

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 28 April 2021 10:00 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/15145/
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

56

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

56 31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

32 Male

24 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

15 Agriculture/crops

5 Fish and aquaculture

5 Livestock

5 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

24 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

15 Small-scale farmer

15 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

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

7 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

16 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 was focused on identifying connections and a spirit of collaboration between farmers and consumers on which to build an alliance, and exploring common priorities and how they intertwine. Participants were divided into 4 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 in the global food system do to help achieve these goals?
- 4) What can governments do to enable an environment where farmers and consumers can better co-operate?

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 chains
- 3) Food standards
- 4) Resilience to vulnerability

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 key point that clearly emerged during this Dialogue is the need expressed by both parties to fill the knowledge gap between farmers and consumers. The importance of strengthening the collaboration between the two actors was reiterated several times, so that they can understand the process behind the food they eat and appreciate its quality. This should apply both in short and in long food value chain. In fact, it was reiterated that both parties share the same interests: healthy and nutritious food produced in a way that protects the environment and biodiversity for future generations and respectful of safety standards. Direct selling in market places also solves many of the inefficiencies present in the current food system such as food waste and loss, unfair remuneration of farmers and the need to increase awareness and information among consumers. In this regard, one of the most burning issues raised by consumers was precisely that of receiving guarantees about the transparency and traceability of food products and this can be remedied through clear regulatory processes that can grant fair and transparent information to consumers, allowing free choices when buying food products.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

CONSUMER INFORMATION

Regarding this issue, the participants have expressed the desire to deliver, prior to the Food Systems Summit, a document that contains a series of points agreed upon by both parties involved and which lists best practices that regulate the production process. The hope is that this document (e.g. a shared manifesto) can be included the Summit outcome, as a special recommendation to the Governments. Specifically, it is desirable to identify the correct criteria and information for setting prices in order to avoid price fluctuations that harm both consumers and producers. There can often be an incorrect perception about the profitability obtained by producers and it is, therefore, important to find solutions that break down the existing boundaries between farmers and consumers..It is one of the key priority that brings farmers and consumers together at this Summit.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

TRADE AND SUPPLY CHAIN

According to the participants, the assumption is that producers and consumers present differences that must be taken into account when it comes to trading. In this regard, it is important to find a balance between the needs of both and to avoid the loss of traceability in trade. In fact, traceability also serves to increase consumer awareness and explain to them what are the impact on the environment, on the health, on their own well-being, and try to make the trade in the supply chain less harmful as possible and leaving no one behind.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

FOOD STANDARD

Participants expressed undisputed consensus regarding the need for clarity in the information provided to consumers. Although the existence of standards regarding safety or low environmental impact help to encourage a transition to healthier and more sustainable diets, it is not always appreciated by consumers. Sometimes, in fact, the existence of too many labels such as environmental, nutritional, and health claims can be misleading and confusing. In addition, it is worth noting that the existence of different legislative frameworks in different countries can be a barrier for producers to market their goods. Finally, it is desirable that the required standards are achievable and prevent the creation of a market dominated exclusively by large companies. At the same time, farmers need to be flexible and able to adapt to what consumers demand in terms of nutrient values.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

RESILIENCE TO VULNERABILITIES

In this group, what emerged with respect to resilience and recovery following the pandemic is the imperative of third-party support. Investments are needed, both public and private. All constituencies should be represented and find a voice in this Summit, even more so those who normally enjoy little visibility such as small farmers. In addition, the outcomes need to be reported at the national and regional level, so that what is established here is reflected and turned into action.

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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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