

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Thursday, 10 June 2021 15:00 GMT +03:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	University- Policy Dialogue for Strengthening Food Systems in Africa ( Central 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/16692/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/16692/</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

74

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

14

19-30

43

31-50

13

51-65

3

66-80

1

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

51 Male

21 Female

2 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

14 Agriculture/crops

3 Fish and aquaculture

8 Livestock

2 Agro-forestry

14 Environment and ecology

3 Trade and commerce

3 Education

1 Communication

4 Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

1 Financial Services

1 Health care

Nutrition

1 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

29 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

3 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

1 Large national business

6 Multi-national corporation

7 Small-scale farmer

3 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

1 Local Non-Governmental Organization

6 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

25 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

2 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

1 United Nations

1 International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

16 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The dialogue was organized with all the members universities, and the line ministries in the member states-

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

The dialogue recognized the complexity of the food systems, and that the issues of food systems are being addressed by several stakeholders, committed to the objectives of the summit, considered inclusivity of all key stakeholders. A four hours zoom meeting was organized with participants from the Central Africa sub-region. Speakers were coming from AUC, Universities and WFP. The dialogue was facilitated by a Professor from a University in Benin. Presentations covered the following aspects: • Overview of the Food Systems in Africa with particular focus on Central Africa-needed actions to improve productivity, inclusiveness and resilience • Highlights of current status, challenges and opportunities of food Systems in Burundi Cameroon, Chad, Congo Brazzaville, DRC & Gabon along the five action tracks • Participants were free to ask questions to the presenters either through the moderator or through the chat. All voices were heard.

### 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

Presentations covered the following aspects:

- Overview of the Food Systems in Africa with particular focus on Central Africa-needed actions to improve productivity, inclusiveness and resilience
- Highlights of current status, challenges and opportunities of food Systems in Burundi Cameroon, Chad, Congo Brazzaville, DRC & Gabon
- Ensuring Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for all
- Shifting to Sustainable Consumption Patterns
- Boosting Nature-Positive Production at Sufficient Scale
- Advancing Equitable Livelihoods and value Distribution
- Building Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stress

### 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

A consensus was reached on the following :

In central Africa sub-region, small scale farmers are dominant, and crop productivity is generally affected by conflicts and climatic shocks. Demographic pressure is relatively high except for Gabon. This is likely to contribute to food insecurity. The majority of the people are employed in the agricultural sector and yet production has remained very low, with high post-harvest loss. In addition, the region has very low value added index, infrastructure index (road, energy and irrigation, supermarket per capita and consumption index; and higher malnutrition, stunting and obesity.

### Recommendations

Increase crop productivity and production, enhance value addition, promote linkage to the market and youth participation; and creation of multi-stakeholder platforms which include decision makers.

There is also need to:

- Improve our crop systems and monitor on a regular basis the consumer needs, improve the visibility of what is produced in the region.
- Establish capacity gaps in the region and develop strategy to address them
- Promote the SDG in secondary school and churches
- Strengthen the supply chains
- Strengthen the small-scale farm groups
- Improve food storage and transport systems
- Improve access to credits
- Create and strengthen partnerships in the food systems
- generate data to assist decision making and particularly on climate change risks and adaptation

### 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
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- ✓ Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

1. Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all:
  - a. Ensure increased food production
  - b. Reduce post-harvest losses and improve food transformation and packaging
  - c. Create multi-actors platforms for concerted decision of food and food products
  - d. Promote linkages between producers, transporters and markets and increase participation of the youth to agriculture
2. Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
  - a. Sensitization SDG through secondary and churches and mosques
  - b. Promote research
  - c. Enhance access to existing market
  - d. Create more awareness on food nutrition
  - e. Use of school and churches to create awareness on health food
3. Boosting Nature-Positive Production at Sufficient Scale

- Promote crop suitability studies and develop and implement policies on of land use
- Strengthen farmers' groups
- Encourage dialogue between decision makers and other land actors
- Government to provide incentives to farmers in form of reduce taxes and credits

#### 4. Advancing equitable livelihoods and value distribution

Panelists agreed that inclusivity and equity is key to ensuring better food livelihoods in rural areas for vulnerable groups including women, youth, indigenous peoples and other communities. Several panelists noted that skill development, including digital skills, use of earth observations tools will be useful to improve access to information (market, inputs, extension), hence increase agricultural production and create the necessary transformation.

#### 5. Building resilience to vulnerability, shocks and stress

The panelists agreed that the region is one of most fragile on the continent and is experiencing several climatic shocks (drought, landslides, floods, heavy storms etc). It is therefore important to strengthen people capacity to monitor and assess vulnerability. To enhance resilience, there is also need of policy reforms and harmonization, coordinated investment, leverage resources to support ongoing efforts, improve governance, use of traditional and scientific knowledge to trigger innovation, generate sufficient data for evidence based recommendations and actions, and need to empower women and youth.

### ACTION TRACKS

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

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

### ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
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### KEYWORDS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <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              |
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|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate |