

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 25 May 2021 09:00 GMT +07:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	In-depth exploration for food fortification – Operational Environment
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	His Excellency Sok Silo, Secretary General, CARD and Ms Claire Conan, Representative and Country Director, WFP.
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/16713/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/16713/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Cambodia

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

52

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

6

19-30

32

31-50

14

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

34 Male

18 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

1 Agriculture/crops

1 Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

3 Education

Communication

1 Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

2 Health care

Nutrition

18 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

22 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

5 Local Non-Governmental Organization

13 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

26 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

4 United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

A wide range of government, non-government and private sector stakeholders were invited to ensure a mix of views and to generate a lively discussion. Trained facilitators ensured that small group discussions were respectful and different questions were designed for each group to complement the contributions of other groups.

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

Discussion was lively and conducted in such a way as to lead to concrete recommendations fitting the purposes of the summit. The atmosphere of the discussion was respectful and each discussion group built on the contributions of others. The positive atmosphere encouraged a sense of trust.

### 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

WFP and the Department of Nutrition Improvement of Ministry of Planning, National Sub-Committee for Food Fortification (NSCFF) of the National Council for Nutrition (NCN) jointly conducted the in-depth explorations on food fortification. Given the broad range of line ministries (and technical departments) involved with food fortification in Cambodia, as well as SMEs, food producers, and development partners (many of which operate at different levels/scales), it was decided to conduct two separate, complementary events - one more focused on policy/regulatory environment, and the other on operational aspects. This dialogue was focused on the Operational Environment for Food Fortification.

Food fortification is employed both for the purposes of social assistance, to promote better nutrition for vulnerable groups and for profit, through fortification of commercially viable products. The operational environment relevant to each of these applications of food fortification is a very important consideration for success. WFP and various development partners wish to give technical support and the IFC are keen to provide both technical and financial assistance to commercially viable applications for food fortification for commercially viable products. There have been disruptions to food production, processing and transport of food during COVID-19 and these disruptions have highlighted the importance of an effective operating environment to support successful fortification efforts. In order to prevent all forms of malnutrition in Cambodia, the private sector can play a crucial role at every step from farm to fork by increasing the production of nutritious, diverse, safe and affordable products that are widely available. Fortified products can have an important role in this, including iodised salt and Vitamin B fortified food products.

The reasons why food fortification is needed are clear. However, the reasons why fortification is not successful, whether for purposes of social assistance or as commercially viable products are not so clear. Factor contributing to success in Cambodia have included the established legal framework and the national standards for some products; micro-nutrient dense foods have been produced; and there is huge potential for rice fortification to put back what is taken out in the milling process. The challenges faced relate to the low volumes of fortified products traded; high costs of production; no locally available pre-mix; the huge number of millers involved in rice processing; lack of a legal framework for rice fortification; lack of product standards and lack of fortified rice kernels in Cambodia.

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

## MAIN FINDINGS

The dialogue identified key challenges and solutions related to food fortification operation. Private sector engagement, technical supports, premix availability, new technology, strong regulation & enforcement, and commercialization of food fortification came out strongly from the dialogue. The development of unified roadmap for food fortification is recommended as priority. The result of this dialogues is a good input for the development of the roadmap.

### A STRATEGY FOR MOVING FORWARD

We need a food fortification policy and we need this before trying to deal with all the many technical issues. The Ministry of Planning (MoP) should seek assistance from the Development Partners in developing this policy.

We need to strengthen the existing mechanisms for the MoP to move forward. A small task force is required in order to support the MoP in moving on. The task force should engage with the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) and seek support from the DPM to request the MEF to support the food fortification efforts. We need to use an economic argument such as the claim presented by WFP that investment of \$1 in food fortification can yield \$27 return through increased productivity and reduced health care costs.

The constraints faced relate to the high costs of production for a small country where imported products from neighbouring countries can do well. Understanding of markets and consumer trust is critical. Building that trust and the awareness of consumers is perhaps the main challenge we face. There are locally available raw materials and we need to work with the private sector to encourage good faith, safety and quality and to protect those qualities. Those who don't follow the standards and merely seek quick money are no help. These actors will make no contribution to research or to gain the trust of consumers.

The policy on food fortification should centre on the need to create trust amongst consumers and on the primacy of the market as a driving force for development of food fortification. The government can assist with laws and regulations, import standards, research support and via institutional procurement.

### ACTION TRACKS

✓	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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	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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

### TOPIC 1. Production

The main constraints are associated with the costs of raw materials, access to technology, markets, the importation of pre-mix, and the creation of production chains. The fortification process is subject to interference from multiple authorities and any reports cause bad publicity and public reaction. Sometimes fortified products have altered taste or other qualities and this makes consumers hesitant. SMEs generally lack the technology and a lack of demand for fortified products when competing with unfortified products. The challenges also include incomplete or uneven law enforcement, and the lack of engagement of the relevant stakeholders. Imported fortified products are cheaper than local fortified products. Local production is not competitive without support from government and enforcement of standards for both local and imported products.

It would help producers if the government provided the supply of pre-mix, especially if this could be arranged tax-free. Technical support is also required for SMEs who cannot afford to invest in research and expertise. Government could provide incentives for producers of safe and quality fortified products. They might be given tax incentives to encourage this effort.

### 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 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 |

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

### TOPIC 2. Market

We tend to talk too much about production challenges and need for producer support. There is too little work on how to stimulate consumer demand. Lack of knowledge of consumers, lack of trust, imported products often cheaper. Cambodian consumers often don't care about or know about the importance of vitamins and minerals to support their health. Even with a very small price difference, consumers mostly just want the cheapest product, regardless of claimed nutritional values. If taste or small changes due to fortification this discourages the buyers.

Coordination between authorities and the private sector needs to be improved. Imported fortified products should be regulated but restrictions on import of raw materials should be eased. Standards need to be well understood and tested and regulations need to be enforced. If some producers are required to fortify their product, they should not have to compete with unfortified product. There should be contributions from both the producers and the government. Government can help to ensure no cheap un-fortified products are allowed to compete.

#### ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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- Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

#### KEYWORDS

- |                                     |                           |                                     |                         |
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| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Trade-offs              |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            |                           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Environment and Climate |



## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

### TOPIC 3. Rice Fortification

The main challenge is to ensure fortified rice products are commercially viable. It helps if the government and DPs include fortified products in social assistance programmes, especially if quality standards are maintained.

Commercialize rice and other food fortification through private sector. Integrating rice and food fortification into Social assistance programme where it can be reached to vulnerable people. Strengthen food fortification policy and regulation environment.

#### 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 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 |

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

### TOPIC 4.

#### Development Partners Recommendation

There are three main areas for improvement of food fortification in Cambodia. Increased investment in research and innovation, especially with use of locally produced foods; the universities are interested by the environment is challenging in terms of lack of funding, facilities, human resources and curriculum.

The private sector and especially SMEs lack knowledge about quality and safety issues, access to technology and seldom link to academia. This suggests potential for public private partnerships.

Creating consumer demand is difficult because of lack of awareness of benefits, lack of trust and lack of investment in marketing.

Many challenges to face, including lack of raw materials. The delay in getting imported products cleared and the ordering time, even with the support of the Ministry of Health.

Also, the attitudes of consumers, who usually attach value to that which they can see. Fortification is invisible to them and benefits unknown and often products not trusted. As far as most Cambodians are concerned, beneficial products should be provided free. Research is lacking on consumer acceptance and we need to cultivate consumer trust. Fortified foods are classified as a medicine here in Cambodia. That can complicate manufacture and sale of fortified products. There is a lack of research and engagement of the universities in this area. Generally, the SMES who could produce these products are looking for subsidies. There is potential for scaling up if we can establish trust amongst consumers, starting with those who are more aware and health conscious and who are more willing to pay for healthy food. Public Private Partnerships might offer a viable route for scaling up. Nutrition labelling and consumer education can also lead to changed demand, especially if truth in Labeling law is upheld.

There are examples of products which have been successful in other Asian and in African countries. For Cambodia, it is important to use local foods which are nutrient dense and these can be used as bio-fortificants when preparing dishes. Examples from Sri Lanka showed that the fortification successes come from following local tastes and the demand of different age groups, using local products and providing support for local farmers as an added product quality. Food fortification is a rich area for research and development and innovation. Other countries, some in Africa, have demonstrated the value of increasing investment in research and development to support fortification efforts and commercial success.

### ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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### KEYWORDS

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

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The tension between the wish to restrict imports (of fortified products) and to ease import requirements for importation of pre-mix and other raw materials reflects the wider challenges for a country like Cambodia. The borders are difficult to police, the number of authorities involved in importation, manufacture and sale and the challenges of meeting all requirements mean that it is difficult for the private sector to be competitive.

There is also a divergence between commercially viable fortified products and the provision of fortified products as a form of social assistance, where it is expected that government or development partners should pay the costs of fortification and not the consumers themselves.

### ACTION TRACKS

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### KEYWORDS

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<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Speech by Ms Claire Conan, Representative and Country Director for World Food Programme**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FoodFortificationDialogue\\_250521\\_WFPRemarks.pdf](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FoodFortificationDialogue_250521_WFPRemarks.pdf)
- **Opening remarks from HE Sok Silo, Secretary General of CARD**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Operational-Environment-Food-Fortification\\_HE-Silo.docx](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Operational-Environment-Food-Fortification_HE-Silo.docx)