

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 26 May 2021 11:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Developing a food identification system in Poland, which provides actors in the food supply chain with access to transparent and credible information on how and where food is produced
CONVENED BY	Ms Anna Gembicka, Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15453/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Poland

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

38

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18

1 19-30

27 31-50

19 51-65

1 66-80

0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

18 Male

18 Female

2 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

3 Agriculture/crops

0 Fish and aquaculture

7 Livestock

0 Agro-forestry

0 Environment and ecology

2 Trade and commerce

2 Education

3 Communication

0 Food processing

2 Food retail, markets

1 Food industry

0 Financial Services

0 Health care

0 Nutrition

18 National or local government

0 Utilities

0 Industrial

0 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

1 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

2 Large national business

0 Multi-national corporation

3 Small-scale farmer

0 Medium-scale farmer

2 Large-scale farmer

1 Local Non-Governmental Organization

0 International Non-Governmental Organization

1 Indigenous People

3 Science and academia

1 Workers and trade union

0 Member of Parliament

0 Local authority

20 Government and national institution

0 Regional economic community

0 United Nations

0 International financial institution

0 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

1 Consumer group

3 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Dialogue was carried out so that all stakeholders – producers' organisations, supply chain representatives, professional recipients, as well as representatives of all interested administrative authorities – could have their part in co-creating and consulting the project design from the very beginning. The design was shaped through an intense series of workshops during which the Participants demonstrated considerable involvement and diligence in achieving the objectives of enhancing the quality and reliability of food. Much attention was paid to all aspects of the current situation and of the solution designed. The discussion on these topics ensured that all voices were heard.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Act with urgency: The intense series of workshops allowed us to develop a detailed design in as short time as possible. Be respectful: Most of all, the design aims at enhancing the quality of food, and providing support for producers and processors who operate with utmost diligence. Recognize complexity: Given the large number of dependencies, processes, and Participant groups, as well as legal, organisational, and technological aspects that had to be accounted for in the system developed, we chose a working method that best supported us in solving complex challenges. Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity: We have been working in a large and diverse team from the very beginning, and thus were able to approach the challenge from various perspectives, so that no important aspect was left untouched. Complement the work of others: In our designed solution, we accounted for compliance and complementarity with the solutions that already exist in our country and Europe. Build trust: We made the effort to ensure the design process was understandable and transparent for all, and that works were carried out in an open, trustful, and respectful environment.

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

The involvement of the representatives of all key groups in co-creating the design from the earliest possible stage allowed us to develop solutions that address real needs, as well as to diagnose risks at an early stage and manage them effectively.

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 National Dialogue was integrated with the works on “Passports for Polish Food” project, which was launched independently in 2020. The assumptions concerning the working method for the project corresponded to the assumptions of the UN method: - identification and involvement of a diverse group of stakeholders; - works carried out in subsequent series of workshops, during which smaller groups searched for solutions to problems identified during previous meetings, engaging different points of view. Furthermore, - the project concerns the whole food chain / corresponds to Action Track 1, and partly to Action Track 2 in subject matter; - the project is innovative in nature; - the project concerns building a specific tool that enhances the functioning of food systems; - the idea of the project is to continuously expand it in terms of both product groups and Participants by drawing conclusions from the subsequent stages of its development, with a view to covering a wide range of products; - the project is a bottom-up initiative. The working method used was tailored to the specific nature of the challenge and to the Participants’ needs. The collaborative working method, making use of design thinking and User-Centred Design helped to develop a detailed design based on the real needs of people in all important aspects of product-related, systemic, organisational, legal, and technological nature. The respective stages involved considerably more stakeholders than indicated in Section 1 (which shows Participants in the follow-up meeting). The participation of associations representing interest groups (such as agricultural industry producers) meant that, in fact, the joint opinions and demands of the given environment were taken into consideration.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Building a food identification system in Poland that allows actors in the food chain to access transparent and reliable information on where and how food is produced falls into Action Track 1 – Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all – and ties in with Action Track 2 – Shift to sustainable consumption patterns. The actors in the food chain, and in particular industry organisations on the market in beef and potatoes, and then in pork, have indicated that the current market environment presents them with a series of problems that hamper or restrict the development of the agri-food sector, and contribute to unfavourable conditions for sustainable development. These include the lack of easily and quickly accessible information about food products, growing number of intermediaries, untransparent supply chain, deteriorating trust in products, and frequent instances of food contamination and adulteration. This state of affairs requires action to prevent these phenomena, so that their negative impact on the agricultural sector is limited and eliminated.

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

MAIN FINDINGS

The answer to the problems identified is to build a food identification system which allows actors in the food chain to access transparent and reliable information on where and how food is produced. Such a system should achieve the following objectives:

- enhance the positive perception of food produced, and support the sustainable development of the agri-food industry;
- yield tangible benefits also for the authorities responsible for supervising the safety and quality of food through enhancing their operations and limiting the costs of inspections; the use of the IT system should also eliminate instances of food adulteration, thereby limiting the need to recall and dispose of batches of products in the supply chain (preventing loss and waste of food);
- develop a dedicated API once the designed project is launched (should the pilot run confirm that technological and organisational capacities can be met), thanks to which the consumers will gain access to exhaustive information on food products.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

In conclusion, the project/National Dialogue Participants have deemed in the course of discussions that the implementation of a digital system tracking the process of production would bring diverse benefits. The system built will provide a wide range of information about food products, primarily thanks to innovative functions, and will also allow integration with the existing reference databases. This way, the Polish agri-food industry will gain a system that features high-quality, reliable, and unfalsifiable data on agri-food products which, ultimately (after the pilot run), will be made available to all actors in the chain, including consumers, making it considerably easier for them to make conscious purchases.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The Dialogue Participants have agreed as to the diagnosis of existing problems and the need to build a food identification system which would address them. The discussions/areas of divergence primarily concerned the technical aspects of this venture.

The most significant areas of divergence concerned:

1. the assessment of the current situation – to what extent the existing procedures and data sources could be used, and what changes to them are needed;
2. data availability and integration challenges – how to obtain data that are currently not available in a digital form;
3. the construction of the system and technological aspects – the advantages and disadvantages of building a single system for all participating sectors versus separate systems for the respective types of food;
4. the scope of data collected (content of the so-called passport).

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