

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 1 June 2021 11:00 GMT +05:30
DIALOGUE TITLE	Small Businesses: Good Food for All - South Asia
CONVENED BY	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Chamber of Commerce, SAFIN, International Agri-Food Network
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14521/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka

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

46

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

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	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation		Data & Evidence
	Human rights		Governance
✓	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

1. All participants were requested to share which pathway, was most important to them, and responses varied widely. 6 responses covered the following pathways: 2, 4, 4, 5 and 6
2. Focused discussions on what solutions to focus on going forward highlighted the following areas to address:

a. Improving the enabling environment, particularly from the policy perspective

b. Providing further support to SMEs, specifically though tailored subsidies to address significant costs that prevent SMEs from moving to the next level (e.g. capex for technology, equipment or infrastructure)

c. Developing opportunities for collaborative efforts, either between SMEs (e.g. co-manufacturing), between SMEs and larger corporations (e.g. sharing lessons learned and technology), or between SMEs, financial service providers, insurance providers and the government (i.e. public-private partnerships)

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

✓

Policy
- ✓

Innovation

Data & Evidence
- Human rights

Governance
- ✓

Women & Youth Empowerment

Trade-offs
- ✓

Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

- Pathway: Make good food matter
 - o cancer is spreading across India - need good food without use of fertilizers, pesticides - train people to use alternatives, people need to be more aware and invest - and make it affordable
 - o low immunity due to covid - we need more nutritional food such as millets, and increase awareness of other traditional food
 - o educational program to farmers: increase food production according to seasons, now covid we need foods with high zinc, vitamin index. First we can do this, and then you can handle business aspects such as packaging and selling. Govt, people and NGO need to support - as food is medicine
 - o protein from plants - jackfruit is going waste - because SMEs are not utilising well. use forums to make people aware of such technology to turn them into leather products, etc
- Pathway: Reduce cost of doing business
 - o NGOs and investors thinking only of tech not agriculture - we need their support as well
 - o farmers don't have cash - need upfront money to purchase the starter materials, else it puts huge stress due to loans and interests
 - o consumers should invest in farmers
 - o soil testing is required, should be made a must - using fertilizer without knowing how much they require - unknowingly use more and thus spend more
 - o collaborate with organizations like croppin to reduce production costs

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Lively discussion about alternative proteins, while some businesses focused on traditional animal products (eg. eggs and milk). However, all were able to come to the same conclusion that regardless of whether it is meat or an alternative, systems must be equitable and sustainable.

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KEYWORDS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ✓ Finance | ✓ Policy |
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