OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 7 June 2021 14:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Food System Resilience through Integrated Natural Resource Management: A Nexus Dialogue (7 June 2021)
CONVENED BY	Ms. Nina Arden, Sr. Nexus Dialogue Consultant, EMG Secretariat & Dr. Serena Caucci, Associate Programme Officer, UNU-FLORES
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14541/
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

76

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?

In 2021, UN Secretary-General António Guterres will convene a Food Systems Summit as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals ("SDGs") by 2030 with the intention of inducing collaborative efforts to Build Back Better , and transform the way society produces, consumes, and considers food, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic revealing the sharp inequalities within the agricultural food system, and the risks of zoonotic diseases deriving from unsafe food practices. The Summit supports nutrient-rich Food Systems Dialogues, one of the five priority workstreams, which provides an opportunity to engage multi-level stakeholders (including governments, communities, academia, etc.) in discussing food systems and identifying ways to improve their resilience – especially against future pandemics and other crises. Against this background, the UN Environment Management Group ("EMG"), in close collaboration with UNU Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources ("UNU-FLORES") will organize a Food System Resilience through Integrated Natural Resource Management (7 June 2021) Nexus Dialogue as an independent dialogue of the Food System Summit, respecting the three key features : respectful of the Summit's three principles of engagement; featuring structured conversations among stakeholder groups with different perspectives; and contribute to the Summit.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Food System Resilience through Integrated Natural Resource Management Nexus Dialogue advances both the Economic (advance the sustainable recovery of food sectors) and Environmental (transforming our relationship with nature) building blocks of Sustainable Recovery under the auspices of Stockholm+50, and the Task Group of the One Planet Network and International Resource Panel. Additionally, it will share from- and feed into- UNU-FLORES' projects , including stimulating the Science-Policy Interface, and exchange inputs between the UN system and multi-level stakeholders: • Address Resilient Food Systems through INRM, at all spatial levels (local to global), and from an interdisciplinary- and systemic food systems-perspective, especially for the Global South. • Contribute to the Discourse of Resilient Food Systems, via nexus understanding of integrated approaches for a sustainable relationship within the context of ongoing climate change. • Further an Integrated understanding of Food Security Drivers, both current and future: Environmental, Demographic, Socio-economic, Technological and Institutional. • Discuss the Integrated Prioritization of Resources across food, energy, and water sectors, and highlighting trade-offs and synergies for resilient food systems production. • Improve Capacity to Build Resilience for Food System and Nutrition, through the One Health Approach – recognizing the interconnections between humans, animals, plants, as well as an understanding of the role of natural resource systems.

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**

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems are connected to every facet of the 2030 Agenda, either through primary, secondary, or tertiary system connections – and are, therefore, a Nexus of economic, social, and environmental development. Because of the broad, multi-level impacts of food systems, we believe that focusing on Integrated Natural Resource Management ("INRM"), as a high-impact leverage point can expedite and optimize the effect that food has on a variety of environmental and socioeconomic impacts, such as poverty, health, ecosystem integrity, industry, etc.

A few exemplary connections are delineated.

Poor Food Systems --> Poor Ecosystem Integrity
Currently, an estimated 821 million people are currently undernourished, representing the failings of the global food system . Food systems are under the simultaneous pressure of environmental change (e.g., land degradation, biodiversity loss, and changes in climate/weather), and non-climate stressors (e.g., population/income growth, and demand for animal-sourced products). On the causal side, food systems may negatively affect the environment by depleting natural resources, and polluting both surface and groundwater, with pesticides and chemical fertilizer . INRM can support the sustainable yield of food systems, in particular within the ecosystem and biosphere's capacity for renewal.

Poor Food Systems --> Poor WASH Management --> Poor Health & Nutrition
Food systems are dependent on water resource management, with inadequate water supply and sanitation, being inextricably linked to poverty. For example, poor sanitation practices can produce untreated wastewater which cause water quality changes (e.g., in lakes, rivers, oceans), damaging aquatic food sources, exacerbating food insecurity and malnutrition , . Food security relies on water security, and the provision of water, sanitation, and hygiene ("WASH") services particularly in impoverished communities. INRM, with a focus on water resources management, can meet the needs of a global population by ensuring the fundamental safety and integrity of life below water.

Poor Food Systems --> Poor Productivity --> Poor Economy / Higher Poverty
Food insecurity leads to mal-/under-nutrition, which has adverse effects on the physiological and mental capacity of individuals . Malnutrition and poverty are mutually-reinforcing, creating a vicious cycle that hampers productivity levels, exacerbating countries' poverty levels . Failing to address undernutrition continue to yield significant losses in potential, in both humans and economies. Poverty, along with socio-economic and political marginalization, disenfranchises women, children and the elderly with regard to climate change and food insecurity7. INRM can reduce trade-offs, increase productivity, food security, and a better quality of life for all – in order to help achieve not short-term relief, but rather - long-term sustainability.

Therefore, Food System Resilience underpin the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs – committing to leave no one behind. In the long-term, and the knowledge and implementation of INRM will increase the ability of agri-food and forest systems to (i) ensure supply of goods (e.g., food, fodder, fibre, wood, and bio-energy) and ecosystem services (e.g., store, filter and transform nutrients, substance, and water, biodiversity and carbon pool) that human benefits from and significantly rely on, (ii) preserve natural resources that are non-renewable (soil and water), and (iii) enlarge social and economic benefits by reducing environmental costs and impacts.

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

Key messages include:

• The current food production system is upheld by 1.5 billion smallholders, concentrating power locally; therefore, science-policy interfaces must translate into planning that is simultaneously top-down and bottom-up (e.g. living labs), to effectively mobilize the nexus approach on INRM.
• Further, top-down food policy may not align consistently in national development plans, as governmental ministries and institutions lack communication with each other, despite working with equal information, yet feeding into different databases.
• With regional FAO initiatives run by multidisciplinary teams operating in various countries, it is essential for institutions to have a joint knowledge base to ground strategies upon.
• The EC- Soil Health and Food Mission Board identified that farmers/producers eschew "to-do lists", but rather responding best to quantitative evidence backing that "what is good for the environment, is often very good for business." Contact between researchers and farmers in Living Labs is essential to produce viable results.
• UNEP's Sustainable Rice Platform yielded two major lessons :
o It is important for the UN system to translate siloed research into a multi-goal format with principles, standards, and time-based deliverables, and;
o Human empathy is required to communicate science, without judgement, in order to convene diverse stakeholders (e.g., Syngenta, BASF, Mars, Ben's Original, etc.)
• Food systems refer to the entwined relationships between humans and natural biophysical resources in systems. It is important, therefore, to have trained professionals who can: 1. Listen and understand other disciplines; 2. Discuss clearly with stakeholders, and 3. Present findings and participate effectively in policymaking. The lack of transferable skills in current professionals in the space (i.e., listening, discussing, and presenting) constitutes a capacity gap.
• Furthermore, despite the importance of multidisciplinary thinking in INRM for food system resilience, there is a dominance of water-related researchers, in the Soil- Water-Food-Energy Nexus. The other three domains are missing representation, and therefore capacity.
• Connecting "the dots" between research and practice, requires finance – constituting a capacity gap. In many countries, finance sectors influence the velocity of money and change.
• As sustainable food systems require significant water inputs, FAO has developed six principles to base INRM strategies on when coping with water scarcity: Knowledge, Impact, Capacity, Coherence, Preparedness.
• Supporting Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in order to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, UNCCD is currently supporting 127 countries that have committed to setting their voluntary targets of which 104 have successfully set their targets. The scientific conceptual framework for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN-SCF) that underpins these guidelines comprises five modules, which describe the overall approach to LDN.
• To translate science into actionable ideas for producers, IWMI-CGIAR is designing a leadership programme to directly bridge this gap, noting that a forthcoming Water-Food-Energy-Forest-Biodiversity Nexus Initiative seeks to significantly redesign research agendas.
• Storytelling and case studies operationalize the science, helping it seem more relatable, and as it feeds into policy – achieve greater political uptake and stakeholder acceptance.
• Food resilience and INRM are embedded in the SDGs, but due to a lack of concrete definitions, guidelines, and handbooks to define INRM, conventional agricultural practices are still promoted as supporting SDG 2&3, despite its often negative impacts on SDGs 6, 10, 13, 15, and 16. It is recommended that the UN system produce a guidance policy document on INRM's efficacy on food systems.
• Furthermore, governments should seek to integrate INRM and the Nexus Approach into existing processes, e.g., national implementation of the SDGs and the Voluntary National Review process.
• Food production (including its socio-political issues, energy needs) is inextricable from land use and degradation, and it is highly recommended that the UN system and policymakers view food policy through the land lens.
• Addressing food system resilience and transformation recommends that policymakers appreciate the need for upfront long-term investment and capacity development (e.g., groundwater management, reforestation) despite the time lag between investment and payoff. A stable and sound governance system is needed to provide an enabling environment conducive to long-term innovation funding earmarked for environmental and social sustainability in food systems.

The rationale is set. There is a need for a coalition created among the key UNU institutes, UNEP, IWMI-CGIAR, FAO, and other relevant UN system agencies to engage in interagency collaboration to produce a policy/guidance document which: 1. Lays out the guidelines of a common INRM approach supporting current and future food systems resilience; 2. Support countries in identifying a pathway which ensures compatibility between sustainable consumption and production needs, and; 3. Feeds an actionable narrative and concrete recommendations to be included into the CBD, COP 26, and Stockholm+50 ongoing intergovernmental processes.

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	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Outcome Report**
  https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Food-System-Resilience-through-INRM-ND_Outcome-Report_Final.pdf
- **Outcome Infographic**
  https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Food-Systems-Resilience-Infographic.png
- **Concept Note**
  https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/EMG-ND-on-Food-Systems-Resilience_Final.pdf

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Food System Resilience through Integrated Natural Resource Management**
  https://unemg.org/food-system-resilience-nexus-dialogue/