

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 6 May 2021 13:00 GMT -04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Youth Leaders for Food Systems Transformations
CONVENED BY	Arrell Food Institute, McGill University and University of British Columbia
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14933/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Canada

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

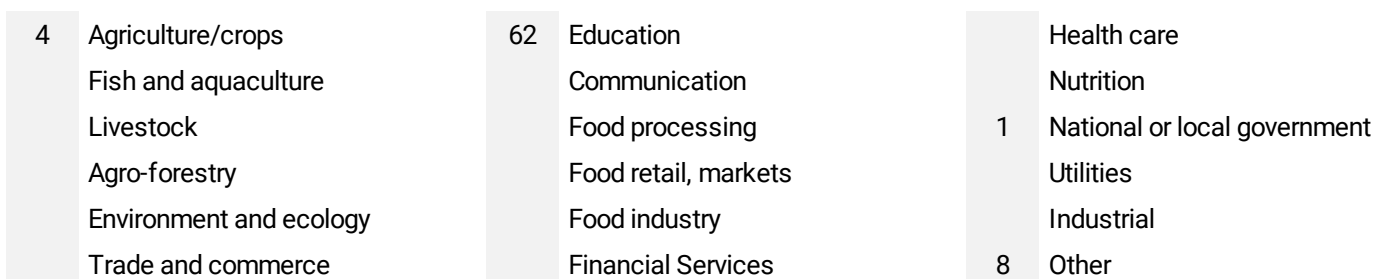
PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE



PARTICIPATION BY GENDER



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP



2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

This was a Youth Dialogue involving University undergraduate and graduate students from McGill University, University of Guelph and the University of British Columbia. Student participants were mainly drawn from the Faculties of Agriculture, Food and Land Systems of the 3 universities. Due to COVID restrictions and to overcome the geographic distances from eastern Canada to the western Pacific coast, the Dialogue was held by Zoom with facilitated breakout sessions. We used emails, social media, and word of mouth to promote the Dialogue among the students at each of the 3 universities. We had a steering committee comprising professors and administrators of the 3 Faculties (6 people), who decided on the logistics, the format, and the broad themes of the Dialogue, based on the guidance material from the UN Food Systems website and accompanying resources. This oversight group developed the overall scenario and program of the Dialogue. The steering committee met by Zoom about 6 times and communicated frequently by email. Student volunteers were identified in each university to work with a Dialogue Coordinator from the Arrell Food Institute at the University of Guelph to help with selection of chairs, facilitators and rapporteurs of each breakout session. The principles of the Dialogue were incorporated and reinforced by selecting 8 themes and having a set of questions for each theme. Students were randomly divided into breakout rooms covering each theme, and came up with a series of recommendations for each theme. These were reported back in a closing plenary.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The Dialogue was held on May 06, 1:00-3:00PM EST. We had professors from McGill, Guelph and UBC serve as co-moderators of the Dialogue and took turns handling different segments of the program. The Guelph coordinator and the IT team from Guelph were responsible for all event logistics, program coordination and event management. The first 30 minutes formed an introduction to the Dialogue with welcome remarks from the professors at the 3 universities. The opening plenary was framed around the goals and objectives of the Summit with a focus on Youth, in this case being university level students. A student from each university was asked to make opening remarks on questions that were rooted in the Summit expectations. We then moved in the following breakout groups: Food Access; Sustainable Consumption; Agricultural Production Inputs for Sustainability; Resilient Food Systems; Cultural and Indigenous Access to Foods (2 breakout sessions); Careers in Agriculture; Food Insecurity (2 breakout sessions- one in English and one in French). There were approximately 6-10 participants in each breakout room. As noted from the above topics, the sessions were built around a combination of the Action Tracks, the SDGs and youth interest. Each breakout session lasted 60 minutes and then we came back together in a plenary for reporting back of the key points that emerged from each breakout session. There was then concluding wrap up remarks from the professors of the 3 universities.

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

Max: 3600 characters (approx. 600 words)

The Discussion Topics and the points that were considered in each Topic are shown below. It will be observed that we used 10 year horizon for each Topic, given that the Summit is aimed at what the food system will look like by 2030.

Discussion Topic: In 10 years everyone in Canada has access to safe and nutritious food

1. What approaches would you recommend?
2. What outcomes would you expect in 5 years?
3. What type of collective action do you envisage to start this process?

Discussion Topic: In 10 years, Canadian consumers choose [and are able to access] sustainably produced food

1. What recommendations would you make to improve diet diversity among Canadians?
2. What would you recommend as indicators of progress towards improving diet diversity in 5 years?
3. What civil society-based initiatives would you imagine as drivers towards this goal?

Discussion Topic: In 10 years, Canada will have reduced agricultural input use while boosting production of healthy food

1. What recommendations would you make to improve the sustainability of the food system?
2. What could be measurable socio-economic and environmental indicators of progress in 5 years?
3. What type of collective action would be required to achieve this goal?

Discussion Topic: In 10 years, Canada's food system will be resilient to extreme events such as shocks like pandemics

1. What changes in public policy and corporate social responsibility are required to build food system resilience?
2. What do we expect to see if we are successful in 5 years?
3. What type of collective action would be required to achieve this goal?

Discussion Topic: 10 years, everyone in Canada has access to culturally appropriate and traditional food.

1. What programs need to be funded or extended to support that?
2. How do we intersect various traditions and cultures in the food system?
3. What type of collective action do you envisage to start this process?

Discussion Topic: In the next 10 years more Canadian youth are choosing agri-food as a career option and are being trained in a way that meets the needs of this rapidly expanding industry

1. What actions and commitments in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the discussion topic?
2. How will it be possible to tell if these actions and commitments are being successful?
3. What contribution can I or the organization I represent make?

Discussion Topic: Dans 10 ans, le Canada aura éliminé la pauvreté et l'insécurité alimentaire dans toutes les communautés.

1. Trois recommandations politiques pour y arriver
2. Qu'espérons-nous voir si nous réussissons dans 5 ans?
3. Quels changements de gouvernance et d'institutions seraient nécessaires pour accélérer les progrès vers cet objectif?

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

Access to safe and nutritious food

Better education of consumers; monocultures do not necessarily produce more nutritious food; eliminate waste in consumption; water and food must be considered basic human rights.

Consumers chose sustainably produced food

Promote diet diversity at all levels of society including in schools; there is a lot of mis-information about health foods; learn to cook and grow local and indigenous foods; farmers offer fresh foods to food banks

Reduced ag inputs for healthy food

Increase efficiency of production by reducing waste and greenhouse gases; encourage regional solutions based on climate and farmers site specific conditions; undertake surveys to better understand farmers' practices; demonstrate and share sustainable practices

Resilience to extreme events, shocks, pandemics

Youth are thinking more about climate change; inclusion of smallholder farmers in the discussion; more proactive support for climate smart farming and permaculture

Access to culturally appropriate and traditional food

Need a comprehensive audit of cultures and food traditions; universities are food melting pots and can hold food culture nights; Canada food guide has nothing on this topic

Agri-food as a career option

Not enough is being done on career training; students are not aware of the diversity of agri-career options; there are few role models speaking to schools to encourage youth about careers in agriculture

Elimination of poverty and food insecurity

More affordable housing and higher wages can lead to elimination of poverty and food insecurity; fair wages for fair work; move away from food banks and charities; encourage more local food consumption at home and in institutions, eg. hospitals

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Access to safe and nutritious food

More women are required in farming; end subsidies on monoculture; we need stronger electoral accountability to ensure access to safe and nutritious food; introduce food knowledge (culture, nutrition, sustainability) into school curriculums; start to highlight people incl. farmers who are doing good deeds in agriculture; bring an end to globalization and concentrate on local markets.

Consumers chose sustainably produced food

Reduce animal consumption to increase land availability for other crops; move beyond a monopolized grain industry to support for other crops; diet diversity can be improved by promoting local community food systems; support local farmers to partner with schools and teach children to grow and cook diverse nutritional foods; build stronger links between healthy eating and health costs; need a standard methodology and labelling for selecting healthy food choices

Reduced ag inputs for healthy food

Increase the commitment to corporate social responsibility; more research is required on historical and traditional farming practices; there has to be more transparency across the food system; use efficiencies of inputs to protect ecosystems and water.

Resilience to extreme events, shocks, pandemics

Need a back up supply of diverse raw materials that are locally supplied; reduce food waste and make room for marginalized communities; make stronger rural-urban connections; given the interest of youth in climate, get them involved in various associations to solve the problems.

Access to culturally appropriate and traditional food

Have students and universities create food maps; need an indigenous food guide and preparation book; access to education on the topic is highly important.

Agri-food as a career option

Create a bank of agri-food professions and professionals that can be used by career counsellors at high school; use Tik Tok to attract youth to these careers; more professional development programs need to be created to bring youth into the field; make better use of social media and digital tools

Elimination of poverty and food insecurity

Have tax credits to procure local purchases; buy local; support polyculture; governments need to commit to food security and to understand the desire of Canadians to grow local and eat local; strengthen the link between climate change and food insecurity

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

A divergence of opinion was expressed around plant vs animal agriculture. It can't be an either or scenario. There is room for both sides and people have to be respectful of diverse opinions.

Similarly the differences between large scale commercial agriculture and small holder agriculture was expressed. There is room and a place for both and this needs to be better explained, especially since there is a view that large commercial agriculture and grocery chains are symbols of globalization and politics of food

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Breakout Notes - Food Access**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/BR-1-Food-Access.docx>
- **Breakout Notes - Sustainable Consumption**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/BR-2-Sustainable-Consumption.docx>
- **Breakout Notes - Agricultural Inputs**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/BR-3-Agri-Inputs-Production.docx>
- **Breakout Notes - Resilient Food Systems**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/BR-4-Resilient-Food-Systems.docx>
- **Breakout Notes - Cultural Access 1**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/BR-5-Cultural-Access.docx>
- **Breakout Notes - Cultural Access 2**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/BR-6-Cultural-Access.docx>
- **Breakout Notes - Agricultural Careers**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/BR-7-Agriculture-Careers.docx>
- **Breakout Notes - Food Insecurity**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/BR-8-Food-Insecurity.docx>
- **Breakout Notes - Food Insecurity - French**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/BR-8-Food-Insecurity-FR.docx>