

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 15 June 2021 09:00 GMT -06:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Pymes: Una buena alimentación para todos – América Latina y el Caribe)
CONVENED BY	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, Cámara de Comercio Internacional, Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura, Red agroalimentaria internacional
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14633/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of

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

258

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

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?

The dialogue was organised with full respect and commitment to the Principles of Engagement: Act with Urgency In light of this urgency, the Dialogue was organized as a contribution to the Food Systems Summit and to the elaboration of pathways to food systems transformation contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Commit to the Summit The Dialogue empowered stakeholders to participate in the preparation of the Food Systems Summit. All stakeholders were consulted about ways to move forward collectively and creatively, embracing the entire scope of opinions. The dialogue was organised around 2 main discussions which happened in small sub-groups to allow the most participative and safe open-discussions. Be Respectful Respect for one another is a foundation for genuine Dialogue. Participants in the Dialogues listened to each other and were open to the co-existence of divergent points of view. Each sub-group was facilitated by experienced facilitators who ensured everyone had an opportunity to express his/her opinions. Recognize Complexity Dialogues are an opportunity to embrace the complexity of food systems. They promote a systemic approach by involving multiple stakeholders to identify actions across the system together with potential synergies and trade-offs. Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity The Dialogue brought to the table a diversity of stakeholders from within SMEs, Ecosystem Support Organisations (ESOs), the broader business community, small-holder farmers and civil society – working across the food system from production to consumption. Complement the work of others The Dialogue built-on and added-value to existing policy processes and initiatives. It provided an opportunity to share promising innovations, connect stakeholders, and broaden partnerships to transform food systems for the common good. Build Trust The Dialogue was curated and facilitated in a way which created a “safe space” and promoted trust, encouraging mutual respect. The conclusions emerging from the Dialogue are not attributed to single individuals.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

It included multiple stakeholders, from government and public agencies, to small businesses and support organizations.

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

Ensure that all involved in the planning and organizing, curators, facilitators, speakers, are aware of these.

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

How to boost the role of SMEs in providing good food for all?

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are vital to our food economies. Each country is different, but SMEs are often over 90% of businesses in the agri-food sector, creating half the economic value, providing more than half the sector's jobs, and handling more than half the food consumed. Their tenacity and agility sustain food supplies and access through the COVID pandemic.

What pathways will enhance the contribution of SMEs to the food system? Wasafiri here offers six promising pathways to boost the impact of food SMEs. Which are most important in your context? What is missing? What actions will advance them? How are they interdependent?

1. Elevate the Voice of SMEs

Food entrepreneurs are incredibly diverse. Hence, collectively they neither easily influence nor hear the policy decisions that determine their future. Policymakers are often simply unaware of this quiet majority and are instead swayed by more powerful voices that are easier to engage. Positive examples exist of institutions and processes that elevate the voice of SMEs. The best of these also manage to amplify more marginalised entrepreneurs such as women, youth and indigenous people. Replicating these efforts around the world will ensure our food systems are designed and managed in ways that realise the positive contribution of SMEs.

2. Reduce the Cost of Doing Business

In emerging economies, many basic challenges undermine the commercial viability of food SMEs, for example poor roads, intermittent power, red tape, corruption, unpredictable trade policy, and internet access. Wherever these improve, SMEs grow and proliferate. Access to finance also improves as lenders and investors have more confidence. Cross-sector collaboration can strengthen this basic enabling environment, reducing the risks and costs of doing business in the agri-food sector, and accelerating the "quiet revolution" through which SMEs are already transforming food systems.

3. Reward Positive Outcomes

Our food systems are currently designed to reward the mass production of cheap calories. Different incentives are needed for markets to produce food that is more sustainable, nourishing and equitable. From impact investing to carbon credits, from product certification to sugar taxes, there are diverse mechanisms to reward positive outcomes and disincentivise negative ones. These must be designed and scaled in ways that work for SMEs, rather than adding complexity and cost.

4. Target Support at Food SMEs

Well-resourced business development support for SMEs is a proven driver of inclusive economic growth. Targeting such support at food SMEs offers additional benefits, due to the importance of the sector to public goods such as health, the environment, and livelihoods. Youth, women and other groups face additional barriers to starting and growing a business. Support to them unlocks fresh entrepreneurial energy into the sector and addresses equity gaps.

5. Democratise the Digital Food Revolution

COVID has accelerated a long-term trend towards digitisation of the food system. Whether it is digital farming, block chain for supply chain management, or virtual marketplaces, the food system is undergoing a tech revolution. The vast flows of data could serve the common good or entrench control within a few powerful actors. By design and policy, the data services and digital markets must be accessible to SMEs. This could unlock myriad innovations from payment for ecosystem services, to direct farm-to-consumer sales.

6. Make Good Food Matter

For decades, the food system has been valued for its efficiency in feeding billions of additional mouths. This era witnessed the rise of industrial agriculture. The Summit marks an inflection point. Food systems must now also be valued for nourishing people, regenerating nature, improving equity and resilience to shocks. In this new paradigm, SMEs are in a stronger position with their closer, more nuanced relationships with communities and landscapes.

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

Classification of SMEs, it is not the reality as such, to consolidate effective information to achieve impact interventions through the development of programs that can promote the capacities of SMEs to overcome the subsistence economy. Some points that emerged:

- The importance of revaluing native diets, forgotten species, and underutilized crops (such as amaranth and quinoa) is recognized to promote the consumption of healthy foods and good eating habits. For the above, education and communication play a very important role in re-teaching people to consume and produce in a healthy way, change the cultural perception of overvaluing foreign products, fried foods, highly processed products and rather promoting crops. healthy by publicizing their history, nutrition and presenting them with attractive packaging.
 - It is important to consider that the value that the consumer places on food is based on perceptions. In this sense, it is important to support the producer of healthy products so that he can have brand registrations, good marketing campaigns and intellectual property for small producers.
 - Another relevant aspect is the role of the State to promote the design and implementation of public policies that promote the consumption of healthy and fresh food. Likewise, the government must support SMEs in matters of human rights, environmental sustainability and provide tax incentives.
 - It is important to manage knowledge and strengthen skills from cultural aspects, that is, to promote knowledge and information on indigenous products. It is important that consumers know what they are consuming.
 - Return the focus to the entire supply chain, not just the primary production stages, and provide training.
- Alejandra Montal placeholder image
- Consider young people and their initiatives to generate companies with a different perspective.
 - Promote digitization, digital inclusion.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Unique platforms of associations, chambers of commerce do not achieve local impact as they are oriented to large private or government interests, they are not collecting local interests. A concrete action could be to insert small and medium-sized companies and their interests in these groups of influence. Other actions:

Create local contact networks that can strengthen food chains, specialized people united, coordinating role of external or international organizations to create contact networks of entrepreneurs and suppliers. It is difficult for small and medium entrepreneurs to access information, exchange of experiences, markets. Networks could focus on strengthening and promoting an entrepreneurial fabric and culture that would help create production with value.

Self-consumption and education, shorter value chains.

Difficult to compete with elements strongly established in large agroindustrial industries: 1. Lobby internalized in large chains, strengthen the technical capacity of small and medium-sized companies to lobby. 2. Advertising and markets, strengthen the capacities to show what is being done in the SME sector, more local and national advertising, access to television or electronic strips to make visible what is being done and access new markets. Differentiate itself as an SME sector through components such as decent employment, sustainability, added value, cooperation. Make visible the positive and sustainable impacts of SMEs on food systems. SMEs must reach the final consumer, shortening supply chains and circuits.

Connecting producers with who will ultimately be consumers, through technology they can connect, but considering access gaps is an important step.

Promotion of projects to raise awareness of products that have a healthy and healthy diet. Information and educate consumers.

2. Reduce the cost of doing business

Automating activities that do not add value, not having productivity indicators, makes it more distant to increase productivity, to strengthen these capacities, either through technologies or technical assistance.

Modernize the transformation of surpluses, avoid food loss and waste, generate new markets through surpluses, exchange with other SMEs. Networks of contact and help again needed, an articulator of these instances is needed.

Little differentiation for regulations, regulations generate restrictions by not being differentiated between small, medium and giant, increasing costs. Invite the government to differentiate regulations.

Changes in consumption and habits driven from the local, local consumer education. Form work networks so that they can have representation in politics, specific networks to promote from the local.

Indigenous, marginalized community, train and educate peasants and how to convince them to network with them. Deliver a business vision. Reduce implementation costs. change the culture to do business.

Support for small and medium non-formalized producers, focus on the informal economy. Many times you cannot do business with them due to billing and administrative issues, segregating agroecological and local products, making it impossible to open businesses for this group.

3. Rewarding positive results

Government incentives to help the small ones formalize, impulse and local and national impact.

Make visible what is done and what SMEs achieve, because if they represent more than 99% of the companies they do not appear in any media (?), Breaking the broadcast oligopoly could generate impacts on SMEs to join the chains of value.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There was a slight divergence of opinions regarding how much to engage with governments to demand change. Some participants felt that governments are critical in the actions that are needed to transform the food system, while others thought SMEs should just forge forward their own change, and not wait for governments to mandate or facilitate.

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