

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 7 May 2021 08:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	TRANSFORMING OUR THINKING AROUND FOOD SYSTEMS IN MALAWI TO ACHIEVE ZERO HUNGER AND GOOD NUTRITION
CONVENED BY	Civil Society Organisations Nutrition Alliance (CSONA)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14418/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Malawi

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

5 0-18 10 19-30 31-50 20 51-65 3 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

20 Male 17 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

5	Agriculture/crops	5	Education	5	Health care
	Fish and aquaculture	3	Communication	5	Nutrition
4	Livestock		Food processing	5	National or local government
	Agro-forestry	5	Food retail, markets		Utilities
	Environment and ecology	5	Food industry		Industrial
	Trade and commerce		Financial Services	5	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

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

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The dialogues was convened with respect to all the summit principles of engagements. Particularly the dialogue promoted multistakeholder participation and collaboration by involving all food system key players at the district and community level. The dialogue had the participation of civil societies, women farmers, lead farmers, agriculture traders, government stakeholders and youths.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The dialogue identified sustainable actions that would help achieving the SDGs while understanding the complexity of food systems. The dialogue embraced multistakeholder inclusivity to bring diverse perspective especially indigenous knowledge which is essential in understanding grassroots obstacles that limit individuals promoting sustainable food systems.

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

It is essential to uphold summit principles of engagements when convening a dialogue because they guide the effective way of having a dialogue and for easy reporting feedback which others can follow.

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 main objective of convening the CSO-led independent food Systems Dialogues was to unearth challenges, actions and opportunities related to the food systems chain in Malawi, from the production side to the consumption side. The discussions from the dialogues are important in informing policymakers at every level of government as well as the UN food Systems Summit outcomes. These Independent Dialogues provided a forum for more people, who are otherwise unheard in the communities, to identify sustainable solutions that are locally based, locally-led and fully adaptable to the different context within Malawi to strengthen local and global food systems. The dialogue was a comprehensive exploration of the districts' Food Systems along the five UN Food Systems action tracks and crosscutting levers of the UN Food Systems Summit. Participants conducted a thorough diagnosis of the food systems, including its functionality, major stakeholders, potentials, vulnerabilities, as well as opportunities for its transformation so that it can deliver high-quality diet that is affordable, healthy, nutritious, inclusive, efficient, resilient, and sustainable; as well as able to meet the need of all actors of the food system. It placed particular emphasis on ways to increase agricultural production, proposing ways to facilitate investments in agricultural inputs, sustainable technologies, and extension services, leveraging the roles of each stakeholder in the district (Chiefs, Lead farmer, extension workers) to accelerate progress.

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 districts recognize the need to rebuild and strengthen food systems driven by radical thinking, smart partnerships, backed by strong political will and courage to advance the food systems transformation need of the districts. The suggested steps were food diversification with a particular focus on drought resistance varieties, adoption of Agri technologies that increase productivity with less impact on climate, support and promotion of Agri extension workers to reach farmers with new skills and models, the role of agro-dealers in local markets, reduction of tax for Agri inputs, promotion of livestock farming in drought-affected regions and the use of farmers cooperatives if commercial farming is not exploited. The challenges that were observed are, limited agriculture extension workers, climate change, outbreaks of pest and diseases, high prices of inputs and poor markets for buying and selling produce. Participant envisaged a food system that will be development focused that prioritizes healthy diets and affordable nutrition that is inclusive, efficient, resilient, and sustainable while working for everyone, especially the government. To achieve this Potential opportunities identified were the availability of fertile land in many parts of the districts, availability of local CSO to offer advocacy support and bridging the gap between farmers and governments, availability of farmers groups that are working through cooperatives and accessibility of indigenous knowledge on pests and droughts passed from generation to generation

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Each district had a total of 4 breakout sessions. The groups discussed key food systems issues affecting their livelihoods and propose solutions to barriers that have identified. These recommendations will be shared and discuss in the plenary session which will be moderated by the facilitator. Two groups focused on one topic and these were; 1) How to maintain a vibrant food system amidst climate and COVID-19 Challenges and 2) To promote community food accessibility and sustained mechanisms for preservations. Key actions for discussion topic 1 were the promotion of farmers village saving loans during a crisis like COVI-19, enhancing food preservation like mangoes and fruits, reducing food wastage, promotion information sharing and collaboration and use of technologies, Strengthening agricultural extension services, improve roads networks and irrigation. The outcomes for discussion topic 2 were increased farming cooperatives to share knowledge on preservation, tree planting to protect soil and water, planting bananas along with water reservoirs, NGO and government to invest in training farmers about preservation and management of farmland, promote sustainable prices that can benefit farmers to sell producing should promote technology farming and innovation, farmers access to loans, agro dealer should provide new varieties in time and more awareness on food preservation. All discussion groups envision that by

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

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KEYWORDS

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy |
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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Food-System-Dialogues-REPORT.docx>