

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 21 July 2021 09:30 GMT +07:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	The Role of the Thai Private Sector in the Development of Sustainable Food Systems
CONVENED BY	Noppadol Dej-Udom, Secretary General, Global Compact Network Thailand
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14810/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14810/</a>
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Thailand

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

90

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

23

19-30

40

31-50

25

51-65

2

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

35 Male

55 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

2 Agriculture/crops

3 Fish and aquaculture

5 Livestock

Agro-forestry

2 Environment and ecology

3 Trade and commerce

14 Education

2 Communication

5 Food processing

5 Food retail, markets

16 Food industry

3 Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

6 National or local government

Utilities

2 Industrial

21 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

12 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

29 Large national business

2 Multi-national corporation

1 Small-scale farmer

1 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

4 Local Non-Governmental Organization

6 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

14 Science and academia

1 Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

6 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

3 International financial institution

2 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

8 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Global Compact Network Thailand (GCNT) is part of the UN Global Compact community. We responded to requests from a number of our member organizations to host this Dialogue, as they believe as private companies, if they were to organize such an event themselves, it would not be as inclusive as possible. The GCNT provided a neutral platform where participants can freely discuss without worrying that they event would be seen only as a PR event, and we were able to bring multiple categories of stakeholders within the food systems into the conversation.

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

Acting with Urgency: we presented the challenges the world, and Thailand in particular, is facing in achieving the SDGs by 2030, and how changing our food systems for the better is the key to accelerating towards the Goals. Committing to the Summit: we invited the official National Convener and his team from the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to both provide input to the dialogue, as well as to gather comments, concerns, proposals, to form part of Thailand's official position at the Pre-Summit and Summit. We also emphasized the importance of thinking of the food value chain as a "system" and the need to look beyond business-as-usual approaches. Be respectful: we encouraged all participants to ask questions and comments and the presentations by the key topic speakers, either by the video-conferencing platform's chat function or by turning on their microphone. The tone of the event was collaborative, and several senior-ranking government officials and executive of large corporations expressing their appreciation for inputs from all participants. Recognize complexity: we highlighted the fact that food systems involve diverse stakeholders and processes, and while we should endeavor to ensure that all aspects of sustainability are covered, and that significant transformative changes are needed, useful to recognize 'small' wins, low-hanging fruits, and simple and easily applied solutions. Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity: while the key target group for this event are GCNT's member companies in the food sector, it was widely publicized and we saw participants from various groups. We actively engaged with NGOs and SMEs. Complement the works of others: One objective of this dialogue event is to encourage sharing of experience, to have the participants learn about example cases presented during the discussion and start thinking about how they can apply similar solutions to their context. Build trust: government officials who will represent Thailand at the Pre-Summit and Summit emphasized on the inclusive and transparent nature of the summit process.

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

Our event was designed to bring government agencies together with the business sector to learn from each other, and it proved useful for both parties to learn the different perspectives. We found that it is was beneficial to assign clear role and informed participants of intended outcome right at the beginning, while allowing for flexibility during the course of the dialogue.

# 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

The level of understanding amongst the target group for this event - the Thai private sector, companies of various sizes, was very diverse. This event was aimed at primarily cultivating the basic understanding of global trends in sustainable food systems, and identifying potential approaches for strengthening food systems along the 5 Action Tracks. The event started off with the Director General of the GCNT highlighting the urgency to act to improve and strengthen the food systems to help move the global community as a whole towards the SDGs. The National Convener (deputy permanent secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives) informed participants of key development in Thailand's preparation for the Pre-Summit and the Summit, followed by in-depth explanation of the UNFSS dialogue process, the 5 action tracks, and potential solutions and key points for discussion by an expert from the Ministry. The discussion portion of the event was organized as follows: the curator introduced each action track and invite representatives from 1-2 companies per track to talk about how their organization is implementing business models or programs that align with the action track in question for 5 minutes per person, then the participants were invited to ask questions and provide comments for 5-10 minutes - either via the chat function or by turning on his or her microphone. The core team organizing the event was one of our member company, Charoen Pokphand Group Co., Ltd., or C.P. Group, a Thailand-based holding company with food-related operations that span 21 countries and cover many parts of the food value chain, e.g. seeds, feed, farm, food processing, retail and wholesale, and foodservices). Several weeks prior to this dialogue, C.P. Group held an internal dialogue to familiarize employees from food companies within the group.

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The event brought together the government agencies that regulate the food and agriculture sectors, farmers, food producers and processors, NGOs, academia, and IT and technology companies, to allow all parties to share their perspectives about what topics are important to them within the food systems discussion. The dialogue covers all 5 action tracks, with particular attention to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and what solutions are needed to alleviate and respond to such crisis.

### 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 |

MAIN FINDINGS

Participants from the government sector expressed their appreciation of the contribution by the business sector in driving the sustainable food systems agenda, and highlight the areas in which private sector can utilize its expertise in strategic implementation, communications with consumers, and market insights, to work together with the regulatory and public policy bodies.

Thailand's 13th National Economics and Social Development Plan is currently being developed, and will incorporate the food systems approach towards SDGs alignment.

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

A number of participants raise the issue of food loss and food waste - which is a complex topic and is currently being managed by various government agencies. For example, 'food loss' is being regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, while 'food waste' is under the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Environment. The first step to increasing the effectiveness in management of food loss and food waste is to align data and policy among these different agencies, and then working more closely with a number of NGOs and businesses currently active in this field.

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 - 2/3

The role of seafood companies, and other food-related companies in mitigating plastic and other waste in the marine environment.

Food companies, including retailers, must design and manage their packaging to reduce the risk that their packaging materials would leak out of the waste management system into the natural environment, usually ending up in the ocean. Additionally, seafood companies should influence their suppliers to improve their management of fishing gears (or implement recovery program of ghost gear) and waste management aboard fishing vessels.

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 - 3/3

Plant-based food and alternative protein - while the market for these products is still relatively small in Thailand, in many export destination countries, the markets are more mature. Leveraging this international market potential can help promote domestic market as well.

Plant-based proteins should be more actively promoted, and support on both the supply side (e.g. R&D funding, training) and demand side (communications campaign) are necessary.

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

The definition of "sustainable agriculture" is still under debate. Stakeholders from various groups hold diverse views as to what qualify as "sustainable agriculture". Some consumer group only consider organic or chemical-free agriculture as 'sustainable', whereas others believe responsible and effective use of chemical input is acceptable as sustainable. More science-based public discussion on such topics will be helpful.

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