

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 2 June 2021 17:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Strengthening Food Systems transformation for increased productivity, inclusivity and resilience
CONVENED BY	Prof. Adipala Ekwamu
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/16198/
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

405

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

3 0-18 53 19-30 209 31-50 117 51-65 23 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

287 Male 114 Female 4 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

82	Agriculture/crops	69	Education	13	Health care
14	Fish and aquaculture	13	Communication		Nutrition
	Livestock	14	Food processing	9	National or local government
7	Agro-forestry	1	Food retail, markets		Utilities
79	Environment and ecology	8	Food industry	1	Industrial
8	Trade and commerce	6	Financial Services	45	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

47	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
9	Large national business		Member of Parliament
16	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
45	Small-scale farmer	45	Government and national institution
13	Medium-scale farmer	1	Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer	3	United Nations
16	Local Non-Governmental Organization	2	International financial institution
27	International Non-Governmental Organization	1	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
1	Indigenous People	2	Consumer group
159	Science and academia	16	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

• An open invitation was made to ensure a broad participation from diverse stakeholder groups apart from higher education, agriculture advisory services and research networks. • An experienced moderator was engaged to ensure free and orderly participation based on a comprehensive but flexible programme. • A plenary as well as breakout rooms were held to ensure maximum representation and participation of diverse groups including academic, research, policy, farmer groups, SMEs, among others.

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

The focus of the event was to review existing food systems, emerging and future trends and to identify key actions and policies needed to strengthen the African higher education system, agricultural research and development towards an improved global food system that is inclusive and sustainable.

During the discussion, there was a detailed exploration of:

1. Current and emerging food systems trends from the different regions of the world including perspectives from Africa, North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia and China; and,
2. Key actions for strengthening food systems transformation for increased productivity, inclusivity and resilience in line with UN Food Systems Action tracks 1, 3, 4 and 5.

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

- Africa has potential to feed the whole world if it puts in place structural, financial, policy and ST&I mechanisms to take advantage of the vast arable land (60% of the world's arable land), fresh water resources and the young population
- Emphasize sustainable systems encompassing all the three angles of sustainability (economic, social and environmental sustainability). This can be strengthened through transdisciplinary research approaches to find the most appropriate solutions to address foods.
- Investment in international research and development is required in order to strengthen global food systems by reinforcing partnerships for advanced research capacity; international development, supporting partnerships to build capacity and advance global science, greater student exchange and globally connected campuses.
- There is a need for Governments to be better equipped to address food systems trends and disruptors such as urban growth, increasing population and changing market systems. Future market systems should be more inclusive, sustainable and resilient, more functional and having more social value by mainstreaming gender and youth.
- E-agriculture is the future for improved sustainable agriculture and food security, information access to markets, better access to climate information and higher levels of inclusion in the agriculture and rural environments.
- Emphasised the need to change the training approach to produce the required quality of agricultural professionals and make agriculture attractive to students as a profession. Agriculture training should foster transformative learning through elements such as entrepreneurship, ethics and care for nature. These values are key for developing agriculture leaders to support the transformation of future food systems.
- Opportunities should be extended to economically disadvantaged students to acquire technical and scientific skills in agriculture. This will widen participation to transform food systems and uplift the welfare of families.
- The need to redefine research agenda with emphasis on Climate, Conflict and COVID-19 (3Cs) in food security.
- There is a need to recognize that agricultural extension, although important, is the weakest part of our agricultural systems. Currently, there is very low investment in rural advisory services. Government support is needed to facilitate access to agricultural services in remote areas. This will require institutional capacity building to empower farmers to take the lead and learn better from each other for example through farmer field schools;
- There is a need for a change in the mindset and to develop and adopt digital advisory services.
- For efficient advisory services, the different categories of farmers need to be considered and engage private sector. For the private sector, there is a need to; (a) develop commercially viable models; (b) foster development of digital services; and, (c) facilitate access to venture capital;
- The approach to Rural Advisory Services should integrate pluralistic, private, digital, demand driven and accountability aspects;
- To address non-technical aspects of agricultural research such as access to relevant knowledge, access to capital, secured land rights, infrastructure, and lack of appropriate policies or enforcement structural, financial and political factors, Governments must invest more in these structural, financial and political aspects.

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

a) Research and Innovation

- i. African agricultural systems need to adopt to the tripartite arrangement (Farmers-universities-Private sector) which has been seen to be effective in Burkina Faso being championed by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation-GFAR (<https://www.gfar.net>);
- ii. Gene editing is very important to Africa, as it will help in alleviating many challenges the continent faces. However, there are key issues to take into consideration:
 - Gene editing has to be discussed and debated before the UNFSS in October 2021, because of possible tension which may arise during the summit between the pro and those against;
 - Gene editing is not well understood, many are confusing it with GMO technology. Africa in general lacks sensitization of this technology (the Africans are caught in between the fight of USA and Europe who are advocating for biotechnology and agro-ecology respectively); and,
 - Africa maybe not well equipped for this because of insufficient funding.
- iii. Participatory approach is a possible intervention where farmer organisations are encouraged to team up with scientists and submit competitive proposals for funding.
- iv. Increase in public investment is required for research if significant progress is to be made;
- v. Political economy is very controversial, but there is need to understand why funding is not available in Africa in particular:
 - The Ministries of Finance in most African countries have indicated that food security is not a priority as captured in most their national development plans. A mind set change is needed in general; and,
 - There is limited government investment in agricultural transformation in many African countries and this has to change.
 - There are so many bottlenecks in Africa, which need to be addressed.
- vi. Universities need to mobilize themselves to bring practical approaches to food security.

b) Re-Imaging Agricultural Rural Advisory Services in a dynamic global food system

- There is a need to recognize that agricultural extension, although important, is the weakest part of our agricultural systems. Currently, there is very low investment in rural advisory services. Government support is needed to facilitate access to agricultural services in remote areas. This will require institutional capacity building to empower farmers to take the lead and learn better from each other for example through farmer field schools;
- There is a need for a change in the mindset and to develop and adopt digital advisory services.
- For efficient advisory services, the different categories of farmers need to be considered and engage private sector. For the private sector, there is a need to; (a) develop commercially viable models; (b) foster development of digital services; and, (c) facilitate access to venture capital;
- The approach to Rural Advisory Services should integrate pluralistic, private, digital, demand driven and accountability aspects;
- To address non-technical aspects of agricultural research such as access to relevant knowledge, access to capital, secured land rights, infrastructure, and lack of appropriate policies or enforcement structural, financial and political factors, Governments must invest more in these structural, financial and political aspects.

c) Fostering global partnerships for collective response

- Capitalise on the large number of scientists over 2000 in the AGRINATURA Network to form partnerships for research in food systems and exploit the best ways to change food systems by deploying specific skills sets;
- Harnessing information from studies undertaken by AGRINATURA on trends technologies, conflicts and globalisations to strengthen food systems;
- Need for intensified collaboration for knowledge creation;
- Breakdown the complexity of food systems and make them understandable to common people. Higher education should focus on acquiring complementary skills and constantly innovate how we learn;
- Emphasise International cooperation, translational approaches and multi-stakeholder platforms in research for development

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

- Political economy is very controversial, but there is need to understand why funding is not available in Africa. In particular, the Ministries of Finance in most African countries have indicated that food security is not a priority as captured in their National Development Plans. A mind set change is needed in general that will demonstrate commitment to the targets set by the international and continental frameworks
- Gene editing is not well understood as it is confused with GMO technology. Africa needs sensitization of these technologies.

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

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