

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Thursday, 17 June 2021 10:00 GMT +03:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Малый бизнес: Качественная еда для всех – Европа и Центральная Азия
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Продовольственная и Сельскохозяйственная Организация Объединенных Наций, Международная Торговая Палата, Международная Агропродовольственная Сеть, Программа развития ООН
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14621/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14621/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Uzbekistan

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

40

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

5

19-30

30

31-50

5

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

15 Male

25 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

7 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

1 Livestock

1 Agro-forestry

6 Environment and ecology

10 Trade and commerce

3 Education

Communication

3 Food processing

5 Food retail, markets

3 Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

1 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

3 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

1 Large national business

Multi-national corporation

10 Small-scale farmer

5 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

5 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

5 Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

1 Local authority

Government and national institution

5 Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

5 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The dialogue was designed having the principles act as a platform to ensure strong engagement of the participants. All of the principles were incorporated. Big focus put into ensuring multi-stakeholder inclusivity by diverse tools for outreach to invite participants to join the dialogue.

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

- Act with urgency/ Recognise complexity: convenor and keynote speakers have shared key trends and developments in food systems, highlighting the urgency to make shifts in the way the food systems operate, in the light of wicked problems (incl. climate change); complexity of interconnections between various stakeholders in the system - Commit to the summit: the dialogue empowered stakeholders to participate in the discussion of current problem spaces and desirable future for the food systems. By sharing personal stories and reflecting collectively on bigger barriers for sustainable development of the sector, participants committed to making changes in the areas where they individually have agency as well as discussed the need to collaborate between each other. - Be respectful: deep listening was mentioned by curator and invitation to listen to other participants. - Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity: as previously mentioned, ensuring diversity of participants was key for the organisers. Diversity of sectors, sizes of organisations, sectors, gender etc. - Compliment the work of others/ Build trust: Sharing trends and innovations, as well as personal stories of the participants enabled connection, broaden partnerships and overall building trust.

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

Ensure you include them when the sessions are designed and maybe mentioning the principles during the dialogues.

# 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**

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

Our food systems must become more nourishing, sustainable, equitable, and resilient. This is the imperative set by the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit. Small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) constitute at least half the food system, so are fundamental in efforts to transform the ways we produce and consume our food. The Summit has undertaken a global consultation exercise to ask thousands of food SMEs and their expert supporters, “How to boost the role of SMEs in providing good food for all?” Food SMEs are quiet revolutionaries, working tirelessly to transform food systems in every corner of the planet. Listening to the SMEs in each discrete context will highlight priority actions to boost their contribution as change agents. This dialogue has created space for SMEs in Eastern Europe and Post-soviet Asia to get together and discuss some of the key challenges they face in the current food system as well as discuss what would a more desirable future look like and what are the ways to achieve it.

### 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

These SME stories tell of their collective commitment to drive positive change in multiple ways:

Pathway 1: Create a business ecosystem in which food SMEs thrive

Opportunities to act:

- Leverage the power of SMEs by creating/ supporting dynamic networks, foundations, cooperatives, associations,
- Conduct frequent systemic dialogues between multiple stakeholders (public sector, business, SMEs and farmers, consumers) to explore specific aspects of food systems in greater depth
- Promote education (public workers, business, academia, consumers) on sustainability, new technologies, policies, circular business models, nutrition, soil regeneration etc.

Pathway 2: Incentivise businesses to provide “Good Food for All”

Opportunities to act:

- Ensure prices reflect the true cost of food
- Shift to sustainable consumption patterns. Educate consumers and food retail on topics related to “good food”, nutrition, sustainability, new technologies, innovative policies, circularity, zero waste, soil regeneration etc.
- Fast-track innovative entrepreneurs and support youth
- Improve access to digitalisation of the industry and integration of new technologies

Pathway 3: Incentivise public bodies/ regulator (incl. municipalities, local and regional government, national and international) to provide “Good Food for All”

Opportunities to act:

- Promote education (public workers, business, academia, consumers) on sustainability, new technologies, policies, circular business models, nutrition, soil regeneration etc.
- Ensure prices reflect the true cost of food and create policies supporting sustainable food production
- Policy should evolve faster to address fast changing technological and methodological innovation in the sector
- Integrating participatory governance and multi-stakeholder processes
- Foreign economic relations

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

How are you and your business contributing to the food system now?  
What challenges limit your positive impacts?

The SMEs participating in the dialogues as well as other representatives of the food industry have shared some of the key barriers they experience from their point in the system. It was a rich discussion in all breakout groups. Overall the actions of SMEs are fragmented, not coordinated. Each of the SMEs have shared their dedication to produce and deliver "Good Food for All", either via use of new technologies including innovations in business models (e.g. direct sales), bio agriculture etc. It was interesting to notice however, that SMEs would embrace these innovations not as a result of incentives by regulators and governments, rather as a response to unfavourable market conditions and inability to compete with big business.

Some key barriers identified included:

- outdated legislation - the regulator is lagging behind
- unfavourable market conditions - competition with big companies
- insufficient education of farmers on "good food" and overall resistance to change
- inappropriate distribution of products in households and food processing businesses and food waste
- insufficient digitalization of the industry
- the importance of maintaining local crop biodiversity conservation through the cooperation of local seed growers, farmers and seed exchange
- lack of sustainability context - need to restructure value chains
- lack of expertise in new technologies, lack of high-quality personnel
- negative outcomes of digitalization - social aspects of the digitalisation and future of work
- lack of education for consumers on "good food"

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

How to boost the role of SMEs in providing "Good Food for All"?

The discussions on this topic in all groups were thoughtful and comprehensive. Interestingly, for all of the groups the focus on the quality of food for consumers and "Make good food matter" was the gravitation of the conversations. Some of the following needs were highlighted:

- Pay attention to children's diet and nutrition
- Networks require control, and research that needs to be invested in
- Large enterprises have budgets, and small ones have no resources to innovate
- Be attentive to what gets into marketing
- Educate consumers on "good food"
- Educate youth and children

Additional topics of discussion included:

- Provide SMEs with digital technologies, innovations, to reduce the gap between large businesses and SMEs
- Democratise the digital food revolution
- Bilateral interaction between the regulator and SMEs
- Education for business, farmers on sustainable development, soil regeneration, biodiversity etc.
- Reward responsible conduct
- Youth involvement

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Area that need further exploration is foreign economic relations. The current structure of the system prevents SMEs to influence the shape and direction of the foreign economic relations, which in a lot of cases have very strong influence on the market conditions for SMEs. That in light of sanctions, closed borders, discrimination based on market of origin etc. creates a significant barrier for a lot of SMEs, especially those heavily dependent on import and export.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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