

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 14 May 2021 09:00 GMT -03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Building Resilient Food Systems
CONVENED BY	Government of Brazil
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14586/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14586/</a>
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

387

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

2	0-18	47	19-30	262	31-50	78	51-65	2	66-80		80+
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## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

144	Male	247	Female		Prefer not to say or Other
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## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

9	Agriculture/crops	27	Education	26	Health care
2	Fish and aquaculture	6	Communication	0	Nutrition
4	Livestock	8	Food processing	63	National or local government
1	Agro-forestry	0	Food retail, markets	4	Utilities
13	Environment and ecology	20	Food industry	19	Industrial
4	Trade and commerce	0	Financial Services	4	Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

11	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	10	Workers and trade union
11	Large national business	2	Member of Parliament
11	Multi-national corporation	37	Local authority
21	Small-scale farmer	69	Government and national institution
4	Medium-scale farmer	0	Regional economic community
1	Large-scale farmer	6	United Nations
29	Local Non-Governmental Organization	1	International financial institution
2	International Non-Governmental Organization	11	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
1	Indigenous People	10	Consumer group
47	Science and academia	3	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 areas of the federal government that are responsible for the main subjects that comprise a food system, with special consideration to specific characteristics of the Brazilian food system and the Brazilian 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 the main partners during the process of organizing the Dialogue. The Ministry of Education (MEC) and the Office of the UN in Brasília were also important partners. Brazil opted to conduct a multi-stakeholder organization 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 at the National Dialogue, which benefited from the participation of different actors involved with food systems, varying from civil society to producers' associations and from small informal institutions to big 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 first round of 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. Registered participants were invited to intervene orally during the event. Participants that did not register to take the floor were invited to send written comments to the organizers of the event, related to the topics discussed in each video-conference. The combination of the reception of oral and written inputs from different stakeholders was important as it reflected the diverse views that integrate the Brazilian Food System and presented suggestions on how it can be improved.

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

The video-conferences allowed for inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogues, with wide participation of different segments of the society, productive sector, academia and the government. Such format is conducive to meeting 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

The Ministry of External Affairs was responsible for convening and curating the Brazilian National Dialogue. The organization of the dialogue had the active participation from different areas of the federal government, that are responsible for the main subjects that comprise a food system. Brazil chose to convene a dialogue that was as open and inclusive as possible. The dialogue was 100% virtual – using digital video-conferencing platform – because of time constraints and the epidemiological situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. The video-conferences was crosscutting and did not rely on discussion groups. 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, with the participation of different actors involved with food systems, varying from civil society to producers’ associations and from small informal institutions to big international companies. Participants were invited to register if they wanted to make an intervention during the event. All the participants were invited to send written comments to the organizers, if they so wished.

## 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

### MAJOR FOCUS

The first round of the National Brazilian Dialogue was divided into three video-conferences, which dealt with specific topics related to the Action Tracks of the Food Systems Summit. This document focus on the third video-conference, which was held on May, 14th, under the theme “Building Resilient Food Systems”. It was focused on Action Track 5 (“Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shock and stress”).

In order to reduce the risks for food insecurity, food systems need to become more resilient. The roles of smallholder farmers, women, government policies, business environment, innovation, adaptation techniques and national legislation are essential aspects of the discussion about resilience.

Different countries face distinct realities in order to promote resilience of their food systems. Maintaining the continued functionality of food systems, especially in areas that are prone to conflicts or natural disasters, is crucial in this regard. Actions to increase the economic, social and environmental resilience of food systems, along with measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change, should be addressed with a view to increasing the resilience of food systems.

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, Agroicone – a consultancy company focused on agriculture matters – and the Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development.

When the floor was open for interventions, speakers from a variety of backgrounds presented their positions, concerns and proposals on the discussion about increasing the resilience of food systems, including through the roles of smallholder farmers, women and the youth, as well as the characteristics of the national agricultural methods – in its 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 raised concerns about the predominance of narratives that are not entirely applicable to Brazilian food systems, namely shortening production chains, concentrating on local production and focusing on eco-agricultural methods. Different countries face different realities and have different climates, environments, histories and food systems.

As noted, such models can be more expensive, less efficient and incapable to meet the growing demand for food in the world (taking into account population growth estimates in Africa and Asia). Given that not all countries are self-sufficient or will be able to adapt their production systems quickly, even if favorable conditions are present, the world food trade will continue to be fundamental to promote food security and resilience to shocks, in addition to generating wealth in the form of income and jobs.

It must be highlighted that this does not mean that local production and short chains are per se harmful. The idea is that each production method has its role in ensuring food security and resilience and need to coexist. Brazil has several experiences of local production – peri-urban agriculture, community gardens – that are important for domestic consumption, but they coexist with large scale commercial agriculture and production facilities.

Brazil, as a global food supplier and a major exporter, 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. Food production in Brazil has low carbon emissions, compared to similar activities in developed countries with temperate climate.

There are some successful national programs that can be used as examples of actions to build resilient food systems. Some of them are: the Rural Insurance Program (PSR), the Agroclimatic Risk Zoning (ZARC) and the National School Feeding Program (which purchases 30% of food items from local family farms in every region of the country).

In addition, Brazil is a pioneer in cultivation and production techniques such as low-carbon emission agriculture and could act as a knowledge multiplier for countries with similar climate conditions.

Regarding the construction of resilient food systems, it is necessary to take into consideration the multiplicity of existing food systems, which act as complementary solutions to each other. In this sense, the Summit should not focus on reductionist one-size-fits-all conclusions, nor limit its recommendations to specific models of production, which would serve a very small portion of the world population and exacerbate inequalities.

The issue of food security involves socioeconomic aspects (associated with inequalities in the distribution of income and means of production), as well as technical issues of production. Public policies should address inequalities, expand access to healthy food, reduce food waste and loss and generate improvements in the entire production chain, with gains in productivity and resilience.

Some recommendations for building sustainable food systems that Brazil would like to share are: 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

Brazilian tropical agriculture is resilient and sustainable. It can contribute to meet other countries food security needs and strengthen national food systems. Programs related to: i) rural credit; ii) adaptation and low-carbon agriculture policies; iii) rural production insurance; and iv) agro-climatic risk zoning, can be adapted and implemented in other tropical/semi-tropical countries.

Such policies can help countries meet their international commitments regarding greenhouse gas emission and strengthen resilience. Farmers become less affected by crop fluctuation outcomes, crops can be chosen respecting environmental conditions of different areas and can be adapted to climate change. The integration between agriculture-livestock -forest helps the implementation of more sustainable and resilient food system.

Investment in science and technology is essential for increasing food production and promoting sustainable food systems. In order to achieve present levels of productivity and sustainability, Brazil developed, over the course of 50 years, a tropical agricultural technology adapted to the prevailing soil, climate and water cycle conditions in the country. In particular, investments in scientific research institutions – such as the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) and several highly qualified Universities – are important for the development of resilient food systems.

Access to credit, training and capacity building for producers, especially smallholder farmers, can play a major role in fostering resilience of food systems. Such policies related to credit address risk and foster resilient food systems. Moreover, land ownership should be regularized in order to promote sustainable agricultural production and ensure more resilient food systems.

In Brazil, the agricultural and food sectors contribute not only to economic and social resilience, but also to the achievement of the SDGs. Municipalities in agricultural areas tend to have higher HDI, on average, than in other regions. Formal workers in the agricultural and food sector tend to have higher wages than the Brazilian average.

Given the increasing risk of external shocks and crises affecting food systems, it is also important to provide emergency income or conditional cash transfer programs, such as “Bolsa Família”, especially to groups in situation of vulnerability. Such policies promote the resilience as they enable continuous consumption patterns by the population. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the strengthening of social policies has helped to maintain family consumption and, therefore, the continuity of functioning of food systems, which reflects directly in their resilience.

In this context, it is particularly important to adopt a holistic approach to food systems. Policies to address health, to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, as well as to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to land use are interdependent. They are further interconnected to measures to foster food security, resilience of food systems and sustainability.

Finally, healthy eating habits and sustainable production patterns, which include reducing food loss and waste and implementing adaptation measures to climate change, may contribute to the resilience of food systems.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

- Concentration of the food sector may affect the resilience of food systems. While Brazil has a number of large food and agriculture companies, it is not clear that there is a long-term trend towards concentration, nor that concentration per se harms the consumer and affects resilience. Most food available to Brazilian consumers come from family agriculture.
- Reduction of biodiversity affects the resilience of food systems. The Brazilian legal framework, including the national forest code, contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, but requires more active enforcement measures.
- International trade contributes to the resilience of food systems. Local production is important, but very few countries are self-sufficient in agricultural food products. They will continue to rely on trade for the foreseeable future to complement national systems, ensure food security and foodstuffs at affordable prices.
- Short versus long production and supply chains. Short agricultural production chains may have some benefits, but rarely can a country rely only on local agricultural products. In situations of increasing risk of climate shocks, global chains can provide necessary food supplies from other regions. Such chains must be in place and operational, given that they cannot be built overnight. A very good example is the resilience of the global food supply chains during the Covid19 Pandemic, which have contributed to guaranteeing food security to billions of people worldwide.

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Reference Document for Video-Conference III: Building Resilient Food Systems (Portuguese Version)**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/videoconferencia-3-doc.pdf>
- **Programme for Video-Conference III (Portuguese Version)**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/videoconferencia03\\_pp.pdf](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/videoconferencia03_pp.pdf)

## RELEVANT LINKS

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

# CORRECTIONS, ADJUSTMENTS, OR CHANGES

Title Reference Document: Building Resilient Food Systems

Date 09/06/2021

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

## ATTACHMENTS

- **Reference Document: Building Resilient Food Systems (English Version)**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Videoconferência-3-tradução-rev-DCID.pdf>