

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 29 April 2021 12:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	High level dialogue - Feeding Africa: leadership to scale up successful innovation
CONVENED BY	African Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and CGIAR System Organization
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13822/
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.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

999

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

61 Male

18 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

28 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

2 Environment and ecology

1 Trade and commerce

Education

5 Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

7 Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

29 National or local government

Utilities

1 Industrial

6 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Dialogue was organized as a series of multistakeholder thematic discussions, with the specific objective to promote exchange on promising innovations, connect stakeholders, and broaden partnerships to transform food systems in Africa. In order to capitalize on existing initiatives, the dialogue looked at existing efforts and opportunities for acceleration and synergies among different stakeholders.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The Dialogue acted in recognition of the complexities of African food systems and the urgency of action to transform them. The dialogue stimulated multistakeholder exchange by bringing to the table a diversity of stakeholders from within government, the business community, civil society, and research.

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

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

While the dialogue engaged a variety of stakeholders across food systems, the format slightly differed from the standard one envisioned in the Convenors Reference Manual. The dialogue featured several focused panel discussions over two days, with a closing plenary at the end of each day highlighting key ideas and commitments that emerged. The dialogue featured 79 panelists and moderators, 2228 registered participants and 11,222 livestream viewers.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The event aimed to identify ways to expand activities, financing, and partnerships to further leverage technology and innovation for the transformation of agriculture food systems in Africa to improve food security and nutrition, help recover from the current crisis and build long-term resilience to climate change and other shocks in the continent. It placed particular emphasis on ways to increase agricultural production, proposing ways to facilitate investments in research, sustainable technologies, and infrastructure, leveraging the private sector to accelerate progress. The Dialogue provided African Leaders a unique opportunity to contribute to the global discourse and to share success stories on home-grown strategies and achievements in scaling up successful innovations. The outcomes of this dialogue laid the foundation for Africa to present a unified voice to step up efforts and partnerships towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and they will be presented as Africa's shared commitments within the UN Food Systems Summit.

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 key conclusions of the dialogue highlighted the need to strengthen collaboration, establish new partnerships and agree on shared commitments to help modernize and strengthen African food systems. The dialogue culminated with the announcement of a coalition of multilateral development banks and development partners to pledge over US\$17 billion in the financing, in a bold bid to address rising hunger on the African continent and to improve food security.

In addition, 17 African Leaders committed to concrete actions to boost agricultural production by doubling current productivity levels through the scaling up of agricultural technologies, investing in the development of agro-industrial processing zones to boost national and regional food markets for value-added and nutritious foods, expanding economic opportunities for rural economies through the transformation of agriculture, expanding support to smallholder farmers, especially women and youth, and increasing support for agricultural research and development. They highlighted the following seven areas as those requiring the highest attention:

1. Accelerate agricultural production by doubling current agricultural productivity levels;
2. Increase financing for global, national, regional research and development systems;
3. Enhance support for climate-proofing agriculture in Africa to boost the ability of farmers to adapt to climate change, especially through drought-tolerant crops and livestock, digital weather information and climate advisories, irrigation, better water management, and crop and livestock insurance products;
4. Support infrastructure for the development of special agro-industrial processing zones, to support private sector processing and value addition, logistics, and transport for market development and competitiveness;
5. Expand access to finance for farmers and food systems' actors, through reducing risks of lending to agricultural value chains, and attract greater private sector financing into agriculture;
6. Build a stronger partnership between the public, private sectors, farmers' associations, civil society, research, and universities, to ensure that inclusive approaches are used across the agricultural value chains;
7. Accelerate greater access of African countries to more concessional financing resources to support the development of the agricultural sector.

The attached Communiqué summarizes the discussions and commitments made during the dialogue.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

1. Successful Policy Interventions for Scaling Technologies

The discussion focused on the need for political will to scale up the role of technologies in agriculture, as well as governments' capacity to take up technologies. The following emerged as game-changing interventions from a policy standpoint:

- Stronger mechanisms for political accountability for hunger and food insecurity
- Digitalization and the provision of bundles of digital services to farmers (e.g. digital micro-forecasting data and digital curriculums)
- Policies that promote the emergence of a local private sector, which in turn will produce employment opportunities and innovation
- Policies and national investments in line with the commitments of the Malabo declaration, in order to make technology affordable and available
- Institutional innovation and regional alignment as an important basis for a strong science-policy interface (capitalizing on the strong interconnectedness of African Food Systems)
- Encourage a shift of development partners from subsidies to markets expansion
- Support school feeding programs at scale, as well as investments that are cognizant of climate change and the pandemic recovery needs

The Head of States session and the communique mentioned a financing facility for food and nutrition security to support this. The AfDB and IFAD will work to set up the aforementioned facility.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

2. Innovative Partnership and Financing Approaches for Agricultural R&D

Around a third of calories consumed in Africa are imported from outside the continent. Low productivity of major staple crops is at the core of Africa's food security challenge and the non-competitiveness of its agriculture.

The discussion around this topic focused on the need to foster the relationship between national agricultural institutions and regional agricultural institutions, and it looked at some existing solutions with potential for scaling up:

- Establish a (sovereign) Regional Research for Development fund to invest in shared agricultural research priorities and address the questions and challenges that would arise as technologies are scaled up and rolled out across Africa. The AfDB and IFAD will work to set up the aforementioned facility.
- Capitalize on the Technologies for Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) program: TAAT brings together scientists from international and national agricultural research systems, governments, and the private sector to deliver agricultural technologies to farmers, at scale. Its implementation reveals that increased investments in Agricultural Research & Development and adoption of technology can help in boosting agricultural productivity, with important results for the overall strength of the food system. However, funding for regional and sub-regional research and development institutions has declined, limiting opportunities for investments in innovation and research and development.
- Develop a new partnership capitalizing on the complementary roles that both the AfDB and IFAD have in enabling agricultural transformation in Africa, to revamp existing Africa's Regional Technology Delivery Infrastructure (RTDI), and ecosystems for regional and sub-regional research and development, with the potential to push technologies beyond borders and support strong regional agricultural value chains.

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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 - 3/3

3. Unlocking Private Sector Investment to Transform Agriculture

Several voices contributed to this discussion throughout the two-day dialogue. It was noted that finance is needed at three key stages of the innovation process: 1. Incubation, 2. Start-up, 3. Acceleration. Among the game-changing solutions proposed were:

- Digital credit ratings and credit scoring tools for farmers
- Revisiting agriculture curriculums to teach agriculture as a business, encouraging students to become agro-entrepreneurs.
- Implement policies that enable modernization of agriculture and promote the emergence of a local private sector
- A call for the establishment of a Financing Facility for Food Security in Africa, to scale up climate-resilient and successful agricultural technologies and strengthen commodity value chains for both staple food and cash crops.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **DECLARATION ON TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS TO TRANSFORM AFRICAN FOOD SYSTEMS**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Communique_30.04.2021-FINAL.pdf

RELEVANT LINKS

- **High-Level Dialogue website**
<https://www.afdb.org/en/events/high-level-virtual-dialogue-feeding-africa-leadership-scale-successful-innovations>
- **IFAD News**
<https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/african-development-bank-ifad-and-partners-redouble-efforts-to-stop-hunger-in-africa-and-strengthen-food-security>