

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

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|----------------------------|--|
| <b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>       | Monday, 25 January 2021 04:00 GMT +03:00   |
| <b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>      | Power on Your Plate: All-Africa Summit on Diversifying Food Systems with African Traditional Vegetables to Increase Health, Nutrition and Wealth   |
| <b>CONVENED BY</b>         | World Vegetable Center   |
| <b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b> | <a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14604/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14604/</a>  |
| <b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>       | Independent  |
| <b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>  | Belize, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, South 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

175

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18

98 19-30

50 31-50

25 51-65

2 66-80

0 80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

105 Male

70 Female

0 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

145 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

5 Communication

5 Food processing

4 Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

11 Nutrition

5 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

10 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

5 Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

5 Local Non-Governmental Organization

15 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

124 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

5 Local authority

5 Government and national institution

5 Regional economic community

United Nations

1 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 sought to create an open forum for information sharing, exploration of ideas, and discussion about the role of traditional vegetables in supporting nutrition-sensitive agriculture in Africa. We offered participants multiple ways to engage with each other in-person and online: • 175 in-person participants; 312 registered ZOOM participants; and another 200 people followed through the event app. • More than 10,000 people viewed the summit in live Facebook feeds. Since this form only allows reporting on one mode, the attendance numbers in this feedback form reflect the in-person participants. During the event, two panel discussions brought forward the concerns and ideas of specific stakeholder groups: 1) A Young Entrepreneurs panel shed light on the bottlenecks young people face when attempting to establish agricultural enterprises based on traditional vegetables. Limited access to credit emerged as a serious constraint -- and the youth challenged representatives of financial institutions, who were present in the room -- to propose solutions. 2) A panel with High-level Decisionmakers focused on policies to enhance the uptake of traditional crops and all vegetables.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

**ACT WITH URGENCY** Twitter hashtag #PowerOnYourPlate tracks a lively social media discussion among stakeholders that continues today. **COMMIT TO THE SUMMIT** Participants made valuable connections during the event and are building networks to promote and utilize traditional vegetables to improve diets and local economies in Africa. **BE RESPECTFUL** All participants had opportunities to offer comments online and in-person. Questions that could not be answered immediately were followed up later in the event or shortly after it concluded. **RECOGNIZE COMPLEXITY** To explore the depth and breadth of traditional vegetables in Africa, summit participants shared 64 presentations covering six subject areas: -- Diversity and Breeding -- Seed Systems, Access, and Quality -- Nutrition -- Food Environments -- Value Chains and Scaling -- Beyond Food **EMBRACE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER INCLUSIVITY** Vegetable producers, entrepreneurs, students, researchers, government and NGO representatives from 41 countries (including 20 African countries) participated in the event. African countries represented: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe **COMPLEMENT THE WORK OF OTHERS** By sharing the latest research on traditional vegetables, participants can inform existing processes and initiatives, and set out new paths to integrate these crops into more resilient and robust food systems. **BUILD TRUST** In light of COVID-19, in-person participants took care to wear masks, wash hands, and respect physical distance at the venue.

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

# 3. METHOD

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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**

Although this event took a different approach to solicit opinions and ideas, we feel it followed the spirit of the summit dialogue principles. The "hybrid" method of hosting a conference provided many more people with a platform to share their views and be heard. Participants had opportunities to interact and to exchange ideas and opinions both at the venue and online. Questions that could not be answered immediately were followed up later in the event or shortly after it concluded. Videos of all speakers are available online.

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

This event aimed to gather knowledge and perspectives to raise awareness and examine prospects for diversifying African diets and economies with traditional vegetables.

Africa is home to a large number of plant species with the potential to invigorate the continent's horticultural value chain — yet whether consumed as nutritious food or used as the foundation for natural health products, these traditional vegetables remain untapped and underutilized. From an estimated 6,400 species of useful indigenous plants, about 300 are traditional vegetables, and about 126 species are widely known and used throughout the continent.

Traditional vegetables support nutrition-sensitive agriculture under climate change because they generally are more nutrient-dense than most commercial vegetable crops, have lower water requirements, are adapted to poor quality soils, and have higher resistance to pests and diseases.

Traditional vegetables are endangered by displacement with high-energy staple crops, the fact that most traditional vegetables are not registered in national catalogs, lack of promotion and support for their use, lack of human resources capacity focusing on traditional vegetables, and lack of conservation infrastructure.

Because of their relatively low commercial value, little research investment has been made for traditional vegetables; crop improvements have not been fully explored and genetic resources are poorly conserved.

A few African traditional vegetables have become widely adopted across the continent. African eggplant and okra are now grown on large areas and improved varieties are successfully commercialized. Research and breeding can convert more underutilized traditional vegetables into commercially successful crops.

Businesses and supportive government policy can unlock the potential of traditional vegetables to create employment and generate income, especially for women and youth. Diversifying diets and farming systems with these crops will strengthen resilience to a changing climate.

### 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

To realize the potential of traditional vegetables in Africa, there is a need to work simultaneously on the “Three Ps”: pulling demand, pushing supply, and providing enabling policy and governance.

In presentations and panel discussions, Power on Your Plate participants called for action: for increased investment, regional R&D programs, and policies to promote traditional vegetables at national and regional levels and fully integrate traditional vegetables into Africa’s food systems.

Ideas raised are listed in the discussion topics below.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

PUSH (supply side)

Actions for research institutions and governments:

- Foster innovative approaches to expand the availability and affordability of traditional African vegetables.
- Strengthen formal and informal seed systems.
- Introduce 'green' agricultural practices to guarantee food safety.
- Diversify the traditional vegetable species grown and marketed.
- Increase yields and extend growing seasons in a sustainable manner.
- Reduce postharvest losses by introducing processing technology, shorter supply chains and appropriate market storage space for vegetable vendors.

### 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 - 2/4

### PULL (demand side)

Actions for farmers and traders, input dealers, credit providers, marketers, and media:

- Foster innovative approaches to stimulate the acceptability and accessibility of traditional vegetables as part of a healthy diet.
- Establish trust and traceability relationships.
- Shorten the connection lines between producers and consumers to address food safety concerns.
- Create interest in traditional vegetables through information campaigns emphasizing taste, cultural value and ease of preparation as well as nutritional, health and environmental benefits.
- Banks should aim to commit a significant portion of their loan books to regenerative agriculture.
- Extend loan repayment periods for young farmers who may not own land.
- Create a revolving fund for traditional vegetable producers.
- Apply consumer trends in food consumption such as convenience and health to traditional crops.
- Create awareness of the benefits of using quality seed among farmers.
- Train farmers in quality traditional vegetable seed production/processing/marketing.
- Use social media marketing for traditional vegetables.
- Establish Vegetable Business Hubs to provide crop management knowledge and connect producers with traders, processors, input and credit vendors.
- Show young people opportunities in production and value addition through on-farm demonstrations.

### ACTION TRACKS

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns              |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress |

### KEYWORDS

|                                     |                           |                                     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Finance                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Policy                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Innovation                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Data & Evidence         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Human rights              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Governance              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Trade-offs              |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            |                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environment and Climate |



## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

### POLICY (governance)

Actions for local, regional and national governments:

- Promote traditional vegetables within local, national and regional initiatives to reduce malnutrition, create employment opportunities, and ensure crucial buy-in from policy- and decision-makers.
- Public procurement of traditional vegetables for school feeding programs, hospitals, military and other institutional clients can increase demand, develop markets for farmers, and address several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 13 and 15).
- Select and certify priority traditional vegetables to incorporate into national policies.
- Adjust land tenure practices to address access issues for women and young people.
- Provide traditional vegetable seed for vulnerable refugees living in camps.

### ACTION TRACKS

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

- Finance
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- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

### RESEARCH

Actions for agricultural research institutions; government agriculture and health ministries; nongovernmental organizations:

- Collect and protect traditional crops and their wild relatives in genebanks to safeguard diversity.
- Collect and share traditional knowledge about these crops.
- Conduct more regional research on traditional crops.
- Breed climate-smart crops.
- Identify local favorites that best fit local agro-ecosystems and diets.
- Dedicate a much greater proportion of national, regional and global R&D efforts to nutritious food, in particular traditional vegetables.

### ACTION TRACKS

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

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

### ACTION TRACKS

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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation                | <input type="checkbox"/> Data & Evidence         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human rights              | <input type="checkbox"/> Governance              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade-offs              |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate |

# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Power on Your Plate Points for Action**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/power-on-your-plate-one-page-flyer-wrap-up\\_A4-2.pdf](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/power-on-your-plate-one-page-flyer-wrap-up_A4-2.pdf)

## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Power on Your Plate YouTube Channel**  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWk7s17hRMk4Y4Pag1XV4Bg>
- **Power on Your Plate Book of Abstracts**  
[https://worldveg.tind.io/record/73997/files/Poweronyourplate\\_Abstracts.pdf](https://worldveg.tind.io/record/73997/files/Poweronyourplate_Abstracts.pdf)