

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 28 April 2021 19:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Farmers and Consumers at the centre of 2021 UN SG Food Systems Summit
CONVENED BY	Consumers International and World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14768/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

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

54

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

54 31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

32 Male

22 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

13 Agriculture/crops

2 Fish and aquaculture

2 Livestock

2 Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

2 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

23 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

12 Small-scale farmer

17 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

1 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

2 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

4 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

17 Consumer group

1 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The organization of the dialogue was characterized by the respect and application of all the principles of engagement. In fact, the main objective of this meeting between farmers and consumers was precisely action-oriented and people-centred in the spirit of the UN FSS. Farmers and consumers met under the banner of mutual respect and support for each other. Participants were invited to propose concrete and scalable solutions, orienting them through some guided questions. The expectation, in fact, was to understand what can be actively done to change the system and break the silos, building bridges between the two parties. By doing so, the foundation was laid for mutual and lasting trust with a shared desire to change the current food system.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The premises of this dialogue were to promote inclusive and win-win solutions by adopting a holistic and systemic approach to understanding how to act in a complex system like the food system. In fact, farmers and consumers are the first and last ring in the food value chain and it is essential that they strengthen and reinforce their collaboration, fostering a systems approach to the value chain based on a fairer share of value all along. In doing so, therefore, a multi-stakeholder inclusivity was embraced and it was emphasized that everyone is called upon to play their part.

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

It is important to ensure representativeness of all relevant categories. Also, it is good to consider that the list of registered participants reduces as some do not attend. Lastly, in order to cover all regions of the world - in case it is an international online event - it is recommended to organize multiple sessions in different time slots to allow the participation of representatives from different time zones.

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 dialogue produced a rich and stimulating debate. Participants were excited to be able to engage with each other on certain burning issues that they normally have no chance to address. The opportunities for the two sides to meet are rare and this has inspired a high and active participation. The dialogue was divided into two parts. The first part dealt with broad and general issues, while the second part explored more specific topics. Participants were divided into 3 break up sessions, each discussing how cooperation between these two groups can help in the transition to a more sustainable and fair food system.

Two rounds of break up sessions were organized. The first one under the following themes:

- 1) What do farmers and consumers need this summit to deliver?
- 2) How can farmers and consumers contribute to food systems transformation?
- 3) What can other stakeholders, including Governments, Private Sector, Civil Society and Science, in the global food system do to help achieve these goals?

The second round of break up sessions focused on:

What should farmers and consumers expect from the summit in areas such as

- 1) Consumer information
- 2) Trade and supply chain
- 3) Food standards

At the end of this discussion, in the plenary session, strategies and visions were developed with respect to future steps that could be leveraged through the process.

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

The starting point of this dialogue is that farmers are consumers, but it is not always possible to say the opposite. For this reason, this Summit can help to connect them, possibly at a local level. The reason for supporting such a position lies in the complexity of food systems, which differ from region to region. The complexity of the food system also emerges with respect to its interconnection with other systems, such as health and educational system. In this regard, governments and policy makers play a key role.

Dialogue participants emphasized the importance of promoting healthy food choices through regulations, government policies that really facilitate access to more affordable food, but always do it in a fair way. Above all, they focused on education about healthy, balanced diets beginning in early childhood through school-based programs. Children, in fact, are exposed to what is offered to them and the government has a responsibility to enable them to purchase nutritious and unprocessed food. A coherent legislative framework that supports farmers in the transition to more sustainable production is, therefore, crucial. Farmers need to be placed at the center of the food system as they are not only providing safe and nutritious food, but also providing a whole bunch of ecosystem services for which they are not rewarded.

Education also proved to be an indispensable factor for the farmers themselves. It can help in the adoption of innovative techniques that contribute to protecting the environment and reducing the use of agrochemicals.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

CONSUMER INFORMATION

Most of the information consumers receive about their choices is provided through labeling. However, it would be desirable to encourage greater proximity between producers and consumers so that the flow of information is more direct and transparent. It is desirable that there be greater restrictions on healthy food and WHO standards, promotion of education in school and intervene on the lack of coordination between farmers and consumers maybe through direct contact and selling (local market). Consumers want to know the origin of products and not be misled by marketing and advertising (online or on television). Therefore, legislative action is needed to limit marketing restrictions, especially to children and control marketing about healthy food in packaging and in media channels.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

TRADE AND SUPPLY CHAIN

According to the participants, trade should be conceived as a tool, a resource within the food system used to achieve a fair balance between local and international consumption. It is important to limit food loss and waste during trade. In addition, what consumers really care about is the traceability of food (country of production and country of origin). In addition, it is essential to ensure inclusive trade agreements.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

FOOD STANDARDS

The importance of introducing global standards has been highlighted. Moreover, the introduction of voluntary standards in a particular agri-food sector is associated with high compliance costs for farmers and this may marginalize the poorest. On this point, it has been reported that food standards can be useful in empowering consumers to play an active role in choice and increase trust between farmers and consumers. However, clarity in standards is necessary to ensure proper awareness.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

All panellists and participants agreed on the positions expressed and elaborated during this first dialogue. Although there was an emerging need to establish practices that can enhance trust between producers and consumers in the food systems, globally.

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