

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 18 May 2021 10:00 GMT +00:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Transforming Accra's City-Region Food System through Robust Rural-Urban Linkages
CONVENED BY	ICLEI Africa, FAO, Accra Metropolitan Assembly
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15508/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Ghana

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

48

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

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

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

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 Accra Metropolitan Assembly and key local stakeholders shared their experiences and strategies for a more resilient city-region food system that seeks to build and maximize the benefits of rural-urban linkages. Discussions moved beyond the short term responses to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Accra's food system, to more long term approaches for ensuring continued access to nutritious and safe food in the face of climatic shocks. Additionally, the city and stakeholders discussed potential opportunities for strengthening Accra's role across the whole food value chain for a resilient and nutritious City-region food system.

Aim of the dialogue

On the overall the dialogue explored strategic ways in which Accra City can strengthen its role across the food value chain as well as maximise the benefits of integrated city- region linkages for long term resilience of the food system. Discussions and presentations were guided by these key questions:

- What is the vision for Accra's City-region food system in the short and long term? Does it contribute towards building robust rural-urban linkages?
- What are the key factors that support or undermine the sustainability and resilience of Accra's city-region food system?
- How can Accra strengthen its role in the food system? What are the opportunities for Accra across the food value chain?
- What are the main shocks affecting the local food system and how prepared is the city to handle these as well as other climate and health related shocks?
- What policies, institutions and technologies can enable locally driven design of resilient city-region systems integrating multiple actors?
- As a food systems stakeholder, how can your work contribute towards building a more resilient Accra city-region food system?

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

MAIN FINDINGS

Rural-urban linkages were identified as relevant for the continued access to nutritious food for Accra City especially after the impacts of the COVID-19 lockdown regulations. Most of the foods consumed by Accra residents is produced and transported from rural areas. As the population is rapidly expanding, there is an urgent need for the city to be innovative about how it is collaboratively working with key stakeholders to secure access to nutritious food and meaningful livelihoods for its citizens.

The Mayor of AMA offered a great provocation: “Imagine the rooftop of the City Hall at the Metropolitan Assembly converted into a lively rooftop garden growing organic vegetables. We can if we put our minds to it. We can make intensive backyard gardening especially of vegetables and fruits more attractive and accessible to city residents. Importantly, the context of digitization needs to be discussed and promoted by government.”

In addition, the model of the dialogue was recognised as a valuable way for local governments to engage with different stakeholders such as the CSOs, academia, business, among others, and the city would like to draw in additional stakeholders and dialogue around particular issues affecting the local food system. These were some of the priority food system areas that were identified by different stakeholders for Accra City:

- Nutrition and access to food within the city: obesity and malnutrition were identified as key concerns as well lack of sufficient food within the city
 - Environmental sustainability: managing organic waste pollution, sustainable agricultural practices
 - Infrastructure development: transport and market infrastructure
 - Capacity building across the food value chain from urban food producers, municipal officials, agricultural extension officers, waste collectors formal and informal traders, among others
 - Sourcing adequate funding and finance to support especially the small scale food systems actors.
 - Food sensitive urban planning that is geared towards building territorial resilience of Accra
- A representative from Accra metropolitan Assembly noted that the city is committed to looking into the different ways in which the above issues can be systemically addressed. Importantly, the city is committed to increasing efficiencies across the transport sector within the city as well as networking more with different stakeholders to ensure that food security, food availability, and good nutrition for all is achieved.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

During the discussion session, the opportunities identified were cross cutting across the action tracks, where if one opportunity is well implemented, it can have rippling positive effects across the different action tracks.

Question 1: Where do the opportunities lie in building a robust* city region food system that contributes towards the attainment of a robust and resilient city-region food system?

- Large scale infrastructure development especially transport infrastructure (road and rail), ICT infrastructure and ideal food storage and retail infrastructure can go a long way in increasing efficiency across the food value chain as well as managing food loss. For the transport infrastructure, AMA needs to work closely with the national government to ensure that strategic road and rail infrastructure is built/ upgraded to support stronger city-region linkages.
- Additionally, value-addition to agricultural produce to increase lifespan can be done in the city and this can also reduce levels of food waste as well as increase employment opportunities. As there are already initiatives to intensify agricultural production in the city, food processing and value addition initiatives should also be ramped up to support the production initiatives.
- Education - extension services need to be improved and expanded with the greater Accra Metropolitan Area through Farmer-field schools (FFS). Education is needed in order to improve shelf life of agricultural produce. Also market extension officers should be deployed as food markets are very important in the Accra Metropolis. These officers teach food actors about food hygiene, food safety and food processing. This can be expanded and government support is important for this.
- Engagement of multiple stakeholders. Not limiting it to producer-actors but manufacturers, retailers, market traders, informal traders, media outlets, food certification agencies, among others. Effective stakeholder consultation, collaboration and raising awareness.
- Waste reuse to improve soil conditions (crop). Development of organic waste composting centres in different locations within the city. This should be made available to farmers at subsidised rates. Accra has carried out a waste characterisation exercise in the bid to produce energy from waste, if these projects are developed, the sludge from bio digesters can be sold to farmers at subsidised rates.
- Explore alternative sources of water for irrigation for urban farming such as intensive rain water harvesting.
- Promoting Agro-tourism as a way of encouraging agricultural production especially in indigenous food species, getting youth interested in agriculture and a means for creation of livelihoods. People need to be capacitated in business development for such unique agricultural business models.
- Rooftop gardening, home gardening as well as other forms of intensive urban agriculture should be institutionalised and promoted across the city of Accra. Intensive system for livestock (grasslands - identify suitable spaces within city) - ditto for aquaculture
- Links with educational institutions to promote awareness and build capacity on the opportunities along the food system value chain (primary, secondary schools and universities). Awareness programs should also be incorporated in institutions such as prisons and hospitals. In addition, explore utilization of available/vacant land adjacent to schools for urban agriculture as well as other activities along the food value chain

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

During the discussion session, the opportunities identified were cross cutting across the action tracks, where if one opportunity is well implemented, it can have rippling positive effects across the different action tracks.

Question 2: What instrumental policies, incentive mechanisms and initiatives can be adopted to spur systemic transformation of Accra’s City-region food system?

We have a number of good policies and regulations in place in Ghana that are directly or indirectly related to the food system. There is a good system of generating policies but not implementing them. For instance the whole of Accra Metropolis has only three extension officers. Moreover, the Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (CPESDP 2017-2024) is a good policy. However, there is a challenge of implementing these policies due to poor accountability and lack of monitoring and evaluation frameworks for some of the rolled out policies.

- Financing and resource mobilisation strategy at local level is important: Currently there is a programme that is looking into food and jobs - from 2017 to 2022. The programme is being funded by the Government of Canada. Donor funds have become more regular and reliable but have a short lifespan. Local government needs to step up its financing responsibility and formulate creative financing mechanisms especially for small scale and informal actors. For example partnering with savings cooperative societies could help to close this financial gap. In addition, Accra Metropolitan Assembly must lobby at the national level to have more resources allocated towards the transformation of the food system directly or indirectly. Especially through financial support and skills development.
- There is need for regulation and oversight in terms of food environments and awareness as there is rising obesity in the nation including Accra. Hence regulation on advertising is important in order to disincentive promotion of unhealthy foods
- Food Safety Guidelines adopted at national level and localised to assist local governments with ensuring that food handling and preparation across the food value chain is safe for consumers
- Enforcement of spatial planning legislation for the city and review of land tenure system to accommodate farmers to ensure balance and access to land for food production as well as other activities across the food value chain. The Urban Policy (currently being reviewed - opportunities to include food systems elements in specific action plans at local level)
- ICT policy: this will be useful in highlighting a way forward for access to services such as the internet which is essential for creating opportunities across the food value chain but also increasing efficiencies

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

N/A

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Accra Feedback Form**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Accra-Feedback-Form_2021.docx