

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 23 June 2021 14:30 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Meat Sector in Transition: creating an inclusive approach to systemic change
CONVENED BY	Global Counsel
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/16769/
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

65

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

15

19-30

30

31-50

15

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

30 Male

35 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

5 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

15 Livestock

Agro-forestry

10 Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

1 Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

34 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

7 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

6 Large national business

5 Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

2 Medium-scale farmer

5 Large-scale farmer

3 Local Non-Governmental Organization

8 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

7 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

1 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

2 United Nations

7 International financial institution

5 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

1 Consumer group

7 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

- Act with urgency - We framed the Dialogue as being part of a context where a sustainable agricultural transition was entirely necessary, and action to take it forward was needed at all parts of the supply chain. - Commit to the summit - The aim of the Dialogue was always to deliver outcomes with the Food Systems Summit, and the different action tracks in mind, and this influenced our framing of the discussions as well as our closing remarks to participants. - Be respectful - Our briefing of Facilitators emphasised the importance to make sure all felt welcome and encouraged to participate, and that everyone's contributions were valuable. - Recognise complexity - In our preparation of Facilitators, we made clear that we wanted discussions to include a systemic approach that recognises all the actors and impacts of agricultural transformation, and encouraged them to make sure this was recognised in their breakout groups. - Embrace Multi-Stakeholder Inclusivity - In sending invitations to potential participants we carefully considered the mix of individuals and businesses represented to ensure a diverse mix of stakeholders with a wide range of perspectives would be able to participate. - Complement the work of others - Individuals participating in other governance processes to address food systems were invited to be the Facilitators, so they could use their experience and knowledge to guide the discussions. - Build trust - we emphasised the collaborative aspect of the Dialogue and that everyone's views were valued, and would be part of our overall feedback.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The key Principle we wanted to make a specific focus of our Dialogue was embracing multi-stakeholder inclusivity. Throughout our entire development process, and conduction of the Dialogue itself we wanted to ensure views from a wide range of stakeholders were heard and contributed to a discussion about how to ensure a sustainable agricultural transition that works with and for everyone. We did this by inviting a broad range of individuals and appointing Facilitators that brought a range of expertise from across the agriculture industry. We also individually organised the breakout rooms to ensure one sector and one background did not dominate, to encourage a conversation where individuals could share different perspectives. As part of the framing of all of our discussion questions we kept the language broad enough that it did not speak to a particular expertise and would be able to have a wide range of opinions contributing to it.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

It is key to brief all potential speakers and Facilitators about the Principles and approach you want to take to ensure that the entire Dialogue is conducted in a manner that reflects these.

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 this Dialogue was on exploring a just and sustainable transition for the livestock sector globally in the context of innovation and climate change. The sustainability of meat production and consumption has become one of the most controversial conversations of the past decade. At the same time, meat plays a vital role in meeting nutritional needs in many developing countries and, despite the awareness of the negative impacts of the meat sector, meat continues to be in high demand in developed economies as well. There are ways to produce meat that can address negative impacts and ensure farmers are central to any solutions. We need to focus on how to promote these types of models to transform the meat sector and deliver better outcomes for people and planet.

This dialogue explored:

- How current environmental, social, health, and economic best practices can be scaled up;
- Different types of innovation in transforming meat production;
- What is the role of government/policy to facilitate innovation and achieve 'better' meat production;
- Opportunities for partnership and coalitions across food systems to ensure inclusivity in the transformation;
- How to build resilience across meat production systems while creating a more equitable system overall.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

Participants concluded that in order to drive best practices in the agricultural transition there needs to be recognition of the diversity of regions and the need to avoid a one-size-fits-all approach in defining what is needed. To drive this change, greater collaboration and links are needed all along the supply chain, particularly between consumers and producers, to share existing knowledge and support a full system change, and to incentivise and reward producers for taking action. It is also most important that the phasing out of least favourable activities is done in a way that reflects a "just transition", incorporating all existing stakeholders.

Participants felt that the role of innovation needs to be encouraged and facilitated to drive forward the agricultural transition. Two types of innovation in particular were highlighted - incremental innovation that works alongside existing practices; and transformational innovation that brings new technologies to innovate new ways of doing agriculture. Significant conclusions were that it is key efforts are made for innovation to be inclusive and work with stakeholders rather than leave them behind. Government will need to play a role in supporting these producers in the transition, and also needs to move faster to keep up with innovation to ensure the appropriate regulation is in place to support innovation and provide consumer trust.

The need for more diverse coalition forming was agreed as key by participants. In particular the need for unconventional partnerships, and bringing in actors outside of the supply chain to ensure that all viewpoints and needs are reflected in the transition was highlighted. It was suggested the supply chain needs to be reconceptualised as a web to broaden the idea of who counts as a stakeholder. Coalitions were agreed to be key as a way to give farmers, particularly smaller farmers, a voice, and there needs to be more work to make livestock farmers part of the agricultural transition rather than vilified.

In addressing the issue of resilience, participants agreed that although supply chains are a major point of weakness to be addressed there needs to be recognition of the benefits and drawbacks of more localised supply chains. The approach to improving resilience must be a holistic one that considers how global dynamics play out a local scale.

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KEYWORDS

- Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- Human rights
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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

Discussion topic: Leveraging best practice: How do we replicate environmental, social, health, and economic best practices, and scale them up effectively?

There was agreement that in defining best practice it is key to take a holistic approach as best practice varies by region, industry, and social circumstance and it is key to not take a one-size-fits-all approach. To accommodate this participants felt that there needed to be a shift in terminology of best practice to focus on outcomes as those are more universalised with underlying principles across food systems. There was also recognition of the tension between not reinventing the wheel and operating in silos, but because of the urgency of the climate crisis it is important for all actors in the supply chains to share best practices.

In discussing the major barriers to implementing best practices, communication was emphasised by participants. Participants from the agricultural sector felt that the biggest barrier they have found is communicating to farmers the overall benefits of certain practices. There was also reflection on the role consumers play in driving best practices, but if there is not strong consumer awareness and transparency of the impacts of certain practices it is more challenging to send a price signal to farmers to shift practice. The transparency issue was felt to be a significant one as there is often a major felt separation of many consumers from the farm, so it also contributed to another conclusion that it is key to form stronger links between producers and consumers in driving best practice. To overcome barriers it is key for all stakeholders to work together, with policy also contributing through regulation but with consultation and consideration of how regulatory changes would impact farmers.

In considering the least favourable activities to be phased out, the participants were in agreement that the most obvious was the phase-out of the medically important antibiotics in meat production. They however emphasised the importance of phasing these out in a holistic way that is mindful of negative trade-offs. Other problematic issues to overcome highlighted was that of consolidation, and independent farmers increasingly having less control over their own production systems. The issue of farmers having control was related to issues around deforestation where it is tightly connected to needing a more just and equal land ownership system. Social problems to overcome that were raised were also key issues around bankrupted farmers, increased farmers approaching retirement age, and finding a way to incorporate new practices in farming with all stakeholders. The practice of incremental innovation to make existing systems better as well as transformational was raised as a solution. All participants emphasised that the most important thing to consider in the phasing out of least favourable activities that it is a just transition, and no one is blamed.

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	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

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		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

Discussion topic 2. Innovation: Exploring various types of innovation in transforming meat production and identifying potential conflicts and synergies.

Two types of innovation were discussed as important for driving the agricultural transition - Incremental innovation that works alongside existing practices; and transformational innovation that brings new technologies to innovate new ways of doing agriculture. These are both felt to be key for an inclusive approach that allows all stakeholders to participate and be part of innovation. Innovation should not work in a way that leaves behind certain stakeholders. Major specific innovations that were highlighted was animal feed innovation to drive decarbonisation.

Participants agreed that an important role for government and policy related to innovation is putting in place the correct regulations to make consumers feel comfortable with novel agri-technologies like alternative proteins, and to facilitate the creation of innovation ecosystems that drive innovation. It is also felt that government need to play a consistently supportive role to farmers to assist them in the transition alongside driving innovation.

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KEYWORDS

✓	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation		Data & Evidence
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	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

Discussion topic 3. What is the role of government/policy to facilitate innovation and achieve 'better' meat production, and what are examples of policies that could be adopted?

The participants agreed it is key for government to be a partner to innovators, making the path to market clear. Government's also need to catch up with innovation to ensure that any regulatory rulebook is sufficiently adapted to new areas. It is important naturally to address sensitivities around new products but there needs to be a way to move faster. This is also important for communicating to consumers and the public.

In driving innovation the two types of innovation (incremental and transformational) were highlighted, but that incremental growth in efficiency cannot meet the growing demand on its own and therefore needs to be supplemented by more structural changes - policies need to find a way to widen the ways to feed the population and encourage farmers to implement new techniques.

Harmonising approach to innovation across countries was agreed to be challenging, but that consensus at a national level is possible, and this needs to be resolved to provide more clarity for innovators. It is important that this is also always balanced with the needs of the farming industry.

A key consistent barrier that arose was a lack of consistent data and methodology that then impacts the ability of policy to set harmonised, standardised guidance which then impacts consumer trust - policy then however needs to manage risk.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Discussion topic 4. Coalitions: Identifying non-traditional allies and opportunities for partnership across food systems that can foster 'better' meat production, and ensure inclusivity in the transformation.

In considering which parts of the supply chain need stronger partnerships, the participants discussed that the idea of a linear supply chain is what needs to change, with it being considered more of a web to facilitate engagement with more stakeholders outside the supply chain. This is particularly key for consumer relationships as the disconnect between producers and consumers complicates lots of change being driven down the supply chain. It is also important for supporting smaller farmers to have access to the same kind of public-private partnerships that typically bigger companies access to help them scale-up. Coalitions between farmers and businesses were agreed to be key for giving farmers a platform. Unconventional partnerships are increasingly important - traditional meat producers are increasingly interested in engaging with alternative proteins, in working together to address the problem of protein shortage. This is also important for the issue of ensuring livestock farmers and producers have a voice which the participants discussed. Participants reflected on the way that livestock farmers can work with newer plant-based entrants to avoid vilification of meat while still driving forward sustainable innovation. There was agreement that there needs to be a more nuanced message surrounding livestock production that is more about the different production methods than a blanket ban.

The participants discussed how to ensure different forums are diverse and reflecting a wide range of stakeholder views. An example of positive behaviour to encourage is connecting with on-the-ground action and transferring that upwards. The need to ensure that coalitions come together to actually advance sustainability and shift mainstream production practices was emphasised, and participants highlighted the need for further communication to stakeholders outside of these associations to actually drive forward change.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

Discussion topic 5. Resilience: How do we build resilience across meat production systems while creating a more equitable system overall that meets demand?

The participants discussed how to build resilience in terms of building a safer world where humans and animals can co-exist. The small scale farm model was raised as a positive example to be replicated, while recognising that there is also a question about sufficient food supply. There needs to be a clear framework for the "true cost" of food including externalities of environment and public health, which should be a driver for real change.

Supply chains were highlighted by participants as a point of concern in addressing resilience, with a need to move away from having the single point of failure as highlighted by covid-19. However, the point was raised that although there are benefits to a localised food system there have been many historic famines that were highly localised. The difference between animal farming and crop farming was raised, as localised systems are more challenging for animal farming. Some foods are also more sustainable produced in specific regions, and consumers now expect food from around the world. There needs to be a way to get the benefits of small scale and local production without the risk associated, while also making the system more productive. The role of consumers in also driving responsible consumption was emphasised to increase resilience.

It is important to take a holistic approach when addressing resilience issues, considering how global dynamics play out at a local scale. Every ingredient needs to become resilient to have a resilient supply chain. A local solution might not work for a global system.

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KEYWORDS

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There were few areas of real divergence as all participants recognised in all cases the need for multiple solutions that encompass all stakeholders viewpoints. Some points of slight divergence occurred around:

- Whether the phasing-out of certain practices needs to be driven by government or whether it will happen organically through replacement with improved practices.
- How to encourage the benefits of local, small scale farming, while others raised the risks from localised food systems.

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