OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

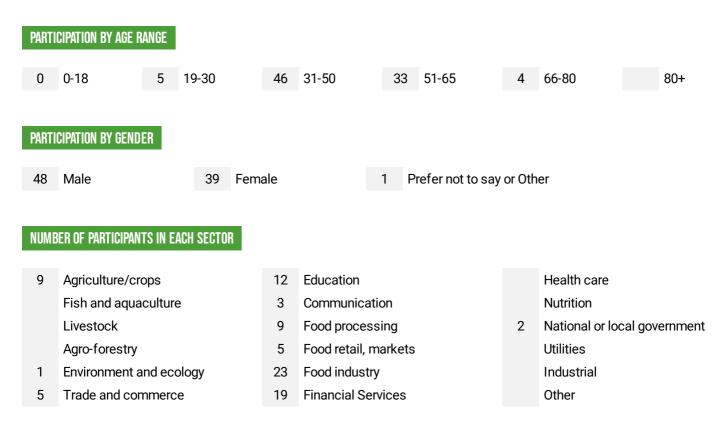|	
DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 27 May 2021 14:00 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Food: Knowing what's safe
CONVENED BY	Sarah Cumbers, Director of Evidence & Insight, Lloyd's Register Foundation
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14962/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

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

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

| 0 | 0-18 | 5 | 19-30 | 46 | 31-50 | 33 | 51-65 | 4 | 66-80 | | 80+ |

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

| 48 | Male | 39 | Female | 1 | Prefer not to say or Other |

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

9	Agriculture/crops	12	Education		Health care
	Fish and aquaculture	3	Communication		Nutrition
	Livestock	9	Food processing	2	National or local government
	Agro-forestry	5	Food retail, markets		Utilities
1	Environment and ecology	23	Food industry		Industrial
5	Trade and commerce	19	Financial Services		Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

22	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	2	Workers and trade union
7	Large national business		Member of Parliament
18	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
	Small-scale farmer	2	Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
1	Large-scale farmer	2	United Nations
2	Local Non-Governmental Organization	1	International financial institution
6	International Non-Governmental Organization	6	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People	0	Consumer group
10	Science and academia	7	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

A large cross-section of stakeholders was invited, with particular attention put on also ensuring a global invitation list. This enabled us to understand how the topic of food safety is progressing in different areas of the world, and across different stakeholder groups. As well as briefing facilitators on how best to incorporate different 'voices', participants were told from the outset that we wished to create an inclusive environment for dialogue, in which they could input their professional knowledge but should also think about their answers, if relevant from the point of view of consumers of food and participants in the global food system. Further, it was stressed that this was an international dialogue so there should be open-mindedness to different opinions and operating contexts. Facilitators were encouraged to be welcoming and as this was an online dialogue, we also set an expectation of being able to participate using an online chat function and to be on or off camera depending on what individuals felt comfortable with.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Act with urgency – there was a wide range of knowledge on the most pressing issues around food safety, with some of the audience fascinated by the statistics around much of the worlds' population not having access to safe food. Commit to the Summit – some participants had heard of the Summit, but many had not, leading to great interest in following it later in the year and the recommended outcomes. There was particular interest in how findings from Independent Dialogues might actually be incorporated into the Summit. Recognise Complexity – it was clear from the dialogue that many felt more needed to be done between different stakeholder groups to shed light on the issues at hand and to adopt a more multidisciplinary approach to the problems around food safety. We believe that people were able to make new connections at the event with a view to the further principle around 'Complement the Work of Others'. Promote Trust – The issue of trust was a big topic in all participatory groups, with an emphasis on how trust in policy and governance might be increased, but also a recognition of the challenge of doing so against a backdrop of a complex media and information landscape and the sources of trust that individuals adopt to make decisions about food.

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

The principles and supporting information provided were comprehensive and easy to follow. We would recommend that convenors inform prospective participants about the Principles of Engagement from the outset so that a consistent narrative is adopted from beginning to end. We found that all participants were clear on these Principles and why they were important.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

✓ **Yes**   **No**

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

This Independent Dialogue was titled 'Food: Knowing What's Safe' which tallied with Action Track 1: Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all. Featuring participants from over 25 countries from science, industry, policy, healthcare and academia, it focused on how we could come together to discuss tangible and positive changes. The Dialogue adopted a positive, if urgent tone on how we might approach how the world produces, consumes and thinks about food in a safe and sustainable fashion.

The Dialogue Convenor, Lloyd's Register Foundation, is an independent global charity that has a unique mission to engineer a safer world. This includes ensuring that people across the globe have access to information about food safety, that is accessible, trustworthy and understandable.

The topic of Food Safety was chosen on the basis of the Foundation previously launching the World Risk Poll, surveying 150,000 people in 142 countries, statistically representing 98% of the world's population, including many people who don't usually have a voice, to look at perception and experience of risk in everyday life. It was clear that food safety - and specifically access to safe and nutritious food for all - was a major concern.

Four percent worldwide, the equivalent of 300 million people said that unsafe food or water were among the two biggest threats to their safety. The Dialogue therefore looked at how we could manage the increasing demands of food safety, specifically relevant to the Action Track 1 and its relationship with Action Track 2 (Sustainable Consumption Patterns). However, the topic of Food Safety has significance across all tracks, including 3-5 in that it underpins all food systems. Participants were asked to consider what could be done to make information about safe food available to all, and the introductory session which framed the debate also highlighted the need for policymakers to have more accurate data, the needs of developing countries and the scarcity of data in low-income geographies.

Other statistics and points brought to attention in framing the dialogue included:
• Number of people who knew someone who had experienced serious harm from eating food
• The UN has declared safe food to be a universal human right (yet the WHO estimates that 600m people fall ill yearly from eating unsafe food, 420,000 people die - with children and the elderly being particularly vulnerable)
• Current perceptions of harm from food
• Sources of trust around food and the sources of food safety information most trusted - often being heavily weighted towards family and friends, closely followed by food labels, then medical professionals, celebrities and religious leaders and correspondingly, low(er) trust in food safety authorities

The dialogue also used expert testimony on how food safety is linked to population growth and its direct impact on food safety, along with the impact of climate change. Specifically:
• The impact of climate change on increased crop infestation and subsequent loss of crops leading to an increased use of pesticides, causing issues around food safety and trading
• The impact of climate change on the rise in fungal infections in crops
• The melting of the polar ice caps, which contain the biggest source of mercury, now being released into seas and accumulating in fish that we consume
• The shortage of fresh water available for one third of the world's population
• The topic of sustainability and move to more plant-based diets/debate around eating less meat
• The rise in ultra-processed foods, which can increase the risk of food fraud
• The importance of transparency in the world food supply system and impact of the digitisation of food supply systems

Participant groups, having gained these insights, then focused on 4 key areas in their groups:
1. Ensuring accurate, consistent and easy to understand information about safe food available to all consumers by 2030
2. Ensuring consumers across the world can identify the source of food they buy quickly and reliably
3. Ensuring food safety information will be trusted by consumers
4. Ensuring the food industry in all countries has sufficient skill

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 main findings of the Food: Knowing What's Safe are as follows:

1. There is a lack of coordination between key parties across the global food system around food safety
2. There is a need for better and in some cases minimum food safety standards in the developing world
3. There is a lack of public trust in authorities around food safety, with many people relying on friends, family, celebrities and religious bodies for their knowledge of safe food
4. Food safety is not a key focus area in discussions around food security, global food systems and climate change, even though an increase in food safety standards, knowledge and production methods would have a significant impact on much of the world's population
5. More collaboration is needed across different stakeholder groups to focus on tangible and positive outcomes around food safety

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

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KEYWORDS

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Women & Youth Empowerment

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Governance

Trade-offs

✓ Environment and Climate

Participants recognised that the global debate around food safety needs to be a core part of food security planning, considered against a backdrop of increased globalization of food production. They also noted that factors such as increasing global population growth and urbanisation required greater intersectoral and concerted international action in this area.

Four key discussion topics were chosen, each of which gave rise to rich thinking on potential remedial action:

1. Ensuring accurate, consistent and easy to understand information about safe food available to all consumers by 2030.

People are individuals living in individual communities – as a result we need more global, granular level detail around the perceptions and behaviours to determine who people trust, the corresponding communication methods and the channels required to overcome challenges around accessibility of information. There is no one-size fits all solution, but we should look at broader education about food and more transparent communications which are tailored to communities and which people can understand and trust. In many parts of the world, the consumer, who may be facing significant economic and environmental challenges will be under pressure around the food decisions they make so public stakeholders together with the private sector need to collaborate to develop better standardization and certification. This in turn will also increase trust.

There is a schism between the level of understanding knowledge and standard of food safety in the 'developed' and the 'developing' world, , In the developed world, food safety standards are often taken for granted but here too, standards need to be raised and there needs to be a level of localisation.

We need structured governance around food safety regulations especially if we see food safety as a universal human right. There is a lack of coordination between food regulatory authorities in different countries which can be confusing for the consumer, revealing a considerable opportunity to have more regulatory coordination which people across the world can understand.

People rarely trust one source, they trust several, so public information that depersonalises information and presents it in a clear way can play a big role in food safety. We need to ensure that everyone purchasing, preparing and consuming food can access this information regardless of their situation.

Proposed solutions put forward by the group were as follows:

1. The creation of an online database with food safety and food source information that could be accessed by multiple stakeholders including consumers
2. Ensuring that the private sector is encouraged – or required – to develop their food labelling practices and transparency around the source of food and potential risks associated therein
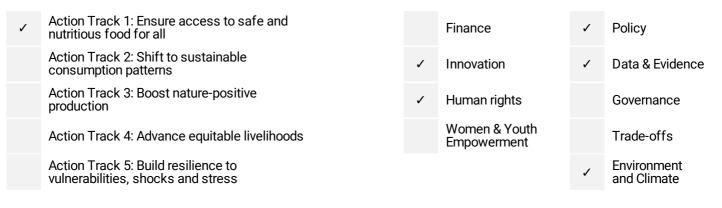3. Encouraging the building of national and international farm to fork strategies, encompassing areas such as environmental standards to also have a food safety component
4. Reviewing how information is communicated and adapted to cultural and economic settings. This includes ensuring transparent, fit-for-purpose food safety information in geographies with and without access to digital communications. For example, using media such as radio, which is still a key source of information in certain parts of the world (especially where there is less digitization) to communicate with and educate consumers using influencing groups such as religious leaders and local celebrities
5. Incorporating food safety into campaigns around nutrition, diet and wellbeing

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
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- Women & Youth Empowerment

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- Governance
- Trade-offs
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2. Ensuring consumers across the world can identify the source of food they buy quickly and reliably
Food labels are heavily relied on, but consumers are often overwhelmed by labels. As diets change and people move away from traditional foods or cook less, our approach to food safety labelling also needs also change.

Education can play a key role in raising awareness about food safety (labels and otherwise) and be tied into a broader education around food systems, climate and similar issues. We need better educational initiatives, such as early school education programmes on food and nutrition, as currently these are often woefully inadequate. This affects all parts of the world, even parts with abundance. Campaigns can be very pejorative.
As the global population grows, food safety and food fraud are also more interconnected – we need to categorise food risks accordingly and make sure that consumers do not have an over-abundance of information and/or mixed messaging that impacts what they can assess and how.

We need to do more to understand informal food markets with a lack of formal structure to ensure poorer populations are not affected. Government support is needed to help transition to higher standards and more understanding.

In order to communicate well with consumers, we also need to have more transparent supply chains and understand what we need to communicate so consumers can make an informed choice when buying food.

Proposed solutions put forward by the group were as follows:

1. Reviewing minimum standards for how government and industry work together in communicating food sources and factoring this into revised public health goals
2. Reviewing the potential to expand expectations around food labelling beyond nutritional sources to including food source and sustainability considerations
3. Encouraging, where possible, 'eat local' food campaigns and consider the agricultural and food production infrastructure needed to do this
4. Utilise technology and more holistic labelling to assist consumers when making food purchase choices that encompass food safety, nutritional value, packaging and sustainability along with value

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
✓	Human rights	✓	Governance
	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

3. Ensuring food safety information will be trusted by consumers

Food fraud information is shared in varying channels, but food safety data is not shared in the same way. The private sector needs to do more to be transparent on food safety incidents, why recalls happen and their role in keeping consumers safe from harm. More can be done to involve the private sector in food safety policy-making to take account of production needs with mutual sharing of research and data.

In order for food safety information to be trusted we also need to be realistic about the fact that much of the world doesn't eat food that comes directly from large companies or complex supply chains, it comes from local producers who sell directly to consumers, for example through road stalls. In high-income countries there is a large organised supply chain with companies who oversee it. The challenges are very different in informal structures where there may be a lack of food hygiene.

In order to increase trust, we also need to make use of and understand the changing use of media and how people access information.

Proposed solutions put forward by the group were as follows:

1. Moving food safety up the public health agenda, especially in countries without stringent food safety production, monitoring and retail standards – moving from prevention to cure
2. Mobilising local and community training as a powerful tool to share knowledge with consumers, along with corresponding and continued training at the industrial level
3. Ensuring that food safety systems keep pace with the way food is produced and consumed, so that food is safer by the time it reaches consumers at their purchase point
4. Understanding where trust lies, for example by gaining insight into perceptions, behaviours and cultural norms to understand sources of trust that are not associated with regulation, the food industry or authorities such as the government
5. Looking beyond food labels and product information to how technology can support around the use of social media and traceability systems to increase consumer knowledge of consumed food products
6. Understanding that people obtain food safety information from multiple sources including friends, family, television and that therefore food safety information needs to be disseminated across multiple sources

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Ensuring the food industry in all countries has sufficient skills and knowledge to prepare safe, nutritious and affordable food even in times of disruption.

The food industry can do more, especially with regards to sharing information about the journey of food from a factory or food-service environment to the individual preparing the food, but consumers have an important role to play. Food safety needs to be discussed more holistically and within national cultural journeys, in the context of changing diets and around education.

We need to fundamentally relook at how we build the future food system. Food safety is a global conversation and as we have seen from Covid-19, the world is interlinked, as are our food systems. We are all consumers with a vested interest in food. More work is needed to join up local, regional and national government, policy, food manufacturing and producers, educators and the retail sector.

Food safety also needs to be contextualised against the backdrop of broader global challenges around a growing population, sustainability, climate change and inequality. The public health sector, which has gained more prominence with Covid-19 may also have an increasingly important role to play if given the chance.
We need to take a look at the bigger picture of food risk and the role of food safety within that, looking at food safety not just from the perspective of immediate risks and hazards, but also around the topic of changing diets and areas such as climate change.

Proposed solutions put forward by the group were as follows:
1. Ensuring that food safety is tied in with food security and factored into the evolving need for resilience planning on a national level, as highlighted through the Covid-19 pandemic, and also taking into account international linkages due to food supply chains
2. Improving the educational and training framework around food safety
3. Reviewing the divergent frameworks under which the food industry across its supply chain is operating 'from farm to fork'
4. Greater data collection and sharing is needed at various levels, from the national to the international level and in tandem with this, looking at the role of technology in determining how food safety data might be shared
5. Looking at where international institutions can support and extend influence at the national level around building and developing better food systems and infrastructures, including laboratories and scientific expertise to respond to and prevent food safety risks across the food supply chain

ACTION TRACKS

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The key areas of divergence and debate were as follows:
1. Where responsibility for food safety sits between consumers, public health bodies, food safety authorities and regulation
2. How to put public health and food safety in a position where it is not seen as being in opposition to commerce and trade, as the private sector has a key role to play and carries investment and development costs
3. What role the growth of plant-based products has, the need for novel proteins and increased production of ultra-processed foods might play in triggering new food safety challenges in the future
4. How the gap between science, academia and the consumer is best bridged and how the sciences is made understandable and when
5. What the level of knowledge is that regulators need in order to better regulate and who holds ownership for communicating about food safety
6. What role technological advancements, digitisation, novel foods and evolving processing methods might play in enhancing food safety, and correspondingly, nutrition and livelihoods. In particular, food, being a basic human need and the emotional, cultural and economic sentiments attached to it generated debate around what role technology could play in food.

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