

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 11 May 2021 13:00 GMT -04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Guyana's National High-Level Dialogue in preparation for the UN Food Systems Summit
CONVENED BY	Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, Minister of Agriculture and National Dialogue Convener for Guyana
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17030/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Guyana

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

140

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

77 Male

63 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?

The principle to act with urgency was emphasized from the preparation of the national dialogue and was evident in its execution given the need for urgent actions to achieve the 2030 agenda. The principle of multi-stakeholder inclusivity was embraced, thereby allowing a wide cross section of stakeholders to share possible actionable solutions. In organizing the National Dialogue the Convenor has committed to identifying and providing possible solutions to the challenges of food systems transformation and putting them into practice, thereby contributing to the vision, objectives and final outcome of the Food Systems Summit.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Recognizing the complexity of food systems, Guyana's National Convenor highlighted the need for adopting a holistic food systems approach rather than an individual sector approach. As such, representatives from different sectors were invited to participate in the dialogue. Additionally remarks were given by the Minister Health as the health sector plays a key role in ensuring that there is safe and nutritious food for all Guyanese. In achieving the 2030 Agenda Guyana must align its plans and strategies with the outcomes from several of the global discussions on the issue. The principle of complementing the work of others was reflected in the remarks of the FAO Chief Economist on the global context of food security and how Guyana fits into the bigger picture.

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

All the principles of engagement should be used to guide the preparation of the dialogue as they help with ensuring meaningful engagement and fruitful outcomes. The incorporation of the principles of engagement at both the preparatory and execution stage of the dialogue allows for inclusivity and provides an environment for all stakeholders to respectfully let their voices be heard by the policymakers.

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

The dialogue was conducted in the following way: - Opening Remarks from the Moderator of the event, H.E. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations (New York) - A video message from Dr. David Nabarro, Strategic Director, Food Systems Summit Dialogues Support Team on Developing a Pathway Towards Sustainable Food Systems - Brief Remarks from Dr. Maximo Torero Cullen, FAO Chief Economist on the Global Status of Agri-Food Systems and implications for Guyana - Brief Remarks from Dr. Eduardo Trigo, Special Advisor to the Director General of IICA on how the Americas are on the Road to the UN Food Systems Summit - Brief Remarks by the Hon. Dr. Frank Anthony, Minister of Health on Safe and Nutritious Food for all – A Healthy Guyanese Population - Brief Remarks by Mr. Paul Cheong, Chairman, Private Sector Commission giving the Private Sector Perspective in Transforming the Food System in Guyana - Feature Address by Hon. Zulfikar Mustapha, Minister of Agriculture and National Dialogue Convener for Guyana on the Vision for Guyana's Agri-Food System: Roadmap to 2030 -A Questions and answers segment by the moderator (Questions/Comments/Suggested solutions were received from the participants on both the zoom platform and facebook live) - Summary of Next Actions and Closing Remarks by the moderator

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The major focuses of the dialogue where:

1. Safe and Nutritious food for all - Healthy Guyanese Population
This was aligned with Action Track 1 and offered an opportunity to bring together the elements of food safety, nutrition, poverty and inequalities in the framework of food systems in climate and environmental change to ensure that all people have access to a safe and nutritious diet.

2. Private Sector Perspective in Transforming the Food System in Guyana
Public private partnerships are vital and re-emphasizes the importance of investment in agriculture infrastructure that contributes to a well functioning food system. Focusing on the private sector perspective gave the Private Sector Commission the opportunity to express their commitment to working with government and other stakeholders to develop and implement a national food security system as a transformative strategy.

3. Vision for Guyana’s Agriculture Food System: Roadmap to 2030
By adopting a “food systems approach” rather than an individual sector approach, Guyana will be more productive, more inclusive of the poor, more environmentally sustainable and resilient, and better equipped to deliver healthy and nutritious diets to all Guyanese.

Guyana’s food system transformation is at the core of our development aspirations. Guyana envisions a modernized e-agriculture sector with enhanced incomes, enhanced productivity, value-addition, increased market access, and the production of safe and nutritious agricultural commodities that Guyana will produce for itself and the global market.

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

Transforming Guyana's food system will provide an environment where:

- a. agriculture can continue to provide a good livelihood for many (not just farmers);
- b. the country can take advantage of emerging trade opportunities in agriculture both regionally and internationally;
- c. the country can meet its development goals by leaving no one behind; and
- d. Everyone can have healthy, affordable diets that promote good health and reduce non-communicable diseases.

To achieve this the following conclusions emerged from the dialogue:

- Greater emphasis must be placed on increased production in the non-traditional sector, in an effort to increase the availability of fruits, vegetables and root crops which are required for balance and diversified diet.
- There needs to be a focus on encouraging consumers to consume healthier diets. This may be achieved through the development of effective pricing policies which seek to curb the demand for foods high in saturated fat, trans fats, sugar or salt, thereby prompting persons to consume more fruits and vegetables.
- Increasing investments in a more sustainable food system will require changes in policy and public and private sector support to encourage investments in national food production which plays an important role in supporting rural transformation and mitigating risks.
- And with regards to climate resilience, the importance of maintaining and increasing the genetic diversity of crops and livestock within the country is recognized. It is urgent that both marine and terrestrial ecosystems are safeguarded from imminent threats to enhance climate resilience and provide safe, healthy and nutritious diets for all.

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KEYWORDS

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		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Food Security

Due to Guyana's agriculture sector vulnerability to factors such as flooding, market demand and volatile supply chain, ensuring Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for all, food availability, access, utilization and stability must be holistically addressed. As such, the following strategic approaches that should taken were highlighted in the dialogue:

- Expanding the non-traditional agricultural sub-sector to promote diet diversification and enabling equality in availability and access, especially for rural populations;
- Adopting appropriate harvesting, post-harvest, and storage technologies to reduce on-farm and post-harvest food loss and waste; and
- Consolidate our National School Feeding Programme by strengthening connections between consumers and producers of food, including by fostering more robust food value chains and creating solid alliances between farmers and the wider society, to deliver safe, healthy and nutritious school meals. Guyana has signed the Declaration of Commitment for the Global School Meals Coalition.

Climate Resilience

In light of Guyana's vulnerability, the Government of Guyana is fully aware of the increasing climate-related threats and is committed to the transformation to a low-carbon economy and enhancing the resilience of vulnerable ecosystems as well as local rural, and indigenous communities to combat the effects of Climate Change.

Practical solutions from Guyana's National High-Level Dialogue include:

- Measures to de-risk the agriculture sector, such as a vulnerability fund or agriculture insurance, to mitigate risks to the sustainability and productivity of the sector.
- Relevant innovation and technological tools to assess food systems, identify risks and relevant actions to manage shocks and to increase the resilience.
- Develop Climate Smart Practices to help address the adverse effects of Climate Change.
- Increase investments in disaster preparedness focusing on addressing long-term and structural causes in addition to sudden shocks (droughts, etc).

Funding and Financing

Transforming the food system will require significantly greater public financing as well as private capital from national, regional and international partners. International support, including from FAO, IFAD, WFP, IICA, international financial institutions, and bilateral partners, will be critical to ensuring a more resilient agricultural sector through financing, technology, and creating an enabling global environment.

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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 no areas of divergence that emerged from the dialogue. The participants are all in agreement that there is a lot of work to be done to transform Guyana's food system, the solutions are known and it is a matter of implementing them so that the current challenges will be addressed.

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KEYWORDS

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Key Messages from Guyana's National High-Level Dialogue**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Key-Messages-from-Guyanas-High-Level-Dialogue_-May-11-2021.pdf

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Guyana's National High-Level Dialogue**
<https://fb.watch/7l--FCTzVO/>