

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 26 May 2021 14:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Small Businesses: Good Food for All - Sub-Saharan Africa
CONVENED BY	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Chamber of Commerce, African Union, International Agri-Food Network
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14461/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Botswana, Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia (Republic of The), Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

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

85

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

50 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?

We encouraged participants to share their stories in order to build trust before splitting into smaller groups. We had the opening speaker emphasize the importance of SME engagement in the summit and the urgency in involving them as key drivers of food system transformation in the decade of action. We asked SMEs to say what they could do and what they needed from others, in order to begin building support for specific commitments.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

It included multiple stakeholders, from government and public agencies, to small businesses and support organizations.

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

Ensure that all involved in the planning and organizing, curators, facilitators, speakers, are aware of these.

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 focus was: How to boost the role of SMEs in providing Good Food for All?
Discussion groups shared positive experiences of contributions to the food systems and detailed challenges.
A second group breakout considered actions within defined pathways in line with the Action Tracks.

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

African SMEs are contributing already to all the action track objectives. They face challenges in having more positive impact: finance (tailored to size, cost and access, especially for women); policy disconnect with market demands; infrastructure failure and cost of transport (from road to ports); Capacity and tailored support that is fit for purpose.

1. Reluctancy of farmers and participants in food system to adopt new systems of doing things and new technologies.
2. Cost considerations and immediate profit considerations of changing archaic systems.
3. Lack of access to credit due to lack of collateral. Lack of capital.
4. Access to market, lack of formalized and consistent contract of market.
5. Lack of consistency in government policies. Lack of an enabling environment from a policy point of view.
6. Simplifications and reductions of tax regimes is a consistent barrier for most SMEs

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

1. More funding for SMEs who are lacking capital and barriers to growing are too difficult.
2. Formalize linkages with formal networks so that there is diversification of suppliers who are SMEs.,
3. De-risk Agriculture to make it attractive to financiers
4. Lower barriers to entry and lower costs of finance and cost of capita
5. Financing should be a package where we combine financing, capacity building in both financial literacy and Good Agricultural practice. We should also have credit products that are tailor made to suit different farmers requests such as the women and youth. Their needs are different.
6. Recommending digitization of last mile delivery as well as consumer to farmer traceability
7. Food safety, quality and labelling authenticity needed

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The role of large business - are they competition or potential partners and allies?

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