

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 3 May 2021 10:30 GMT -03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Making Nutritious and Healthy Diets Available to All: Empowering a Sustainable and Resilient Fresh Food Supply Chain Worldwide - African Dialogue
CONVENED BY	Secretary-General Eugenia Carrara, World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM), Anne Le More, World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13853/
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

53

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

11

19-30

20

31-50

14

51-65

8

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

30 Male

23 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

2 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

4 Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

4 Education

Communication

Food processing

15 Food retail, markets

17 Food industry

1 Financial Services

Health care

2 Nutrition

4 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

4 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

4 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

15 Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

4 Local Non-Governmental Organization

14 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

4 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

2 Local authority

2 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

6 United Nations

1 International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

2 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The World Union of Wholesale Markets held four independent dialogues, highlighting the role of wholesale markets as a key player in the food system. Through regional sessions held across Latin America, Asia, Europe and Africa, the dialogues showcased rich and diverse realities thus, achieving a significant level of complexity, relevance, and collective reflection about food systems throughout the world. All participants were aware of the Principles and asked to review them in the official attendance sheet.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Overall, it reflected each of the Principles of Engagement through its purposeful approach to addressing the SDGs with a focus on the pivotal role of the food sector together with wholesale markets, especially amid ever-evolving regional contexts and consumption trends, and recovery strategies for the Covid-19 crisis. Its multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral approach to discussions ensured that perspectives were inclusive and insights were gained from a representative and diverse sample of the population, ranging from academia, international organizations, NGOs, markets, and other food actors.

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

The Principles of Engagement are an essential tool for making dialogues a success, especially in providing guidance and ensuring discussions yield holistic and inclusive outcomes. It is necessary to also reflect on these principles and understand how to best adapt them based on contexts of participants. For example, in complementing the work of others and building trust, it is important to use existing knowledge of regional specificities or local trends to shape approaches. It must also serve as a reminder of the collaborative and dynamic nature of the desired discussions.

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

This dialogue series focuses on the role of Wholesale Markets in shaping a sustainable food system and its relationship to other stakeholders, including local authorities, smallholder farmers, and logisticians, among others. The four dialogues focused on promoting nutritious diets and ensuring accessibility as important dimensions of food sustainability, as well as fostering smart logistics and urban planning towards making a significant contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The reduction of food waste, was also explored alongside a recognition of the essential role wholesale markers play in this pursuit. The discussion on these topics contributed to development of effective strategies and sharing of best practices in line with addressing contemporary challenges including evolving consumption trends, urbanization, rapid population growth, climate change, disruptions in food systems and livelihoods, and the continuous pursuit of collective recovery and growth amid the Covid-19 crisis.

This Dialogue was based on Action Track 1, 2 and 5 in which wholesale markets make significant contributions through their central position and targeted initiatives.

Action track 1 aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and reduce the incidence of non-communicable disease, thereby enabling all people to become well-nourished and healthy. Wholesale markets are the biggest fresh food suppliers in the world, and experts in the distribution of nutritious, fresh and non-processed food. They are key actors to ensure availability of fresh food, particularly in cities, which are often largely populated. Thus, wholesale markets must increase linkages and cooperation with tenants, farmers, and scientists to expand the availability of nutritious food. In fact, modern wholesale markets are well-known for traceability measures to ensure food safety. This practice must be promoted for the long run while infrastructures and protocols must be adapted and implemented in line with it. In light of this, markets need to continuously safeguard the highest level of sanitation, hygiene, and handling of food. Thus, investments should aim to upgrade existing infrastructures and establish new modern wholesale markets to ensure that all cities benefit from a consistent supply of nutritious fresh food.

Action track 2 aims to build consumer demand for sustainably produced food, strengthen local value chains, improve nutrition, and promote the efficient use and recycling of food resources, especially in aid of the most vulnerable. To build this demand for sustainably produced food, wholesale markets must continue to promote the benefits and implementation of sustainable production methods through knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and advocacy among food actors especially the producers, markets, and consumers. In addition, they must strengthen local value chains, increase recycling, and transition to the use of non-polluting energy resources. In fact, in shifting to more sustainable consumption patterns, wholesale markets are examining solutions such as promoting food waste reduction and distribution of food surplus that makes nutritious food accessible to the vulnerable populations. Moreover, further action concerning e-commerce and last-mile-logistics are needed to understand how these tools can be optimized by wholesale markets and help facilitate the supply of nutritious fresh food.

Action track 5 aims to ensure existence of sustainable food systems in areas that are prone to conflict or natural disasters. The strong and diversified supply channels that wholesale markets possess demonstrated significant levels of adaptability during crisis. In fact, amid the Covid-19 crisis, wholesale markets were resilient, showcasing flexibility, resourcefulness, and innovation in delivering supply of fresh food to citizens worldwide. Wholesale markets can further optimize their infrastructures and prepare for future supply chain disruptions (fe. due to disease outbreaks or effects of climate change). In addition, improved communications among wholesale markets worldwide will enhance sharing of best practices and increase resilience.

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

Food security remains a key issue in Africa, especially in the Sub-Saharan regions. This is compounded by climate change, demography, and persisting poverty. The development of a strong and structured ecosystem of fresh food actors that can ensure availability of produce on a regular basis is key to achieve these goals. Agricultural wholesale markets, as fresh food trade and logistical hubs with the capacity to structure the whole fresh-food chain, will be crucial to ensure supply and to promote accessibility to healthy diets. Particularly in the context of rapid urbanization.

In this sense, it was noted that governments and local municipalities need to reinforce their capacity in food governance, urban planning, and upgrade accordingly all the basic infrastructure needed to ensure food security. This means upgrading their markets systems -including wholesale and street markets-, securing roads connections between agricultural areas/cities, and improving water facilities and access to regular electricity.

It is important to shift from a sectorial approach to a systemic one. By supporting cities and local governments, a systemic approach can be progressively built, connecting markets to other food systems components.

The African food sector's main challenges include: ensuring access to nutritious food, food safety, food waste management and understanding that food security and nutritional objectives need to be addressed in connection with environmental and social objectives as well as rural and urban sustainability.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

TOPIC: Healthy Diets Accessible to All / Linking Rural and Urban

Panelists discussed how to foster nutritious diet for all and the linkages and future opportunities for smallholder/producers and urban markets in Africa. Markets are crucial players for ensuring access to healthy diets as they are not only providing the access but also a social platform gathering most communities. In addition, they empower women that are often the vendors.

Africa accounted for 40% of the world's stunted children, mostly located in South of the Sahara in 2019 (SOFI Report 2020). To ensure food security as a leverage for access of markets, different pillars have to be approached: availability, access, stability, agency and sustainability.

Therefore, governance has a very important role to play. Policies impact the role of accessibility to food and they need to be in line with healthy standards. Policies need to promote affordable healthy diets and authorities should have more food governance capacity-building to be able to think and plan healthy regular supply of food for the next 10 years in their country. Local municipalities are important to making sure open fresh food air markets can thrive and be maintained. This has to be accompanied by better linkages between farmers and wholesale markets, as they are important assets to ensure resilient systems throughout Africa. This can be achieved through better roads, online platforms, and improved logistics. Nowadays coordination among actors is lacking which results to food losses and waste and need to be tackling urgently. It was proposed during the discussion to boost strategies of circular economy, by working hand in hand with local organizations, and by enabling legal frameworks to be developed.

Furthermore, because of its socio-economic implications, it is important to foster the promotion of traditional diets and local gastronomy, that include a lot of plant-based nutritious ingredients. This can also provide more jobs for local producers. Many rural areas depend on urban markets to sell produce. Hygiene and food transportation are critical challenge in the region. Participants agreed that the promotion of short food chains with fresh local products is key, as well as to foster the linkages and future opportunities between rural producers and urban markets. Technology, apps/online platforms could be used to link and build trust and transparency between rural areas, wholesale market tenants, and regional and international stakeholders and should be further promoted across Africa.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

TOPIC: Improving the Role of Local Authorities in Governing Food Markets / Enhancing Logistics

Panelists during this session discussed how to improve the role of local authorities in governing food markets and access to food markets both by consumer and producer and enhancing fresh food logistics to tackle issues as efficiency, accessibility and food waste. They came up with ideas such as empowering local authorities/reinforcing capacity building in food governance; tackling the lack of coordination among actors; fostering collaboration with universities/experts; reinforcing/investing in food logistics and finally ensuring participatory and inclusive food system in Africa.

Because local governments can contribute to stable food supply and the reduction of food loss, there is a need to build more capacity-building to local municipalities, by helping them to scope the food system through assessments, in cities where is a lack of functionalities due to absence of storage, distribution and production capacities. It is important to raise awareness, provide education and collaboration. Indeed, governments are concerned about providing food to their population without knowing the importance of nutritious food.

Then, panelists highlighted the need to create multi-stakeholder platforms for the fresh food sector where it is possible to communicate, exchange needs, and information valuable for all. There is an absence of guidance today. In the coming years, it is crucial to introduce a shared approach, coming along with a pre-discussed agenda with local authorities, relevant stakeholders and international development agencies. A first step could be an open discussion gathering all involved actors.

This implies to make the system more participatory, inclusive by integrating small actors, who can share their experience but also by fostering collaboration with universities and experts. Such collaboration will allow to have more data and therefore to develop more efficient policies. Assessments will help municipalities to understand local realities and needs (Need to have a clear picture of quantity, quality and seasonality or products, and of number of trucks circulating).

Finally, it was proposed to reinforce food logistics, as these latter are one of the main "pain points" in Africa. There is a need to invest in adequate infrastructure as distribution channels of fresh produce. To be able to feed a growing and more urbanized population, there is an urgent need to build fresh food-platforms to help to structure the sector. Investments in roads that can ensure the transportation of food to cities in a regular basis are critical. Cold chain along the chain is also an issue that must be addressed (transportation and after cold storage) for this it is important to secure regular access to electricity. Technology solutions should be promoted.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

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KEYWORDS

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