

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Friday, 14 May 2021 16:00 GMT +03:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	University -Policy Dialogue for Strengthening Food Systems (West Africa)
<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/16441/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/16441/</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

178

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

83

19-30

73

31-50

19

51-65

2

66-80

1

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

112 Male

65 Female

1 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

36 Agriculture/crops

4 Fish and aquaculture

7 Livestock

8 Agro-forestry

26 Environment and ecology

8 Trade and commerce

24 Education

8 Communication

21 Food processing

Food retail, markets

7 Food industry

Financial Services

1 Health care

Nutrition

1 National or local government

Utilities

2 Industrial

25 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

24 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

5 Large national business

11 Multi-national corporation

22 Small-scale farmer

1 Medium-scale farmer

2 Large-scale farmer

2 Local Non-Governmental Organization

1 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

66 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

14 Government and national institution

1 Regional economic community

United Nations

1 International financial institution

1 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

1 Consumer group

14 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

### 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 keynote speakers and discussion. Keynote speakers were identified and requested to participate in the dialogue. The choice of keynote speakers was to stimulate discussion. The dialogue was moderated to encourage full participation

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

This was a multi-stakeholder dialogue with participants drawn from different sectors that impact on the university policy engagement space. The dialogue was organized within the framework of the Summit considering the five action tracks and how the food systems in West Africa contribute to the SDG targets. The dialogue builds on a series of regional dialogues convened by the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture to establish the link, contribution, and mechanism for university- policy engagement. The dialogue was broadly publicized on the Summit Dialogue Gateway, the Network University members and to other stakeholders. The dialogue further built on the RUFORUM Convening power of Higher agricultural Education, Science Technology and Innovation as part of the trust pact that RUFORUM has developed over the years. Further noting that the convenor. Prof. Adipala Ekwamu ins one of the 100 champions under the Food Systems Summit

### 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 how to grow a regionally Interconnected and Resilient Food Systems in Africa. It acknowledged that the performance of food systems in Africa will require the participation of different but inter-connected actors. Universities and research institutions have a significant role to play at national and regional levels. The dialogue acknowledged that Africa and West Africa in particular is experiencing significant challenges that impact on the performance and how we perceive food systems. Such challenges include:

- Increasing human population that reduces the per capita food and generates persistent hunger in the region - yet structural precarity ( scarcity amidst abundance is evident)
- Lack of preparedness to shocks that impact on agri-food systems as shown by the COVID-19 syndrome
- Increased gap between research and 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

### Unprecedented convergence of multiple food system disruptors

1. Food consumption habits in a context of demographic transition - disconnect between production and consumption
2. Increasing insecurity undermining development efforts
3. Climate change (lengthy drought, etc..) adverse effects on farming systems
4. And the recent COVID-19 pandemic that has constrained the usual operations within the Agri-food systems

### Focus at National Level

1. Increase attention on local food economy through local staple foods, local resources and crops and value addition in the agri-food systems
2. Promote farmer-centric approach for better adoption of innovations
3. Partnership among various actors through multi-stakeholder platform for synergistic action
4. Limit food importation and develop better tools and technologies to build our potential
5. Affirmative actions for better land policy that consider women and youth
6. Engage the private sector to promote technologies and engage youth in agri-food systems

### Youth engagement in agriculture

1. Youth as innovators of new models and tools
2. Interest youth in science and technology of agriculture through the research and technology development for generating information relevant to the farmers
3. Involve youth in training to provide and deliver solutions to the farmers
4. Making finances available and accessible to reorienting the financing arrangements for the young people
5. Policy development and support for exploring the processes and enabling environment e.g. in licensing
6. Support entry into value addition for the youth
7. Get youth interested in high value commodity production which do not require so much labor and less land enterprises

### Investment Focus

1. Promote auto-financing mechanisms in African countries
2. Establish financing mechanisms that support research for local development
3. Increase investment in research on innovation in agri-food systems and diets
4. Increase investment in development and application of agricultural digital technologies

### University and Research Institutions Focus

- 1 Resource mobilization for human capital development that will support food systems research
2. Science must feed the transformation of neglected value chains
3. Support to universities and research institution, but also for innovative and impact-oriented training model
4. Increase focus on practice-oriented training through:
  - Establishment of hands-on practical units and stations within training institutions to support livelihoods, youth employment and agri-production; and,
  - Development of enterprises that partner with universities in vocational training of graduates.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

### 1. Agri-food systems support structures

- Understand the obstacles that hinder university/research engagement in food systems
- Infrastructure: road connectivity especially in the rural areas to unlock the potential of rural farmers
- Address non-agricultural factors such as management of the economy, governance & youth
- Policies that help to address issues of trade, and food distribution
- Deal with the education system at country level to ensure that youth are exposed to agri-business opportunities

### 2. Develop human capital to innovate, adopt and enable transformed food systems

### 3. Increase Locally Relevant Research to create and adapt knowledge to strengthen value chains

- Re-orient effort to maximize the benefits of available technologies
- Research and innovation to build resilience to shocks and stresses, for example development of drought tolerant varieties, establishing insurance schemes for drought based shocks
- Value addition and processing to address post-harvest losses, increase final price
- Develop scalable solutions that can be applied across borders

### 4. Support Multi-stakeholder Platforms to Innovate and Scale to improve food and nutrition security

- Focus on smallholder farmers to enable them access inputs, technologies
- Continue efforts for sustainable production and consumption

### 5. Improve Communication, Storing and Sharing technology advances and approaches and make them accessible to policymakers and from farm to table

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

None

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