

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 10 May 2021 11:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Plant food systems: Challenges
CONVENED BY	Convenor: Prof. Noga Kronfeld-Schor, Ministry of Environmental Protection. Co-Convenors: Dr. Yael Kachel and Tsipi Freidkin Ministry of Agriculture and rural development, Dr. Maayan Cohen and Shahar Livne
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15765/
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

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18	19-30	25	31-50	11	51-65	2	66-80	80+
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PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

28	Male	10	Female		Prefer not to say or Other
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

6	Agriculture/crops Fish and aquaculture Livestock Agro-forestry		Education Communication Food processing Food retail, markets Food industry Financial Services		Health care Nutrition 18	National or local government Utilities Industrial 8	Other
3	Environment and ecology Trade and commerce						

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	4	Workers and trade union
1	Large national business		Member of Parliament
1	Multi-national corporation	1	Local authority
2	Small-scale farmer	19	Government and national institution
1	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer		United Nations
1	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
	International Non-Governmental Organization		Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People		Consumer group
8	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

Our dialogue's focus was a comprehensive exploration of sustainable plant food systems, with a focus on the agricultural sector. The FAO defines a sustainable food system as a "food system that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised". A food system incorporates many aspects, our dialogue focused on various aspects relevant to a sustainable plant food system: 1) Domestic production (quantity and composition); 2) Means of production; 3) Productivity improvement, 4) Sustainable plant production; and 5) Production profitability. Each topic was discussed separately in a round table format. The emphasis of the first dialogue was to identify and define the major challenges in each field.

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 main findings that emerged from the plant food systems dialogues included challenges related to the supply of production factors (land, water and workers), use of pesticides and fertilizers, climate change, food security, R&D, knowledge transfer, adoption of technologies to raise productivity, marketing, policy and regulatory tools regarding the status of agriculture, waste management, the position regarding imports/local production.

Detailed explanation of each category:

1. Supply of production factors:

a) Water – high water prices and not enough subsidization for infrastructure development, a lack of information regarding the long-term implications of the use of recycled wastewater.

b) Land – limited area available for agriculture, contraction of agricultural area resulting from an increase in other land uses, need to update legislation (e.g. there is no law to encourage agriculture in Israel, absence of definition of "agriculture" in planning and building law, outdated "settlement law").

c) Workers - restricted number of foreign workers along with the fact that most Israelis do not want to do manual work in agriculture creates a shortage of workers. Seasonality of production, administrative allocation and limitations on mobility of foreign workers among farmers result in a suboptimal allocation.

2. Farmers: lack of generational renewal

3. Research and Development, Knowledge transfer – Ensure public agricultural extension, Implementation of research results, ensure budget for agricultural R&D, collaboration with start-up companies.

4. Pesticides and fertilizers – lack of effective environmentally friendly pesticides. Part of fertilizers and pesticides are imported, leading to a possibility of shortage; negative environmental impacts resulting from the extensive use of pesticides and fertilizers due to the prevailing climatic conditions and ground structure in the country; frictions with the urban sector and nature.

5. Climate changes – lack of knowledge regarding climate change and its effect on different crops, development of climate change policy for agricultural sector and sufficient investment for climate change adaptation, supplying the necessary information to farmers about tools for adaption and crops that can be grown.

6. Uncertainty of farming in Israel: increased variability of yields resulting from climate change, frequent policy changes increase uncertainty for farmers.

7. Technologies – difficulties in improving and adopting new agricultural technologies. Technologies to reduce food waste. There is a need to improve soil fertility. In recent years, the productivity of the agricultural sector declined – it is necessary to understand the causes and increase productivity.

8. Food security – providing the economic, social and environmental conditions to generate food security and healthy nutrition for the local population. Ensuring that agriculture in Israel is profitable for farmers. Domestic agricultural production is stagnating in recent years. We need to be prepared for future scenarios in which domestic agriculture will need to increase its production substantially: population growth, change in nutrition habits, climate change and emergency situations. The challenge is to create the conditions that will enable the agricultural sector to supply the food necessary in the light of future scenarios. The growing Palestinian population should be accounted for as well.

9. Marketing – coping with aggressive marketing of ultra-processed food. There is a need to ensure profitability of food production in Israel. Steady supply of raw material to the food industry.

10. Policies – Ministries need to collaborate in order to establish a holistic and sustainable policy for the food system with clear long-term objectives. Disagreements about objectives and policy instruments (e.g. importance of agriculture, subsidies). There is a need for long-term policy objectives for the agricultural sector. Differences in requirements for imported and domestic agricultural products.

11. Agricultural waste management – food losses and waste, waste resulting from surplus production, developing an alternative for plastic, creating a standard for compost.

12. Conflicts between environment and agriculture, e.g. overlap of wildlife corridors and agricultural land. Need to find balance between nature and agriculture. Not enough incentives for farmers to use sustainable agriculture.

13. Barriers to the development of urban agriculture

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The first dialogue focused on the challenges that are to be address. The challenges are detailed in the "Main Findings" section.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

1. Some participants attributed the lack of technological advances to the availability of foreign workers, while others stated that there are not enough foreign workers.
2. The importance of domestic supply for providing food security in the future in times of climate change and population growth, vs. the importance of imports (is it necessary to protect domestic agricultural production by custom duties to ensure present and future supply of fresh domestic products, or should import restrictions be abolished in order to ensure food supply in Israel and decrease food prices)
3. The importance of agriculture in providing public goods.

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