

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 10 May 2021 11:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Animal food systems: challenges
CONVENED BY	Convenor: Prof. Noga Kronfeld-Schor, Co-Convenor: Dr. Gal Zagron, Ministry of Environmental Protection
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15749/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Israel

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

79

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18 4 19-30 46 31-50 26 51-65 3 66-80 0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

47 Male 32 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

3	Agriculture/crops	1	Education	6	Health care
7	Fish and aquaculture		Communication		Nutrition
7	Livestock		Food processing	26	National or local government
	Agro-forestry	2	Food retail, markets		Utilities
5	Environment and ecology	15	Food industry	1	Industrial
	Trade and commerce		Financial Services		Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

3	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
7	Large national business		Member of Parliament
3	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
2	Small-scale farmer	27	Government and national institution
5	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer	1	United Nations
16	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
	International Non-Governmental Organization		Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People	1	Consumer group
14	Science and academia		Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Recognizing the utmost urgency to take sustained and meaningful action to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the dialogues are organized to identify the pathways to food systems transformation. We are committed to practicing what we preach in contribution to the Food Systems Summit. The dialogues empower stakeholders to participate in the preparations of the Food Systems Summit, while fostering new connections, enabling the emergence of new ways to move forward collectively and embracing the entire scope of opinions. Within our capacity and circumstances, we will promote food production and consumption policies and practices that strive to protect and improve the health and the well-being of individuals, enhance resilient livelihoods and communities, and promote stewardship of natural resources, while respecting local cultures and contexts. Respecting one another is the foundation for a genuine Dialogue. Participants in the Dialogues are expected to be attentive and open to a multitude of opinions. We recognize that food systems are complex, and are closely connected to, and significantly impacting human and animal health, natural resources, climate change, biodiversity and other related systems. Therefore, their transformation requires a systemic approach.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Dialogues are an opportunity to embrace the complexity of food systems. They promote a systemic approach by involving multiple stakeholders to identify actions across the system together with potential synergies and trade-offs. We support inclusive multi-stakeholder processes and approaches within governments and communities to allow for the design of policy options that deliver against multiple public goods across these various systems. The Dialogues bring to the table a diversity of stakeholders across the food system. They are inclusive and strive to showcase as many voices as possible, capturing diverse cultural, professional and gender specific perspectives. Recognizing that issues related to food systems are being addressed through several other global governance processes, we will seek to ensure that the Food Systems Summit aligns with these efforts where possible in order to avoid duplication, while encouraging bold and innovative new thinking and approaches. The Dialogues build on and add value to existing policy processes and initiatives. They provide an opportunity to share promising innovations, connect stakeholders, and broaden partnerships to transform food systems for the common good. We will work to ensure that the Summit and its associated engagement process promotes trust and increases motivation to participate by being evidence-based, transparent, and accessible. The Dialogues are curated and facilitated in a way which creates a “safe space” and promotes trust, encouraging mutual respect. The conclusions emerging from the Dialogues that are shared in the feedback and other media are not attributed to single individuals.

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 major focus of this dialogue was the challenges that Israel faces in adapting its animal-based food systems to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

This focus was examined through eight topic-based groups.

Four of the groups focused on specific types of animal-based food sources:

- 1) Livestock raised for meat
- 2) Poultry and eggs
- 3) Dairy
- 4) Fish and other kinds of seafood

Three groups discussed general topics relevant to all animal based foods:

- 1) Zoonotic diseases
- 2) Antimicrobial use
- 3) Animal welfare

The last topic was alternative proteins, which is unique in the topic-based groups involved and focused on the challenges in the entry of the alternative protein sector into the Israeli and global market and food systems by 2030.

The participants of the round table were asked to share the following points:

- 1) The 3-5 most important challenges facing the alternative protein entry into the global food system in 2030
- 2) The unique challenges of the Israeli ecosystem (research, business sector, government, consumer, other)

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 primary conclusion that emerged, in all groups, was that there is a lack of necessary and appropriate regulation. In certain fields, a lack of regulation is detrimental to food safety and security and in others; inadequate regulation hinders sustainability by damaging small-scale producers (the new food safety law from 2015) or local production (by benefiting mostly large importers).

In addition, it was agreed that a lack of transparency is detrimental to food safety and security. The information regarding zoonotic diseases, livestock and poultry feed and housing conditions, antimicrobial use, and animal welfare is not relayed to the consumers or even to the relevant health officials and regulators.

It was also agreed that there is a need to establish new connections between all relevant stakeholders, especially government bodies (the ministries of agriculture, health, and environmental protection) and professionals in the health, agriculture, and environmental protection fields – in order to fulfill the One Health approach.

An important aspect of adapting animal-based food systems is the economic challenge and the need for funding and infrastructures.

The need for health education and promotion, based on relevant and sound research, was established.

Several groups found that some stakeholders in agriculture, including regulators, veterinarians, inspectors, and more, face a conflict of interest between their productivity demands and the need to ensure sustainable, safe food and animal welfare.

Food waste is a major problem in animal based food systems. Animal sourced food is a sensitive commodity and the risk of food safety hazards is high. Extermination of animals and destruction of food products, as a means of curbing the spread of diseases, are widespread. For example, in 2020, 10 million eggs were destroyed in Israel, causing economic and environmental damage.

Two issues unique to Israel are:

1) Religious dietary (kashrut) requirements and supervision, which often conflict with sustainable development goals in economic, welfare, environmental, and health terms

2) The regulatory neglect and lack of supervision of livestock issues pertaining to the Arab minority. At least 80% of the small cattle in Israel is slaughtered in a non-regulated manner in the Arab sector, with grave environmental and health impacts, and this sector also suffers from several zoonotic diseases not found elsewhere in Israel (Brucella, E. granulosus, and more).

Many breeding farms lack basic welfare conditions such as clean recumbency areas, prevention of odor nuisances, natural ventilation, etc. These may cause serious environmental hazards, such as land degradation, and may also contribute to disease spread and to further use of antibiotics, which raise economic costs for the farmers.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Poultry and eggs are the most hazardous and unsustainable food sources in Israel today and require urgent intervention. The most crucial and necessary intervention regards laying hens and egg distribution. Infrastructure upgrades in the field of animal welfare are vital and will contribute to biological safety, poultry welfare, and the reduction of environmental and health hazards. Regulatory supervision, traceability, and labeling of eggs must be implemented with all haste to maintain food safety and security. The majority of the dialogue participants thought that making the animal based food industry sustainable and more environment and welfare oriented will be beneficial, but it is necessary to kick start the process. All stakeholders in the field of animal-based food production should be motivated towards sustainability through education and funding, especially direct funding. Designated training is required on a wide range of topics in all fields, There is no organized body and / or mechanism designed to regulate the training of workers with animals in the food industry, and such a body or mechanism must be instituted. In order to become sustainable, it is necessary to promote local production over imports. Even with significant improvements in livestock production, meat and dairy will likely remain the most greenhouse gas (GHG) intensive foods on our plates. Emerging technologies to produce cultivated and plant-based meat, fish, eggs and dairy are advancing rapidly. The Biotech and food-tech industry in Israel is well known around the world. Some of the most innovative technologies came out of Israel. Israel's recognition as a hub for academic research and innovation in the alternative protein arena should be leveraged through these dialogs and capitalized for the local and global food systems. Embracing the importance of innovation and technology as part of the inclusive solution towards the SDG goals, with an emphasis on alternative proteins as part of an inclusive solution towards a transition to a resilient and sustainable food system Creative and sustainable solution should be explored together to food waste and the reduction of economic and environmental cost of religious requirements.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

All groups diverged on the question of consumption of animal- sourced food. Stakeholders from the fields of welfare, nutrition, and environmental protection mostly supported reducing consumption levels, whereas stakeholders from the field of agriculture- farmers, industry leaders, and members of the dairy and poultry associations- supported maintaining current consumption levels or even increasing consumption.

There was divergence on the issue of animal welfare on live livestock transfers by sea.

On the topic of poultry and eggs, some stakeholders held that the intensive production of poultry and eggs does not harm the environment, while others disagreed.

On the topic of dairy, the participants diverged on whether consumption levels should be reduced or maintained/increased. Some participants held that due to the environmental impact (pollution of water sources, greenhouse gas emissions) and health concerns, dairy consumption should be reduced, while others claimed that these concerns can be mitigated through proper management and practices, and that dairy has nutritional importance.

On the topic of Livestock, some participants did not share a common ground on the need to take measures in terms of policy and regulation, as well certain data and evidence. Though it was agreed that there is a need for to further develop the discussion on the major issues and advance the ability to provide healthy and sustainable food to the growing population in Israel, considering different challenges and limitations: geographic (agricultural land), environmental, nutritional, social and financial aspects, animal welfare and consumer choices. Food security and ability to adapt to changes (climate, financial, etc.) were also mentioned in the specific local conditions

Areas that need further exploration:

- 1) Lack of professional knowledge in Israel regarding animal welfare
- 2) Lack of regulation and public knowledge regarding fish welfare and suffering.

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