

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 16 December 2020 08:30 GMT -05:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Advancing equitable livelihoods in food systems: a UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue
CONVENED BY	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/1589/
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

886

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18 74 19-30 294 31-50 265 51-65 0 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

377 Male 265 Female 244 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops	Education	Health care
Fish and aquaculture	Communication	Nutrition
Livestock	Food processing	National or local government
Agro-forestry	Food retail, markets	Utilities
Environment and ecology	Food industry	Industrial
Trade and commerce	Financial Services	886 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

2 Small/medium enterprise/artisan	2 Workers and trade union
143 Large national business	Member of Parliament
Multi-national corporation	20 Local authority
Small-scale farmer	18 Government and national institution
2 Medium-scale farmer	Regional economic community
0 Large-scale farmer	15 United Nations
Local Non-Governmental Organization	13 International financial institution
International Non-Governmental Organization	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
Indigenous People	Consumer group
2 Science and academia	669 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

To support the UN system's efforts towards eliminating hunger, and to underscore the interlinkages between SDG 2 and the rest of the goals, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) held a Global Policy Dialogue in December 2020 with partners on food security, particularly IFAD, in the context of demographic change and rural development. Internationally renowned experts and professionals on food systems, population trends and rural development were invited to join as panelists to discuss this urgent and multidimensional issue. Local farmers were part of the panel as well as the interactive audience. A special effort was made to include young people in the discussion, as well. The event also served as a Food Systems Summit Dialogue aligned with Action Track 4—Advance Equitable Livelihoods and Value Distribution, giving participants an opportunity to contribute to designing the food systems of the future by informing the Summit process. To enhance engagement, the event was held on Zoom and streamed live on UN DESA's Facebook page. Participants were invited to submit questions online at the time of registration and in the Zoom and Facebook chats during the event. A survey also was conducted throughout the event, through the Zoom platform. In addition to supporting the Food Systems Summit, the results of the discussion have been shared with UN leadership and will inform future UN DESA policy briefs on the economic and social impacts of the pandemic and strategies for better recovery, as well as the Department's support to the Decade of Action.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Our Dialogue embraced multi-stakeholder inclusivity by including in the panel representatives of the UN system, academia, the private sector, civil society and, especially, farmers. The panelists included experts from all continents, more than half were women, two were youth, and half represented developing countries. All panelists treated each other with respect including during the preparatory meetings when they were invited to meet and Furthermore, the event brought together people from these multiple sectors to because UN DESA recognizes the complexity of food systems and how we need to look at the issue from a lens beyond just SDG 2, Zero Hunger. We need a broad integration of the entire 2030 Agenda, with all stakeholders' voices amplified. Our Dialogue built on the ongoing work of the UN System, in particular our work at UN DESA and that of our partner for this event, IFAD.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

We would recommend a journalist be used as the moderator for these types of discussions because the journalist skill set allows for sharp, to-the-point conversations.

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

Eradicating hunger and achieving food security remain major challenges to humanity and to sustainability. At the global level, hunger and food insecurity were on the rise in 2019. An estimated 25.9 per cent of the global population – 2 billion people – were affected by moderate or severe food insecurity in 2019, an increase from 22.4 per cent in 2014. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 report from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that there are nearly 690 million people in the world who are hungry, or 8.9 per cent of the world population – up 10 million people in one year and nearly 60 million in five years. and the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the problem. At the same time, food systems in their current form contribute considerably to green-house gas emissions, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. Today, food production accounts for about a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions. Half of the world's habitable land is used for agriculture and about a quarter of the world's productive lands are degraded.

These challenges to securing adequate nutrition to all of the world's people, generating equitable livelihoods and adapting to, as well as mitigating climate change stand to become even more daunting. Building sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition patterns have been identified by the Global Sustainable Development Report 2019, as one of six entry points to achieve transformational change toward sustainable development in ways that capitalize on synergies while minimizing trade-offs. On the global stage, 2021 will be a year with food security at its core. In early 2021, the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Population and Development will take on the theme of "Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development." In July, the annual High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development will review Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 aiming to zero hunger, along with other closely associated SDGs such as those targeting poverty eradication and climate action. Finally, the Secretary-General will convene the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit in September.

To support the UN system's efforts towards eliminating hunger, and to underscore the interlinkages between SDG 2 and the rest of the goals, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) is holding a global policy dialogue in December 2020 with partners on food security in the context of demographic change and rural development. Internationally renowned experts and professionals on food systems, population trends and rural development will be invited to join as panelists to discuss this urgent and multidimensional issue. The event also will serve as a Food Systems Summit Dialogue aligned with Action Track 4—Advance Equitable Livelihoods and Value Distribution, giving participants an opportunity to contribute to designing the food systems of the future by informing the Summit process.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
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MAIN FINDINGS

Overall, panelists stressed the importance of access to food as a fundamental right for all people and an inextricable part of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Both food producers and consumers carry responsibility to create a more equitable food system and further noted that food producers also suffer from poverty and hunger, arising from inequalities and injustices.

In order for food systems to be more inclusive, sustainable and healthy, further efforts are needed to 1) create jobs, 2) raise incomes across food value chains, 3) reduce risks for those most marginalized within the system, and 4) increase value distribution. Additionally, there must be special attention paid to gender equality in food systems, including the need to provide more opportunities for women in agricultural value chains, such as access to land, markets and decisions.

Furthermore, panelists highlighted how the three components of the “livelihood-nutrition-environment triangle” are key to eradicating both hunger and poverty and said that moving agricultural production from input-intensive to knowledge-intensive systems and expanding employment efficiency and diversity into value chains are the two priority actions to ensure a positive and harmonious triangle. With regard to the upcoming Food Systems Summit, the stakeholders look forward to working together to transform a wealth of ideas, evidences and recommendations into concrete and practical solutions to advance equitable livelihoods in the food system.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

Key takeaways from Panel 1: The impact of COVID-19 and population movement on food system livelihoods

The first panel discussed recent trends and challenges for ensuring sustainable food system livelihoods from a macro-perspective, in particular the impact of population movement and the COVID-19 pandemic on food systems in developing countries.

With regard to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food system livelihoods in developing countries, several panelists noted that digital tools and people's solidarity were key to remain resilient during the pandemic. In Indonesia, Ms. Endah Murniningtyas, the former Deputy Minister for National Resources and Environment at the Ministry of National Development Planning of the Republic of Indonesia, and co-chair of the Independent Group of Scientists that produced the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report, noted that the immediate impact of the pandemic was felt through the weakening of national food demands and the closure of many businesses such as caterers and hotels, which led to excess of food production by local farmers. However, people remained resilient by utilizing IT tools to enable "direct selling" by small agricultural producers to local consumers, which ensured many women farmers to continue their businesses and promoted youth participation as digital mediators of food value chains. Digital platforms were also utilized to donate excess food from producers to those most in need, and she cited one recent study which found about a 72 per cent increase in food donation during the pandemic.

Similarly, Ms. Izabella Teixeira, former Minister of Environment of Brazil and member of the UN High-level Advisory Board for Economic and Social Affairs, noted that in Brazil, digital tools and e-commerce were utilized as part of national food value chains to connect small and organic farmers with consumers across the country. In this regard, she noted that digital platforms have a bigger role to play beyond providing supply chains and traceability of products. She suggested that e-tools could help optimize production to minimize food waste.

On the impact of population movement on livelihood and food systems, Mr. John Wilmoth, Director of the UN DESA Population Division, highlighted that urbanization, which is particularly significant in Africa and Asia, has caused shifts in people's diets from agricultural staples to more animal-based food and processed food, which requires adjustments in agricultural production patterns. Growth of urban populations is further advanced by the fact that, overall, farms are becoming larger in scale and more mechanized, which is causing declines in demand for agricultural labor and is pressuring many rural farm workers to find alternative labor opportunities in urban areas.

In response to a question by the audience regarding the vulnerability of export-based food systems—an element exposed during the pandemic—panelists stressed that countries must ensure more inclusive, transparent, resilient and environmentally friendly agricultural supply chains, both at global and local levels. Furthermore, one panelist noted that producers must cater to more diversified food demands by consumers

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

Key takeaways from Panel 2: Sustainable rural development to ensure better food livelihoods

The second panel consisted of local agricultural practitioners and researchers and a technical specialist from IFAD. The discussions focused on sustainable rural development as a pathway to ensuring better food system livelihoods, by citing practical examples and solutions from country experiences.

Panelists agreed that inclusivity and equity, based on a people-centered approach, is key to ensuring better food livelihoods in rural areas for vulnerable groups including women, youth, indigenous peoples and other communities with distinct livelihood systems. Several panelists noted that skill development, including digital skills related to drones and satellite data, as well as access to finance, are important enablers for transforming farmers into competitive entrepreneurs. This would ensure better economic empowerment of women and attract more younger workers. One panelist also stressed the importance for countries to better target government subsidies to the most vulnerable to maximize inclusion and ensure equitable livelihoods.

The importance of partnerships was also underscored, which would enable multidisciplinary collaboration among farmers, NGOs, governments and international organizations to design projects that can connect small farmers with international markets. Panelists noted that better coordination among government ministries is crucial because support for food systems requires the support of multiple ministries.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The two youth panelists strongly emphasized that more training is needed for their generation, to keep up with changing digital technologies and not miss opportunities because of lack of finance or because class is canceled because of the pandemic.

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KEYWORDS

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

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Summary-of-Global-Policy-Dialogue-Series-Food-Dec-final.docx>

RELEVANT LINKS

- **UN DESA Global Policy Dialogue Series**
<https://www.un.org/en/desa/policy-dialogue>