

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Wednesday, 26 May 2021 12:00 GMT -04:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	North America Local Food Dialogue on Inclusive Food Systems
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability USA
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14990/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14990/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	United States of America

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

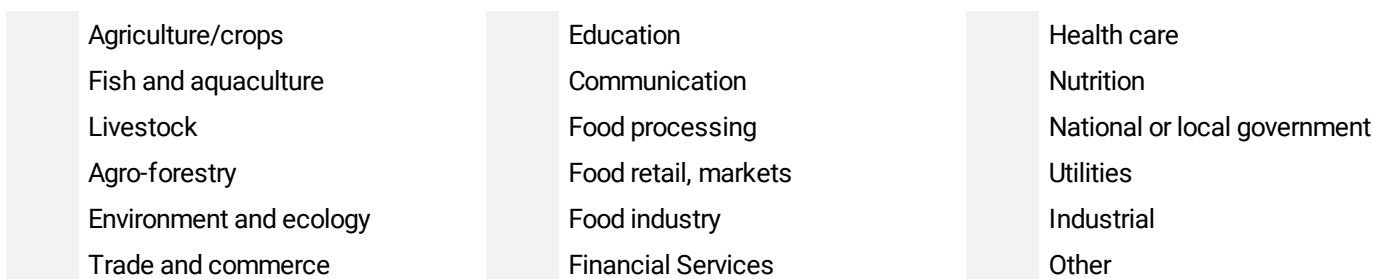
## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE



## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER



## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR



## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP



## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

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

# 3. METHOD

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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 discussion focused on ensuring food security, resilience, and equity in cities. It considered the methods, measurements, and goals necessary to increase cohesiveness and inclusivity in food systems planning and action. Speakers, panelists, and participants shared their community's contexts, successes and visions. Food security, resilience, and equity are deeply intertwined. Food systems practitioners throughout the U.S. found that centering community voices and needs helped them do their job of ensuring food security, resilience, and equity.

### 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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation                | <input type="checkbox"/> Data & Evidence         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human rights              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governance   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade-offs              |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate |

## MAIN FINDINGS

Many local governments throughout the U.S. have a wide array of disconnected food programs. There is a movement toward connecting these programs and developing overarching food systems visions and goals across local government departments and with local stakeholders. To start creating holistic food systems improvements, leadership must come together with the community to develop an overarching vision, develop a structure, and connect programs and people.

These disconnected food programs have often focused on solving the symptoms of an unjust food system. For example, distributing food to those that cannot procure it themselves. To holistically improve local food system outcomes, cities and communities are starting to look at food sovereignty, land access, community-led processes, and improving city and community-wide communication and commitment.

Local governments throughout the U.S. are diverse. The structure and focus of planning depend on local context. Even with this variation, or maybe because of it, the discussion focused on centering and giving power to community members to shape the food system.

The issues of food justice, racial justice, food sovereignty, community involvement, and sustainable production are all connected. As one speaker said, “today, I heard agreement across all panels and breakouts in the belief that all people and all communities should have the right and the means to produce, procure, prepare, share, and eat food that's nutritionally and culturally affirming free from exploitation of themselves, other people and nonhuman animals, and also in harmony with the rest of the natural world.”

### Actions and commitments (10 year/2030 vision)

This dialogue was between practitioners and stakeholders from across the U.S. No overarching actions and commitments were determined. A general agreement among participants was that multi-level governance mechanisms in the U.S. are not well aligned toward creating food systems grounded in place or equitable access—but that local governments are critical actors to move the food system in this direction.

### Actionable messages to UNFSS

When including local government voices at the international level, include local voices from the beginning. Ensure they have input into the processes that inform the UNFSS.

Focus on the experiences and needs of those not currently served by the food system. Hire them as consultants to your work. Provide a platform for those that don't currently have avenues to power but that have lived experience and connections. Cities have to do what's right for their constituents. Cities can do this by putting their constituents in positions of power and influence through mechanisms like local food councils, food positions at the city, community hearings, and funding community-led initiatives.

Protect small land owners, small food businesses, and communities from the influence of big business interests and consolidation.

Protect and promote grassroots advocacy.

Provide nations and regions with guidance on how to set a flexible national and regional food systems visions that help local governments align their visions while also centering and empowering local communities.

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			Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/7

Community-led processes: Food systems outcomes are most successful when community led. Cities contribute to this success by facilitating community conversation, building networks and relationships, funding pilot projects, providing information, and codifying conclusions in plans and legislation.

### Actions:

- Cities should facilitate and channel the voice of the community. Listen to, create relationships, and build trust with community groups.
- Take on the expense of what the community wants/needs. For example, conduct soil tests on land that can go to the community for gardening.
- Host demonstration projects, that train people how have a successful food endeavors followed by policy that enables these actions.
- Have dialogues with the community and support what people are asking for through legislation.
- Develop programs and structures that can be self-sustaining over time, since government resources shift.
- Be transparent, report back to the community to hold government accountable.
- Pay community members to be part of advisory boards. Include residents that aren't usually involved in these processes and aren't already affiliated with organizations that already have access to power in the city.
- Use community engagement and ownership model of planning and action to alleviate disparities in actual representation and leadership.
- Be flexible and humble. Always keep coming back and revisit the community and their recommendations.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/7

Food Sovereignty: Structural racism limits access to healthcare, culturally appropriate nutrition, food preparation, retail food stores, and wellness programs. It causes disconnected BIPOC networks and high food insecurity. There are barriers to access infrastructure, food assets, community gardens, food programs, and community kitchens. Uneven access to funding to BIPOC organizations meant they were not able to respond quickly in times of crisis such as COVID-19. Additionally, land is prohibitively expensive for people to start new rural or urban farms. Racist policies took land from many farmers of color.

### Actions:

- Place community leaders as experts, pay for participation, and create online opportunities to increase reach.
- Declare anti-black racism as a public health crisis.
- Advocate at the state level to improve land access for new farmers and farmers of color.
- When non-Native communities and nations working with Native nations, approach as equals and ask “how can we support your solutions.”
- Provide the resources, financial support, and information needed for communities to create their own thriving food systems.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/7

Land Access and Urban Farming: Promoting urban agriculture can help residents, especially residents of color to build job skills, generate income, contribute to community development, increase food access and security, and foster connection to broader efforts that combat the root causes of structural inequities such as racial and economic justice.

### Actions:

- Look at the open land from city operations, the military, utilities, schools, and universities. This land can be used for urban agriculture.
- Invest in testing soils, renovating, and putting in water infrastructure. From there, let the community take over.
- Put grants in place to make properties available and accessible.
- Provide urban agriculture training and work opportunities for inmates or recently incarcerated.
- Support the creation of community land trusts as a way for the community to build wealth.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/7

Data: Data is important to mobilize action and engagement with key stakeholders and to effectively identify gaps and priority interventions. Food Asset mapping was discussed as a positive way to both collect data and mobilize action within communities. While collecting and sharing data is essential, it must not be seen as an end itself or as a substitute for action. Collecting data from more traditional sources (eg. Scientific peer reviewed studies) as well as non-traditional sources (“community intelligence” and experience) is key for promoting inclusive food systems.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/7

Resilience and Emergency Planning: The pandemic showed cities that they weren't prepared for the level of food insecurity posed by disasters. Cities must integrate food access and resilience into adaptation and emergency planning, develop relationships with stakeholders across the food system to build resilience, and ensure at least some local food production for emergencies. One city surveyed its residents and found that residents recommended prioritizing food in emergency planning.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/7

Rural-Urban Interface: Cities focus much of their effort and resources on urban agriculture projects. Greater connection between urban and peri-urban and nearby rural areas was discussed as a way to build resilience. Regional collaboration and resource distribution can strengthen both urban resilience and nearby rural agriculture economic sustainability.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 7/7

Schools: Schools connect people of many backgrounds. Cities can use that as an opportunity to build relationships between rural and urban children and residents. To strengthen children's relationship with food, build in science and education about food systems and have school gardening projects and farm to school food procurement.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Any divergences came from the different food system ecosystems different cities experience.

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