

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 10 May 2021 11:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Implementation guidance for healthy and sustainable diets policy: Challenges
CONVENED BY	Convenor: Prof. Noga Kronfeld-Schor. Co-Convenors: Prof. Ronit Endevelt, Dr. Shay Reicher, Ministry of Health
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/15810/
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



PARTICIPATION BY GENDER



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP



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

Implementation guidelines for healthy and sustainable diet policy

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 following challenges were identified:

- Lack of public awareness to consume a safe, healthy and less –ultra-processed diet, and the connection to sustainability.
- The industry still has place for improvement regarding the development of healthier foods, and sustainable food reformulation and packaging.
- Data regarding public exposure, especially in susceptible populations, to foodstuff and dietary patterns is incomplete and biomonitoring data is limited. Government official controls should rely on data to better adjust enforcement measures to the level of risk.
- There are limited government resources available to enhance food and nutritional data collections and research regarding epidemiology and intervention studies, including with the academia at the local population levels, in order to establish evidence-based nutrition policy. Currently, most of the available data is based on studies carried out by commercial stakeholders.
- The ultra-processed foods are more attractive to the general population, in comparison to fresh foods, for various reasons including lack of nutritional education and lack of economic incentives.
- Foods for people with special nutritional needs (such as allergies, non-communicable diseases) is expensive and not always accessible.
- Heterogenic populations are exposed to different advertisements for unhealthy foods, including foreign, digital, and specifically targeted messages. Low SES populations are more exposed to the harmful advertisements.
- Incorporation of nutrition guidelines through the life cycle faces a few challenges, according to age groups such as the first 1000 days of life, teenagers and the elderly each having their own nutritional needs and challenges. Immigrants, ethnicity-affiliation, religious group and populations in transition, may be affected by malnutrition and therefore are more vulnerable.
- Currently, there is no significant nutrition education in the school curricula. There is a need for regulations voluntary nutrition education does not work.
- Integrating nutritional education and better health literacy as an integral part of the education system in Israel, focusing on the young ages and various socio-economic strata.
- Regulation is non-harmonized, and is addressed by several regulators, each with different requirements. Laboratory testing methods are not always available or optimal in terms of costs and response time.
- There is not always an economic justification for developing analytical methods and government laboratories lack the necessary resources to enable them to serve as reference laboratories.
- The geographic location of Israel makes it a wild-animals migration hub and therefore more susceptible to zoonotic diseases.
- Education regarding the use of packaging and public awareness of sustainability and recycling of packages and single-use-utensils is insufficient.
- Healthy sustainable food systems in institutions, companies and local authorities are necessary. There is a need for professional nutritional experts as leaders and for training the workers in the field.
- Harmonizing and keeping the food chain safe, healthy, and suitable to the needs of the clients and consumers, in light of quality control.
- There is a need to minimize food waste and use of disposable packaging and utensils, through education, and training for sustainable food purchase.
- Optimization of development of alternative protein sources and their production, so as to imitate the conventional products and to make them available and accessible to the general public without compromising health and sustainable aspects.
- The Government has limited resources to keep up with the rapid development of the food tech taking into consideration the lack of international guidelines and standards.
- Local authorities are varied by the level of awareness, budgets and availability of professional experts in nutrition and strategy to implement healthy nutrition in all policies, which result in poor implementation of healthy nutrition strategy.
- There are no dedicated defined units responsible for public health within the local municipalities.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy |
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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

- There is inherent tension between the industry's desire to adopt international regulation (EU, US) "as-is" and the responsibility of the regulator to adjust the regulation to the unique circumstances of the country.
- There is a contradiction between the need for food safety and longer shelf life and attractive coloring and taste and the need for cleaner labelling.
- There is a discrepancy between the right of the consumer to transparency and the limitation of the labelling.
- Lack of unanimously accepted definition of ultra-processed food and harmful foods.
- The regulator is obliged to prevent additional exposure to unhealthy foods by limiting the industry and the television programs and advertising that encourages unhealthy eating. This should be managed by regulation, whereas the industry prefers pledges/voluntary charters.
- There is a need to add health score symbols on the packaging like carcinogenic etc.
- There is a need to maintain and enhance the Israeli agriculture from the food security perspective and sustainability in light of the SDG's, and to favor local production over imported foods, despite of lower cost effectiveness.
- Who takes the responsibility over the food health risk factors communication; Government, industry, the public?
- There is abandonment of traditional eating and use of local crops due to globalization and modernization.
- Sustainable packaging and recycling. There is no incentive for the industry to use sustainable packaging, nor to recycle, and excessive packaging is still common.
- While several stakeholders proposed the implementation of stricter regulation and enforcement, others suggested adopting a looser strategy relying on the responsibility of the manufacturer/importer. Currently, official controls are partially relying on self-declarations but when analyzed the products might not meet the regulatory requirements.
- Lack of food quality and subjective parameters in food tenders regarding nutritional quality, technology, taste and requirement for better equipment in institutional kitchen facilities.
- There are disagreements on the need to replace protein of animal origin with plant-based protein.
- Disagreement between governmental ministries regarding the need to establish a healthy "food basket" with a fixed price including subsidies.
- There is a need to ensure that highly nutritious and appealing foods are served in "dining rooms" at schools lunch-program, these being foods that the children will enjoy eating, without compromising on food safety and quality.
- There is a need for every school to have dining rooms in order to encourage good nutritional habits in early stages of life.
- On the one hand Israel is currently leading the development of alternative protein technologies while on the other hand there are not enough resources to make the shift to large scale production.
- Gap between policies and implementation: although there are basic Nutritional Policies for healthy eating in educational institutes, there is a gap between policy and implementation and a lack of human resources and awareness regarding the existing policies.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Implementation-guidance-for-healthy-and-sustainable-diets-policy.pdf>