

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 10 May 2021 09:00 GMT -03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Promoting Food Security and Ensuring Equitable Inclusion
CONVENED BY	Government of Brazil
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14580/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Brazil

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

399

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18 48 19-30 268 31-50 80 51-65 2 66-80 0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

150 Male 249 Female 0 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

10	Agriculture/crops	28	Education	30	Health care
2	Fish and aquaculture	6	Communication	0	Nutrition
3	Livestock	7	Food processing	64	National or local government
0	Agro-forestry	1	Food retail, markets	4	Utilities
15	Environment and ecology	21	Food industry	19	Industrial
4	Trade and commerce	1	Financial Services		Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

12	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	11	Workers and trade union
12	Large national business	2	Member of Parliament
12	Multi-national corporation	38	Local authority
22	Small-scale farmer	69	Government and national institution
3	Medium-scale farmer	0	Regional economic community
1	Large-scale farmer	5	United Nations
28	Local Non-Governmental Organization	0	International financial institution
6	International Non-Governmental Organization	9	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
1	Indigenous People	10	Consumer group
50	Science and academia	2	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Brazilian National Dialogue was organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MRE) with active participation from different ministries of the federal government that are responsible for the main subject areas related to food systems policy, with special consideration to specific characteristics of the Brazilian situation and national legislation on Food and Nutrition Security. The Ministry of External Affairs was responsible for convening the dialogue. The Ministry of Citizenship (MC); the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA); the Ministry of Health (MS); the Ministry of the Environment (MMA) and the Advisory Counsel of the Chief of Staff of the Presidency (Casa Civil) were key partners in the National Dialogue. The Ministry of Education (MEC) – mostly through the National Foundation for the Development of Education (FNDE), which is the responsible area for the National School Feeding Program (PNAE) – and the Office of the UN in Brasília were also important partners. Brazil opted to conduct a multi-stakeholder process for the National Dialogue, in order to encompass the various unique perspectives each area can contribute to the discussion. Such multi-stakeholder approach was reflected in the composition of participants in the National Dialogue, which benefited from different actors involved with food systems, varying from civil society to producers' associations, from small informal institutions to large international companies. The government created a dedicated website to disseminate information about the National Dialogue and the Food Systems Summit, including reference documents. Regular and periodic announcements about the Dialogue were transmitted through social media. Inscription for the National Dialogue was made through an on-line form, that was available in the dedicated website for about 10 days. The video-conference was held through Zoom and transmitted by YouTube and Facebook for the wider public. The digital file of the video-conference can be accessed in the dedicated digital platform of the National Dialogue.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Brazil chose to convene a dialogue that was as open and inclusive as possible. Taking into consideration time constraints and the epidemiological situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, the Brazilian National Dialogue was conducted in a 100% virtual mode, through video-conferences. The video-conferences dealt with specific Action Tracks of the Food Systems Summit. The first video-conference ("Promoting Food and Nutrition Security Guaranteeing Equitable Inclusion in the Value Chain") was held on May 10th 2021 and was focused on Action Tracks 1 and 4. The second video-conference ("Incentivizing a Sustainable Production and Consumption of Health Food") happened on May 12th 2021 and addressed Action Tracks 2 and 3. The third video-conference ("Building Resilient Food Systems") took place on May 14th 2021 and was based on Action Track 5. The video-conferences were open and inclusive spaces for debate and sharing of ideas. After the opening address, panelists from government, the private sector and civil society made presentations about the main issues under discussion in Action Tracks 1 and 4. Registered participants were invited to intervene orally during the event. Participants that were not registered to take the floor were invited to send written comments via a dedicated e-mail address to MRE, related to the topics discussed in each video-conference. The combination of oral and written inputs from different stakeholders was important as it reflected a variety of views about the Brazilian Food System and the Food System Summit. A number of useful suggestions were presented and reflected in the video-conference report.

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

In view of the limited time available before the Summit, multi-stakeholder dialogues through digital platforms allow for wide participation of different segments of the society, productive sector, academia and the government. Such format is consistent with Principles of Engagement and offer an opportunity for dialogue with diverse actors.

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

Taking into consideration time constraints and the epidemiological situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, some of the recommendations in the Convenors Reference Manual had to be adapted and revised. Instead of thematic discussion groups, the Brazilian National Dialogue was crosscutting, including all sectors relevant to the Food Systems Summit debate. The National Dialogue was conducted in a 100% virtual mode, through video-conferences, and transmitted by YouTube and Facebook in order to reach wider audiences. In this context, regional meetings were deemed unnecessary, since participants from different localities were able to access and participate of the video-conferences. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was responsible for convening and curating the Brazilian National Dialogue. The organization of the dialogue, benefited from the active participation from different areas of the federal government that are responsible for the main subject areas related to food system policy. Brazil chose to convene a dialogue that was as open and inclusive as possible, in divide into two rounds. In the first round, there were 3 video-conferences dealing with specific Action Tracks of the Food Systems Summit. The first video-conference was on May 10th 2021 and was focused on Action Tracks 1 and 4. The second video-conference was on May 12th 2021 and was directed mostly to Action Tracks 2 and 3. The third video-conference was on May 14th 2021 and was based on Action Track 5. The video-conferences were open and inclusive spaces for debate and sharing of ideas, which included different actors involved with food systems, varying from civil society to producers' associations and from small informal institutions to big international companies. The combination of oral and written inputs from different stakeholders was important to reflect the variety of views of key actors. These comments will be considered in the preparation of the National position to the presented to the Food Systems Summit.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The first round of the Brazilian National Dialogue was divided in three video-conferences, which dealt with the topics related to the Action Tracks of the Food Systems Summit. This document focus on the first video-conference, which was held on May 10th, under the theme “Promoting Food and Nutrition Security Guaranteeing Equitable Inclusion in the Value Chain”. It was focused on Action Tracks 1 and 4 (“Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all” and “Advance equitable livelihoods”).

The first video-conference addressed the specific characteristics of tropical food systems – which differ significantly from food systems of countries with temperate climates. The fight against hunger and food insecurity, as well as the reduction of malnutrition and the improvement of livelihoods and working conditions of the population, especially for the workers of the food value chain, were also central themes in the discussions.

The video-conference discussed mechanisms for the reduction of severe food insecurity, access to healthy and nutritious food for all and food and nutritional security.

An important topic under discussion was the need to increase both the availability and consumption of healthy foods, in a sustainable manner. The elimination of poverty through full and productive employment and decent work for all along the entire food value chain was also central to the debate.

The video-conference brought together panelists from different areas to set the tone of the discussion, notably from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply; the Ministry of Citizenship; and two private sector organizations, the National Confederation of Agriculture (CNA) and the Commerce Social Service (SESC). In selecting the topics and the panelists, consideration was given to the main topics under discussion, representation and interest in food system policy.

During the debate, speakers from a variety of backgrounds presented their views, concerns and proposals on the discussion about the role of smallholder farmers to the promotion of healthy diets – including through the role of traditional communities, the roles of women and the youth, the key role of international trade of agricultural products, “green belts” and peri-urban agriculture, as well as the characteristics of Brazilian agricultural systems and methods of production – in their different forms – and of the national food system.

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

The Dialogue highlighted the important differences between tropical food systems – such as in Brazil – and food systems in temperate developed countries. Concerns were voiced about the possible use of the FSS to promote European models of food production and consumption, which are not necessarily compatible with other regions of the planet.

The Dialogue stressed the key role of trade to ensure the supply of quality and accessible food to expanding world population. It further highlighted the necessity of preventing the Summit from being instrumentalized to justify the increase in protectionism, especially through the establishment of non-tariff barriers.

As a global food supplier and a major exporter, Brazil has much to contribute to the international debate, including in the Food Systems Summit. Tropical agriculture in Brazil is efficient, highly productive, resilient and sustainable.

The FSS should recognize and promote a multiplicity of food systems – in Brazil and elsewhere – as complementary solutions. In this sense, the Summit should not prescribe specific models of production or consumption, which might serve some populations, but can accentuate inequalities and increase global food insecurity. There is no one-size-fits-all solution, as every country/region has specificities that will require tailored approaches.

Whilst it is important to preserve agricultural trade, it is also necessary to ensure the equitable inclusion of the population in the food system. There was strong consensus about the need to consider a human-rights approach to food production and consumption.

It was deemed important to facilitate access to healthy food, with a focus on the domestic market needs. To that effect, different policies were mentioned, adapted to the local situation. Emergency income or basic income policies, such as the “Bolsa Familia”, are important to support people in situation of vulnerability and promote social inclusion. The population should have access not only to healthy and nutritious food, but also food at accessible prices. Despite the recent price increase in certain foodstuffs, the cost of the national food basket has fallen significantly over the last 20 years.

Specific mentions were made to indigenous, “quilombola” (descendants of former slaves) and riverside communities, among others. Such groups face particularly vulnerable situations that deserve special attention from public policies through the direct distribution of income and food and policies that encourage their own food production.

The issue of food security involves socioeconomic aspects (associated with inequalities in the distribution of income and property), as well as technical issues of production. It is necessary to develop policies that tackle inequalities, expand access to healthy food, reduce food loss and waste, foster decent work and generate improvements in the entire production chain, with gains in productivity, sustainability and overall livelihood standards within the value chain.

Some recommendations for building and implementing sustainable food systems that Brazil would like to share include: incentives for technology and innovation, availability of credit and financing for adaptation and implementation of production systems with productivity and social gains, and dissemination of knowledge, through training and capacity building.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Tropical agriculture can be more productive (up to three harvests per year) and sustainable (less use of water and preservation of soils) than agricultural systems in developed countries with temperate climates. It is possible to significantly increase food production in tropical systems through productivity gains, without increasing deforestation or land degradation.

Given the expected increase in global population on the planet, international trade has a key role in the provision of healthy food at accessible prices. International trade is also important to promote global resilience, by distributing food from producing areas to areas at risk of food insecurity. In this regard, it would be important to reduce protectionism and avoid new barriers to agricultural trade.

It is crucial to avoid the imposition of external models that are not suited to local realities. There is an excessive influence of the "European Green Deal" in international debates regarding food systems, given that it is not adequate for most situations in developing countries.

Science and technology are essential elements to increase food production sustainably. Brazil, for instance, has increased agricultural production by 6-fold while only doubling the use of land. Therefore, investments in scientific research institutions – such as the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) and highly qualified universities – are key to increasing sustainable production of food and the resilience of food systems.

Access to credit, training and capacity building for producers, especially smallholder farmers, are crucial. Policies related to credit help avoid migration towards urban areas and foster opportunities in the agricultural sector, as well as increase production and resilience in food systems.

By regularizing land ownership, it is possible to obtain productivity gains and promote sustainable production methods.

It is important to establish/maintain coordinating institutions or fora, with wide participation of different stakeholders. Such bodies provide inputs from civil society to the government for the implementation of public policies regarding availability and access to healthy foods and provide accountability mechanisms of government actions.

Civil society should be an integral part of the process, by facilitating dialogue and ensuring accountability of policies and regulations.

Government policies should focus on promoting decent work and better living conditions for workers in the agricultural sector, as well as on reducing the digital gap in the countryside. This is important not only in aspects related to food systems, but also for the achievement of the SDGs.

In the current pandemic, it is necessary to tackle the increase in levels of food insecurity and hunger, including by supporting smallholder and family farmers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the strengthening of social policies in Brazil has helped to maintain family consumption and, therefore, the continuity of the functioning of food systems, which reflects directly in their resilience.

Public policies are needed to support people/families in situation of vulnerability. Basic income or conditional income policies, such as the "Bolsa Família", promote food security and help to ensure access to healthy diets.

In developing and implementing policies related to food systems, it is useful to adopt holistic approaches. Questions related to health conditions (prevention of non-communicable diseases, obesity and malnutrition), fighting hunger and reducing greenhouse gas emissions coming from land use, for instance, have to be considered together with concerns about food production, security and safety.

While preserving choice and respecting cultural traditions, the government has a role in promoting healthy eating habits and sustainable production patterns, which include reducing food loss and waste and implementing adaptation measures to climate change.

Public policy may contribute to facilitate the access of the population to healthy food products, fostering healthy diets and increasing the sustainability of the food production.

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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- Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

While there was wide agreement about the main issues under discussion, the dialogue also identified areas of divergence.

- Different roles of smallholder and commercial farmers. Smallholder and family farmers generally supply the internal market, but large-scale commercial farming also play an important role in domestic food supply. The establishment of a modern export oriented agricultural sector in Brazil was largely responsible for the reduction in domestic food prices over the last 20 years.
- Illegal logging and deforestation have been associated with loss of biodiversity and forest cover. However, illegally cleared land is not generally used for production of crops for export. The national forest code offers an effective legal framework for sustainable agriculture, including in the Amazon region where only 20 % of privately owned land can be legally cleared for production.
- Promotion of agricultural products for export versus promotion of agriculture for local consumption. There are different assessments of the benefits deriving from policies that promote agricultural production for the domestic and international markets. In fact, the two sectors are interconnected and government policy does not privilege one sector in detriment of the other.
- Importance of promoting agro-ecological approaches versus conventional agriculture. While the agroecological/organic sector has been growing strongly in Brazil, the products are costly and do not substitute foodstuffs produced by commercial agriculture. Rather, the two sectors have a complementary role, assuring consumer choice and the diversity of supplies/suppliers.
- The role of processed foods in food and nutrition security. There was wide agreement that a balanced and healthy diet should be based on semi-processed or less processed foods.
- Nature of the national food guide. The national food guide offers important nutrition information for the consumer, but, ultimately, the consumers should be free to choose their own diet.

ACTION TRACKS

- | | |
|---|--|
| ✓ | Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all |
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KEYWORDS

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Reference Document for Video-Conference 1: Promoting Food Security and Equitable Inclusion in the Value Chain (Portuguese Version)**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/videoconferencia-1-doc.pdf>
- **Programme for Video-Conference 1 (Portuguese Version)**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/videoconferencia01_pp.pdf

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Digital Platform for the Brazilian National Dialogue**
<https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/cupula-2021-sistemas-alimentares-dialogos>

CORRECTIONS, ADJUSTMENTS, OR CHANGES

Title Reference Document: Promoting Food and Nutrition Security and Ensuring Equitable Inclusion in the Value Chain (English Version)
Date 09/06/2021

English version of reference document prepared by the Brazilian Government to help guide the debates in the video-conference.

ATTACHMENTS

- **Reference Document: Promoting Food and Nutrition Security and Ensuring Equitable Inclusion in the Value Chain (English Version)**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Videoconferência-1-tradução-rev-DCID.pdf>