

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Thursday, 20 May 2021 16:00 GMT +03:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Vice Chancellors Forum: Towards a Common Voice from African Universities to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/16187/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/16187/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	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

243

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

72

19-30

103

31-50

51

51-65

17

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

137 Male

100 Female

6 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

63 Agriculture/crops

10 Fish and aquaculture

11 Livestock

3 Agro-forestry

44 Environment and ecology

4 Trade and commerce

52 Education

5 Communication

12 Food processing

Food retail, markets

6 Food industry

1 Financial Services

3 Health care

Nutrition

1 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

28 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

26 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

9 Large national business

12 Multi-national corporation

29 Small-scale farmer

2 Medium-scale farmer

5 Large-scale farmer

2 Local Non-Governmental Organization

12 International Non-Governmental Organization

1 Indigenous People

103 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

27 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

1 United Nations

1 International financial institution

1 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

1 Consumer group

11 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The dialogue was a consultative process that fully subscribed to the principles of engagement as outlined in the convenors manual. Different modes of engagement were adopted including Moderation, keynote speakers, and discussion.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Keynote speakers were identified and requested to participate in the dialogue from their expertise in food systems and the link with higher agricultural education. The choice of keynote speakers was to stimulate discussion. The dialogue was moderated to encourage full participation

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

# 3. METHOD

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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 dialogue focused on the entry points for universities in the food systems transformation of Africa. Future transformation of Africa's food systems requires innovative scientific, research, educational and training approaches, and thus Africa's universities must be actively engaged in this transformation process. Universities need to act with greater urgency for pioneering new approaches in delivering collaborative regional education, training, research and innovation programs for improved food systems and greater development impact.

### 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 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 COVID-19 pandemic was a wake up call to the glaring fragility and inequalities of the global, regional, and national agri-food systems, thus making the resolve for sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems extremely urgent. To build such food systems, there is need to examine existing systems and policies. Government leaders, policy makers, private sector, civil society, universities, research institutions, smallholder farmers, and other value chain actors, have a stake in shaping pathways for resilient and sustainable national food systems aligned with SDGs and Africa's Agenda 2063.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

### Discussion topic 1: Status of Food Systems In Africa: Key Drivers, Challenges And Needed Interventions

There is need to strengthen food production to consumption fundamentals through STIs. This involves the development of yield enhancing resilient technologies (New varieties, breeds); value added and post-harvest reduction for diversified urbanizing populations; renewable production systems - climate change for posterity; and, effective and efficient knowledge generation (Agricultural Education and Advisory services)

Development of human capital for the flourishing the food systems needs to be undertaken through balancing the human resource pyramid for science technology & innovations and entrepreneurship ; and leveraging and convergence, rather than competition, in science technology and innovations development and human capital development

Africa needs to depend on its intelligence to inform its foresight and strategy investment planning, measurement, accountability and learning to inform investments and redesign of adaptation measures. African universities are best place to undertake this.

Discussion topic 2: Emerging issues in West, Eastern and Southern Africa. Strategic thrusts to transform the food system include;

- Develop human capital to innovate, adopt and enable transformed food systems
- Increase Locally Relevant Research to create and adapt knowledge to strengthen value chains
- Support Multi-stakeholder Platforms to Innovate and Scale to improve food and nutrition security
- Improve Communication, Storing and Sharing advances and approaches and make them accessible to policymakers and from farm to table

University and research need to;

- Undertake resource mobilization to support human capital development
- Feed the transformation of neglected value chain
- Support Universities and research institution, but also for innovative and impact-oriented training model
- Increase focus on practice-oriented training through establishment of hands-on practical units and stations within training institutions; and, development of enterprises that partner with universities in vocational training of graduates

### Discussion Topic Smallholder 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.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

### 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.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

### ACTION TRACKS

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### KEYWORDS

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation                | <input type="checkbox"/> Data & Evidence         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human rights              | <input type="checkbox"/> Governance              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade-offs              |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate |

# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- [https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/RUFORUM\\_VC\\_Final-UNFSS-Statement-English-Final.pdf](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/RUFORUM_VC_Final-UNFSS-Statement-English-Final.pdf)