

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 5 May 2021 10:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Building Collaborative and Effective Food Systems Governance Frameworks in Kisumu County
CONVENED BY	ICLEI Africa, FAO, Kisumu County
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/16701/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Kenya

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

40

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

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 discussion explored opportunities and solutions to improve the resilience of Kisumu's food system. It considered possibilities for transforming the food system to one that is less dependent on external forces and actors for its sustainability. This was done by exploring instrumental policies, incentive mechanisms and initiatives which can be adopted to spur systemic transformation of Kisumu's food system. The dialogue also highlighted major food system transformation stakeholders in Kisumu, what their requirements in order to drive food system transformation are, and how stakeholder collaboration can be strengthened. Overall, the dialogue unpacked ways in which governance arrangements of Kisumu's food system can be improved.

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 discussions stressed the need for enabling policy frameworks that will allow all food system actors in Kisumu to thrive and this was emphasized all across the Action Tracks. Creating this enabling environment for the transformation of Kisumu's food system, the discussants noted, starts from contextualizing the regional and national food and nutrition policies such as the Food and Nutrition Security Policy (2012), and scaling them down to the local level. Policies that can guide growth across the food value chain should be put in place particularly in production (embracing aspects such as urban agriculture, fishing support and regulations as well as agroecology which relates to nature-positive production (Action Track 3). It was concluded that there is need to develop and implement a comprehensive food policy for the city region.

Given that Kisumu is presently dependent on external regions and actors for its food needs, participants noted the need to enable the growth of the logistics and transportation sector which delivers safe and efficient transportation of food across and within the county. Discussants also reflected on how consumption can be regulated and improved locally. They noted the need for better consumption of nutritious foods through investment in feeding programmes in schools, public hospitals and other government institutions including correctional centres.

In terms of trade and marketing, the discussions explored how best farmers can be supported in facilitating their access to both input and output markets. Participants argued that government needs to partner with both private and international development institutions to enhance market access for farmers. Initiatives should not only consider formal market channels but must also embrace the informal sector. Development partners were urged to play more active roles in providing training and services including trainings on how nature-based solutions can be incorporated in agriculture. There is the need to establish a farmers resource center where farmers can learn and be shown how to farm crops in the right way. The center should be in a position to educate and help farmers with soil management, crop production, and crop protection challenges. It should also be a demonstration area for urban agriculture and should have a list of alternative crops that can grow in the area. The center should also be able to network farmers so that they can learn from each other through networking.

It is also important, according to the participants, that enabling policies for the growth of the circular economy are put in place. This would include the introduction of a comprehensive waste management strategy that encompasses waste across the entire food value chain. They argued that waste must also be considered as resource to produce energy, fertilizers etc.

Participants emphasized that initiatives to incentivize and empower participation of vulnerable groups particularly youth and women are needed. These should include access to land and other resources that can facilitate their participation in food production.

Opportunities for moving towards a more inclusive and food sensitive urban planning strategy, that recognizes the role of both formal and informal actors across the food value chain needs to be explored, participants noted. Urban planning has a critical role to play in strengthening urban food systems, and this should incorporate emergency food planning in light of the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on food and nutrition security.

Participants also highlighted the need to improve access to finance to small-scale food actors such as smallholders. This financing opportunities could be in form of revolving loans or other loan-provisioning mechanisms. It should also explore public-private and donor partnerships in loan provisioning. Participants argued that ten percent of the county's budget should be dedicated to agriculture. Investment in infrastructure was emphasized by participants as crucial to the transformation of Kisumu's food system. This should include investment in water infrastructure, transport infrastructure, market infrastructure and storage facilities for farmers and traders. Market information system infrastructure was also highlighted as important to ensure the sustainability of Kisumu's food system.

There is need for awareness creation among households in the county, especially on the consumption of nutritious diets. Consumption patterns are mainly affected by income levels, perceptions and creating awareness through sensitisation campaigns can contribute towards shaping the right perceptions on nutrition. For farmers, sensitisation campaigns can also drive transformation towards a more sustainable agricultural production.

Finally, participants noted that most sectors and actors still operate in silos with little appreciation of the linkages and benefits of synergistic relationships. The need for a more collaborative governance approach of the Kisumu's food system was therefore emphasised. This should be done by building networks and stakeholder groups, as well as creating spaces for dialogues, cooperation, sharing, co-learning and co-creation in a bid to transform Kisumu's food system.

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

Participants highlighted some major food system stakeholders and their requirements to ensure sustainability of Kisumu's food system. These are:

Farmers: They are important and critical because they produce the food consumed by residents of Kisumu. Requirements for them are markets, capacity building. This has been missing for some time as there are not enough extension officers. There is a need for specialised institutions of higher learning where agricultural production is taught.

Researchers: Whereas the farmers may be visualising what is needed, sometimes they need researchers to articulate this in order to drive innovation. Funding is critical in order for impactful research to be undertaken. This can be facilitated by government and donor agencies.

Technical experts: Many people are shying away from studying agriculture related subjects which is dangerous for the county and country. Efforts must therefore be geared towards incentivising people to study agriculture and food-related subject.

Donors: Donors are important. However, they require good policies and systems to be put in place by the government so that they can be encouraged to come in and to ensure that their efforts are impactful. Government should do more to put better policies and systems in place to facilitate the work of donors.

Civil Society: CSOs should take a leading role in advocating for the rights of the farmers, the plights of farmers, and things that affect stakeholders within the food system. Documentaries can be used to articulate the plight of the farmers. They also need to emphasise the challenge of food prices. Food-related CSOs need enabling policy environment to function effectively.

Other key points and suggestions include the following:

- **Technology and innovation:** Strengthen co-production of knowledge for innovation and technology.
- **Infrastructure:** Investment in water, transport and storage infrastructure should be prioritised. Policies on water harvesting, flood water control should be initiated.
- **Capacity development:** Capacity of technical officers needs to be improved. The County government should give priority to bringing technical people on board to the county
- **Access to market:** Access to both input and output market is important for farmers, hence this needs to be improved.
- **Social networks:** Enhance social networks including collective community, fishing community
- **Agricultural Extension:** There is need to recruit, retain, train and empower extension officers in order to build the capacity of farmers and improve their productivity.

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

None

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

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Kisumu Dialogue Feedback Form**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Kisumu-Dialogue-Feedback-Form.19052021.docx>