

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 27 May 2021 16:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	University – Policy Dialogue for Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems in Africa
CONVENED BY	Prof Adipala Ekwamu
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15571/
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

0-18	4	19-30	13	31-50	9	51-65	2	66-80	80+
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PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

11	Male	16	Female	1	Prefer not to say or Other
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

6	Agriculture/crops	8	Education		Health care
	Fish and aquaculture	2	Communication		Nutrition
1	Livestock	0	Food processing	1	National or local government
2	Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets		Utilities
4	Environment and ecology		Food industry		Industrial
1	Trade and commerce		Financial Services	3	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

1	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
3	Large national business		Member of Parliament
2	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
1	Small-scale farmer	5	Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
1	Large-scale farmer		United Nations
1	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
5	International Non-Governmental Organization		Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People		Consumer group
9	Science and academia	1	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Participation to this dialogue was on invitation to the technocrats from RUFORUM Network member Universities. As a University -Policy dialogue it was intended to gain consensus on areas of focus for universities as they target food systems in Africa

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

It was a moderated participation which encouraged all participants to be part of the discussion. It included a presentations, discussion and agreement on the areas of focus and the next steps with the statement from the Vice Chancellors was free and open

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 future transformation of food systems in Africa requires innovative research, education, and training approaches that are rooted in local contexts. Universities in Africa need to adapt and create knowledge to strengthen and transform the food systems through strengthening links and improving production, processing, storage, transport, food quality, and businesses that link them and consumers. Universities must play a crucial and more effective role in anticipating the skill-sets and knowledge demanded by rapidly changing food systems, and provide these skills and information in ways that trickle through the entire economy. In turn, the universities need to translate knowledge created into innovations that transform and develop potential to drive their own and Africa's food system transformation. Now is the time to reassess and redesign the African universities and assist them to build their capacity to deliver Africa's food system transformation. The dialogue therefore targeted

a) University contribution to:

i) Zero Hunger, access to nutritious food and food safety: Approximately 300 million people in Africa are undernourished and food insecure;

ii) Elevating the voice and role of Smallholder farmers in Food Systems interventions- Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress -

b) Long-term investment and policy for Food Systems research, higher education and innovation.

i) Enhancing Human Capital development to support the transformation of Food systems- Advance equitable livelihoods

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 African Agriculture Sector/Context

1. Africa is home to nearly 1.4 billion people (about 17% of the world's population). The vast majority of these people live in rural Africa, deriving their livelihoods from agriculture and related resources. With sixty percent of Africa's population dependent on agriculture, a vibrant agricultural sector must be part of the solution for creating inclusive development on the continent.
2. Vibrant agri-food-systems and institutions engaged in production to consumption of food are key to delivery of the continent's development agenda, Africa We Want, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Smallholder Farmer Focus

1. Africa produces its food from two main types of systems: smallholder-based, highly diversified production systems and "progressive" semi-to-extensive production systems that are increasingly owned and managed by urban elite.
2. The smallholder farmers that feed and employ the vast majority of people, with women accounting for up to 70% of the labour force.
3. The primacy of Africa's smallholder agriculture to underpin sustainable and equitable food systems that support food and nutrition security for all, for the present generations and posterity, is unequivocal and must be integral in discussions on global food systems.
4. The weak linkages between African smallholder farmers and research/extension, as well as agricultural markets must be strengthened.
5. Due to low technological advancements (hand held hoe) and other factors, African agriculture is not attractive to most youth.

Strengthening Human Capital Development (Skilling)

1. For Africa, especially Sub-Saharan Africa, to realize its full agricultural potential to bolster its food systems, there is need for significant investments in key productivity-enhancing innovations to harness science solutions for growth.
2. Only a fraction of smallholder farmers has requisite entrepreneurial ability, productive assets and skills potential for value addition. Skilling such populations, and in general, improving the labour productivity is critical for African agriculture to play a greater role in meeting local to global food demand, in a competitive and cost-effective and competitive manner.
3. A more holistic human capital development is required to build the agricultural workforce, from production, to research and innovations, as well as entrepreneurship. African universities are pivotal in designing and implementing human capital development programmes.
4. Universities themselves have to change how they do business and respond to emerging needs and advance processes and mechanisms that ensure that graduates appreciate agriculture and agribusiness as a source of employment and livelihood.
5. Africa must not outsource its food security (export jobs) but build capacity to bolster its global food production and export markets.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
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KEYWORDS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

1. Strengthen production fundamentals, such as research and innovation, to direct how we leverage our production resources, generate relevant technologies, guide threat surveillance, and inform policy design and accountability.
2. Institute industrial policies that promote private investment and job growth in local non-farm sectors, essential to attract investment in agri-food systems (the focus on agro-industrialization)
3. Scale up of technologies developed by universities to make them available for youth and use within the country. Foster Intellectual Property and patenting.
4. Invest strongly in the education value chain, from universities to vocational colleges, to leveraging on secondary and primary education to upgrade the skill levels of young people entering the labour force.
6. Work collaboratively with African universities and other actors in and outside Africa to marshal the needed response to strengthen Africa's food systems and for scaling out best practices. There is need to bridge the disconnect between academia and government and between technocrats and politicians who allocate resources to support food systems enhancement.
5. Foster global partnerships to develop more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems that consider the needs of smallholder farmers and youth.
6. Strengthen commitment to Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development (CAADP) financing and implementation, Africa's Agenda 2063, STISA 2024 and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA).
7. Invest in preparedness (i.e., data science, foresight, and building response capacities) to manage emerging and future challenges with keen attention to the 4th Industrial Revolution
8. Establish startup/venture capital funds that will enable young graduates to adopt agriculture as a career for self-employment and to employ peers.
9. Appeal to the United Nations Food System Summit (UNFSS) to:
 - a. Support the efforts of Africa to invest in and transform its food systems and build the capacity needed to develop and implement a sustainable, inclusive food system.
 - b. Recognize that co-developing, co-ownership, and joint implementation of UNFSS agreed game-changers for food systems transformation on the African continent must be inclusive, and provide equitable opportunities.
10. Endorse the international community support for the formation of an African Multi-stakeholder Capacity strengthening platform for sustainable, inclusive African food systems (Capacity Strengthening Platform for African Food Systems).
11. Facilitate improvement in the information flow from research to the government where it can be utilized to advance food systems and livelihoods.
12. Strengthen the link between university and government as a precursor for evidence-based decision making and to lobby government for resource allocation towards Food and Nutrition Security.

ACTION TRACKS

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ✓ | Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all |
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| ✓ | Innovation | ✓ | Data & Evidence |
| | Human rights | ✓ | Governance |
| ✓ | Women & Youth Empowerment | ✓ | Trade-offs |
| | | | Environment and Climate |

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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KEYWORDS

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