of the world's poor and food insecure live in rural areas, mostly depending on agricultural production for their subsistence; i.e. an important number of the world's hungry base their livelihoods on access to land and other natural resources.

Given land's economic, socio-cultural and political importance, tenure security is critical to livelihoods and food security. Strengthened resource rights increases the likelihood that farmers invest in their land, boosting productivity and contributing to food security. Secure tenure of Indigenous Peoples over the forests they live, dramatically reduces deforestation and other forms of environmental degradation contributing to climate change mitigation. According to the research conducted by the International Land Coalition with its members, land inequality directly threatens the livelihoods of an estimated 2.5 billion people involved in small-scale agriculture, as well the world's poorest 1.4 billion people, most of whom depend largely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Global inequality experts blame the upward trend of land inequality partly on the increased interest from corporate and financial actors, such as investment funds and agricultural land investments. As corporate and financial investments grow, ownership and control of land becomes more concentrated and increasingly opaque. Today, the largest 1 percent of farms operate more than 70 percent of the world's farmland and are integrated into the corporate food system, while over 80 percent are smallholdings of less than two hectares, which are generally excluded from global food chains. Indigenous peoples and local communities look after 50% of the earth's surface protecting eco systems and biodiversity. But they have legal rights only over 1/5 of it.

Secure land tenure rights lead to planned food systems based on individual or collective community choices and community driven demands. Land tenure rights for a given duration empowers deciding on efficient, scheduled, appropriate and suitable cropping system and serve as a strong foundation for economic empowerment. It is the basis of human dignity of all communities including indigenous peoples, pastoralists, local communities and landless farmers forming the pathway for right to food among these communities and beyond.

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

Land is where people grow food, hinge upon for its storage, selling, cooking or preparation and utilise to manage food waste. Hence, who owns and controls land have significant impact on how food is produced, processed, marketed and consumed. A large portion of the world's poor lack quality access to land. Even those with access have limited possibilities to choose over their land. The current food systems are inadequate in addressing poverty, hunger or malnutrition. It is a system that relies on biodiversity loss, land degradation, resource exploitation and pollution. It is a system where the poorest and hungriest people are the small-scale farmers who produce large portion of the world's food; youth is not attracted to agriculture; unclear and insecure property rights exacerbate conflicts and further contribute to land and environmental degradation discouraging land investments; massive land acquisitions for agribusinesses displace communities affecting local food systems and making communities more vulnerable.

Without land tenure rights continuity of native or local seeds die, labour becomes a commodity and character of production and generation of food systems changes. As a result, mobile livelihood systems and occupations relating to food are dismantled. Land tenure is linked to land use systems where types of food generation and production are practiced. Land insecurity disrupts this link limiting the food generation and production systems.

To tackle these challenges:

- Future food systems should recognise security of tenure as an integral part of building sustainable food systems and take measures to guarantee both formal and customary ownership of land of women, men, indigenous peoples and local communities
- Take all possible measures to guarantee equal land ownership between women and men
- Make policy decisions enabling women, men, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities and other groups with formal or customary ownership of land to access bank loans, credit, seeds, markets, technical assistance, social welfare and other relevant government services. These policies should be further strengthened by making them legally enforceable as relevant
- Improve land tenure systems relating to pastoralists and recognise pastoralists as food producers and build their capacity to meet market demands
- Increase investments to ecosystems restoration recognising its importance in building sustainable food systems among local communities particularly of indigenous communities and pastoralists
- Revive traditional practices and methods especially the ones held within pastoralists, indigenous peoples and other local communities in efforts to ensure food security
- Recognize Indigenous Peoples as agents to allow their self-determined food generation and production systems and practices in finding solutions
- Building partnerships among formal and customary land owners resolving conflict among people, communities, governments and the private sector recognising each stakeholders' role and importance in building sustainable food systems
- Address land issues of landless and smallholder farmers through local institutional and regulatory frameworks recognising their role in building sustainable food systems

ACTION TRACKS

- | | |
|---|--|
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KEYWORDS

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| ✓ | | ✓ | Environment and Climate |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

Women and Youth Challenges

A large proportion of women live in rural settings and contribute to the agricultural sector. For example, women contribute to 80% of the agriculture in Asia. In Bangladesh, nearly 80% of the women live in rural setting and 72.6% of them are engaged in agriculture. Over the years, as men migrate to cities and abroad in search of stable and higher income jobs, women's participation in agriculture has gradually increased. Despite this increase, women are often not recognised as farmers in many countries and left with little or no decision making powers over the land that they are engaged with. The absence of recognition of their control over land and contribution prevent them from being eligible for government concessions extended to farmers and/or accessing facilities such as credit or bank loans. This also prevents women from effectively and competitively accessing markets and their capacity to organise themselves for collective bargaining. These condition increase the vulnerabilities for land grabbing, evictions or even simply rejecting their access to land with significant impact on their livelihoods. Often government prioritise large scale infrastructure development programmes over individual and collective land rights of the people.

Although significant improvement were achieved over the last decade, still in some jurisdictions, women have no property rights or their land rights are registered under male custodians. This prevents single or widowed women from owning land. The Covid 19 pandemic brought many of these vulnerabilities to the surface. Return of men from urban areas led to land grabbing or evictions depriving women from their livelihoods causing loss of income and severe food insecurities among women and their families.

Engagement of young people in agriculture is decreasing as often farming is not considered to be economically empowering. Awareness among the youth on land rights and availability of land for agriculture is low. Many countries lack policies on land and youth. Complicated and cumbersome land inheritance policies discourage youth from pursuing agriculture as a livelihood.

Solutions

- Take measures to guarantee both formal and informal women's ownership of land. Such measures should be proposed in consultation with the affected communities
- Establish joint land titling between wives and husbands
- Issue identity cards for women farmers in order for them to access government services such as educational programmes and trainings
- Make policy decision for both land owners and women and youth farmers to have access to bank loans, credit, seeds, markets, technical assistance, social welfare and other relevant government services. Some of these policies should be further strengthened trough making them legally enforceable
- Build capacities among women and youth farmers about their rights
- Create space and make resources available for civil society organisations to work with development agencies to advocate for implementation of enacted laws and policies

Stakeholders and partnerships

- Governments
- Civil Society organisations
- Development partners
- Indigenous groups, pastoralists and local communities
- Public service including local authorities

ACTION TRACKS

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

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Finance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Policy |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Human rights | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Governance |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trade-offs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Environment and Climate |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

Pastoralists

Challenges

Pastoralists have a unique relationship with nature and territory. Their contribution to the food systems is clearly different to the agribusinesses. It is important that rangelands pastoralists own the land to guarantee a sustainable and healthy food production. It is impossible to invest resources aiming at medium or long term solutions that bring benefit to food systems without transparent and sustainable land tenure for this group.

There is a lack of availability of information about rangelands. This co-relates to the lack of legal ownership of land among pastoralists. The lack of full access to rangeland by pastoralists impede mobility, their participation in restoration of rangelands and lack of building infrastructure for their food productions. It also increases conflicts over land. Overall, there is less recognition and acknowledgment of contribution by pastoralists as important players in food systems particularly as legitimate food producers.

Solutions

- Recognise and guarantee land titles for pastoralists. Information technology can be used to provide data on pastoralists' populations and their land use
- Improve land tenure systems relating to pastoralists and guarantee the contracts for land use
- Recognise pastoralists as food producers and build their capacity to meet market demands. Promote pastoralists food/production i.e. through food festivals and other ways to give visibility to what they produce and increase their economic resources
- Analyse incentives and disincentives for different users of land resources through participatory approach and manage rangelands to get better achievements
- Invest on mobility as a strategy for maintaining a healthy pastoralists system and to use rangelands in a sustainable way, to preserve natural resources. Investments must be done as a way to improve the environmental friendly productions.
- increase investments to rangeland ecosystems restoration
- Revive traditional practices and methods especially the ones held within pastoralists in efforts to ensure food security
- Develop the mobile and distant services for pastoralists

Stakeholders and partnerships

- Governments at national level
- International institutions with platforms which supports and promote the work of pastoralist organisations
- Community organisations
- Private sector
- International donors/investors
- Social networks/ Mass media

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

Indigenous Peoples Challenges

Indigenous peoples and their food productions are challenged in numerous ways. With the increasing involvement of big corporations in food production, frequently IPs are forcefully evicted from their traditional lands. This hampers the food produced by IPs using traditional knowledge, increasing food scarcity within these communities. The focus on economic crops such as rubber, cocoa etc. impedes traditional agricultural crops and systems. In certain cases, ecotourism has invaded the land occupied by IPs limiting their engagement with the land.

Solutions

- Recognise indigenous community lands and their customary lands systems as part of building sustainable food systems
- Recognize Indigenous Peoples as agents to allow their self-determined food generation and production systems and practices in finding solutions
- Scale up government land distribution policies to indigenous peoples
- Establish partnership with the local governments to identify and map the IP territories
- Systematically register land recognising IPs right to land
- Building capacity & raise awareness among IPs and their leaders about their rights in relation to their land and territories.

Engage government officials in these programmes.

- Devise mechanisms to resolve land conflicts among IPs, governments and the private sector Build a close network at local, national and regional level for supporting IPs with a particularly emphasis on youth

Stakeholders and partnerships

- Local government authorities
- Youth
- National governments
- Relevant public servants at national, regional and local levels
- Private sector
- Indigenous peoples and other local communities

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

Landless and Smallholder Farmers

Challenges

Absence of legal provision in some countries to recognise community/collective land rights of the people, adversely affects the food production by landless and smallholder farmers. Given the lack of recognition, landless farmers are often excluded from discussion tables. Sustained control over land is the basis for sustainable food systems and livelihoods among smallholders and landless farmers. Land tenure insecurity in these two groups adversely impact on food productions through increased conflicts. Secure and stable land tenure is key in accessing government support programmes and first easy step in seeking help from land administration overcoming complex administrative structures and regulatory barriers. If land tenure security is provided, smallholder farmers can play productive role to increase economic capacity of their localities by engaging communities in post-harvest and value added activities. (including food processing, marketing, catering etc.) Landless farmers are often excluded from discussion tables.

Solutions

- Address land issues of landless and smallholder farmers through local institutional and regulatory frameworks. Land policies should particularly pay attention to the issues of landless and smallholder farmers
- Take measure to protect access to commons (e.g. assuring access to non-wood forest products) as they are often key to livelihoods of landless people and contribute to ensure sustainable management of local biodiversity and land restoration
- Build partnerships with women and youth constituencies within this group
- Share knowledge capturing practices from other countries to resolve issues

Stakeholders and partnerships

- Women and youth including regional and international women and youth groups
- Civil society and international organisations
- National and local government authorities
- Financial institutions

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Given the paramount significance of secure land tenure for sustainable food systems, we need the attention of all stakeholders including governments, civil society organisations, private sector, international organisations, multi-lateral organisations and donors to come together to strengthen land tenure security of women, men, youth, family farmers, indigenous peoples, pastoralists and landless farmers and other communities as relevant. The stakeholders can be facilitated to come together through multi-stakeholder platforms to identify challenges, find solutions, implement and monitor solutions, channel resources as needed and celebrate successes.

The 2030 sustainable development agenda can only be achieved if secure land tenure for all is achieved facilitating to achieves the targets on eradicating poverty, zero-hunger, general equality, climate actions and building peaceful and just societies.

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