

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 14 June 2021 10:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	الأعمال التجارية الصغيرة: طعام جيد للجميع - الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا
CONVENED BY	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة ، غرفة التجارة الدولية ، الاتحاد الأفريقي ، الشبكة الدولية للأغذية الزراعية
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14624/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

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

30

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

16 Male

14 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

3 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

2 Environment and ecology

2 Trade and commerce

2 Education

4 Communication

Food processing

1 Food retail, markets

7 Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

2 National or local government

Utilities

5 Industrial

2 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

4 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

3 Large national business

1 Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

1 Local Non-Governmental Organization

7 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

5 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

3 Local authority

2 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

2 United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

2 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

1) The participants were invited to introduce themselves, their work, and their contribution to the food system. 2) The participants were encouraged to stay connected and use the dialogue to network with others who complement their work in the region. 3) The participants were given 70 minutes to discuss their work, challenges, and pathways throughout the dialogue. (2 35-minute breakout sessions). 4) The speakers highlighted the contributions of SMEs and the importance of unlocking their full potential and gave examples of how governmental support to SMEs enhances the country's economy. 5) The participants were encouraged to keep participating by completing the expert survey, registering for the Small Business Agenda for the Food Systems Summit, and for the UNFSS Pre-Summit.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

1) The attendees were invited to introduce themselves, briefly discuss their work, and share their contact information (if they preferred) in the chatbox and through a poll to stay connected and explore the possibilities of working together or complementing each other's work. 2) The participants came from different backgrounds; some were representatives of SMEs in the MENA region but the dialogue also incorporated representatives from governmental/law sectors, national and international NGOs, business incubators, food researchers, and university professors. 3) The participants were given two breakout sessions (35 minutes each) to speak more in-depth about 1) their work and how it contributes to the food system and the challenges that impede further development and 2) which of the dialogue's suggested pathways they deemed most beneficial for their conduct and how they would reflect on enhancing the food system in the MENA region. 4) The side conversations were then summarized, reflected on, and discussed in the plenary. 5) Speakers from FAO and ICC highlighted the SMEs' role in the food/agricultural sector and how important it is to unlock their full potential and that would be through reducing the cost of doing business, capacity building initiatives, creating a regional network, and sharing information. 6) A case study (Qatar) was used as an example: Qatar supports the private sector, especially SMEs to increase domestic food production through facilitating the legal procedures for starting a business, tax exemptions for small businesses, giving access to lands, transportation, and funds in addition to Qatari business incubators' support in financing, training, capacity building and networking.

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

The focus: A comprehensive exploration of food systems and links between the action tracks

- Addressing the components of the food system: farming, food processing, distribution, consumption, recycling, etc, how interrelated they are, and the importance of forming direct partnerships between all the stakeholders in question.
- Calling for governmental and non-governmental initiatives for capacity building and training of scientists, researchers, technicians, students, and farmers on the circular economy, non-wasteful production, and recycling of agricultural waste which can produce supplementary organic-matter resources for crop production, or valuable soil amendments.
- Initiatives supporting individuals affected by civil wars and plagues to get them back on track be that in terms of funds or capacity building to get them back on track.
- The importance of promoting awareness, on the national and regional level, of (1) the nutrients contained in foods in relation to their roles in body maintenance, growth, reproduction, health, and disease prevention and (2) convincing people to change their eating habits toward more environmentally sustainable food consumption. This can be a challenge given that food preferences, choices, and habits occupy a central role in human cultures and food consumption goes far beyond its functional role as a means to survive.

ACTION TRACKS

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

KEYWORDS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" 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"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

- 1) Establishing connections between agricultural scientists/researchers and smallholder farmers so they could share knowledge and data on how to deliver sustainable agricultural practices through optimal resource use with smallholder farmers through training and workshops.
- 2) Creating a channel between environmental scientists/researchers and consumers so they could communicate their findings with the general consumers (everyone, basically) (each to their level of understanding) about the positive impact of responsible consumption and lowering the ecological footprint in the long run on the environment.
- 3) In most of the region's countries, taxes and fees are still high and administrative procedures are still inconvenient to small and medium businesses. These governments should focus on creating transparent business environments with less overlapping and practical regulations and the media/community should encourage local dining/shopping to help SMEs in the food system grow. (ease of access to the market for small & medium businesses)

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

- 1) Giving SMEs a voice and an enabling environment through
- 1) ease of access to funds, training, and basic services
 - 2) adequate representation and networking services
 - 3) less bureaucracy, clearer regulations, and simplified legal procedures
 - 4) lower taxes and fees on starting a small business

Who should take these actions: Governments, policymakers, NGOs, and business incubators.

- 2) Raising awareness on sustainable production and consumption of food through
- 1) educating stakeholders about how to lower their ecological footprint
 - 2) rewarding responsible (environmentally friendly) production and consumption
 - 3) promoting initiatives for agri-waste recycling

Who should take these actions: governments, NGOs, local initiatives, community, scientists and educators.

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

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

- | | |
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