

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 2 July 2021 08:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	DAWN of women in agriculture: technology as an enabler
CONVENED BY	Chhavi Jatwani, Design & Innovation Lead, Future Food Institute; Martina Marseglia, PM, Institutional Relations and Global Strategic Partnerships, Future Food Institute
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17073/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	India, 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

70

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18

10 19-30

46 31-50

14 51-65

0 66-80

0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

20 Male

50 Female

0 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

6 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

12 Livestock

4 Agro-forestry

3 Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

1 Education

2 Communication

1 Food processing

Food retail, markets

6 Food industry

5 Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

1 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

29 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

13 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

6 Large national business

3 Multi-national corporation

7 Small-scale farmer

2 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

1 Local Non-Governmental Organization

16 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

2 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

1 Government and national institution

1 Regional economic community

2 United Nations

3 International financial institution

2 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

2 Consumer group

9 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

We organized this dialogue on the topic of women empowerment in the agri-food sector since we believe that it is an issue that needs to be addressed with urgency. Empowering women would take us one step closer to achieving our goal of making our food system more inclusive and sustainable. To fully commit to the summit process, our team followed every step and stuck to the recommended guidelines for executing this dialogue. We are also continuing to engage in coalitions and conducting larger activities keeping the Summit's goals in mind. We recognized the complexity of the topic of gender inequality. The dialogue focused on women in agriculture, specifically looking at technology as an enabler. It was divided into 6 discussion topics to tackle this complex topic from all perspectives. During the planning process of this dialogue, we scouted for participants with a very inclusive viewpoint. We ensured that every person involved in this topic, no matter the level of their role, got an equal voice in the dialogue. We invited a variety of participants from both large-scale commercial and small-holder backgrounds to ensure that the change we need in the system is ignited at every level. Our participants came from diverse backgrounds including, but not limited to, the Livestock industry, Agroforestry, Education, Food processing, and the Government sector. Our facilitators too came from different disciplines and ensured that every participant could feel comfortable in sharing their opinion. We complemented the work of various other institutes such as FAO, CGIAR, World Bank, etc. by researching about the work being done by them and understanding how we could support them through the dialogue. The dialogue process itself ensured that participants from different backgrounds and stakeholder groups could build connections and collaborate towards our common goals.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The dialogue focused on bringing gender inequality and the digital divide in the food sector to the focus of multiple stakeholders. In order to tackle this complex problem, we designed 6 discussion topics to tackle the diverse nuances of this larger topic. Each discussion topic was researched extensively and prompt questions were made on the 3 main themes of problems, solutions, and challenges. This ensured that our dialogue was solution-oriented and that the participants asked the right questions and came up with actionable insights to implement the vision in their own practice. We used a collaborative brainstorming tool for participants to be able to visualize these problems and solutions better on a 10-year time frame. We invited participants from varied backgrounds for this dialogue. Along with people from leadership roles in big corporations, we also had people working on the ground with small-holder farmers and the farmers themselves. While splitting the participants into the different discussion groups, the team put in efforts to add a mix of voices from different backgrounds for each topic. We also invited keynote speakers from different stakeholder groups to share their experiences and their vision. This gave a stage to their efforts to bring about gender equality and reduce the digital divide in the food system. In order to build trust and a safe space to let the participants speak freely, Moofarm and Future Food ensured that we follow the Chatham House Rule. Participants could also start interacting before the dialogue through the initial email threads sent out by our facilitators. This not only helped in breaking the ice but also ensured that the participants got a chance to build connections with others working towards the same vision. Real stories of small-holder women farmers were also shared on our social media pages prior to the dialogue to build momentum and to share the real issues that exist on the ground. To keep the momentum going post-dialogue, the team sent out key takeaways to all the participants.

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

We took some crucial steps while planning and conducting this dialogue to ensure that we get the best results out of it. We believe that it is important to invite and involve stakeholders from multiple perspectives in the dialogue and to ensure that the discussion groups are evenly distributed to embrace inclusivity. Every participant needs to be given equal space and the opportunity to share their views openly. It is important to recognize the complexity of the problems and to design the discussion topics in a way that the participants can discuss and reach some conclusion in a limited time. Having a solution-centric approach ensures commitment from the participants towards solving these issues at their own levels after the dialogue. This approach helped us get real results during our dialogue. (eg. an investor in the agri-food sector committed to checking whether companies are involving women in their solutions before deciding to invest in them) It is important to have a positive outlook towards a future that is equitable and sustainable. The positivity builds trust in the minds of the participants regarding the intentions of the dialogue convenors.

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 Dialogue “DAWN of women in agriculture: technology as an enabler”, coordinated under the Project DAWN (Dairy, Agriculture, Women, Nutrition), a flagship initiative of MooFarm, aimed at understanding how to empower small-scale women farmers starting from the reach that local projects such as DAWN can have in terms of real-life experience and effects.

Women are undisputed actors in the global food system, both in developed and developing countries. However, despite formal data confirming the high rate of the female agricultural labor force, most of them still remain invisible workers in the eye of UN Agencies and the broader society. The reference is to female farmers, breeders, and fisherwomen who work informally, without being contractually employed, without receiving adequate compensation, or with extremely limited access to agricultural resources, improved seed varieties, equipment, information, education, credit, insurance, technologies compared to men. Gender inequality in agriculture remains one of the more significant areas of gender disparity worldwide and this phenomenon hits the North and the South of the globe, making it an urgent challenge to face. For this reason, the dialogue spotlighted the role of technologies as an enabling tool to ensure food security and food justice, through more effective forms of inclusion, equal productive employment, and decent work for all actors along the food value chain. The Dialogue started from on-ground assumptions of the Indian context but looked at global solutions.

Through this two-way approach, it is possible to make the global food system more resilient and adaptive, starting from the urgency of leaving no one behind, for the sake of female farm returns and the broader agricultural production that, especially in developing countries, massively rely on the female role.

From the observation of the current system failures and evidence we identified six sub-topics to be addressed during the Discussion Groups:

1. Women often remain excluded from information access, decision-making processes, and governance structures of dairy value chains.

- How might technology enable women in agriculture to be included in the decision-making process for their family thus ensuring equal representation and overall progress for the family?

2. Women's agricultural productivity and yields are 20 percent to 30 percent lower than men's because of well-documented constraints such as restricted access to quality seeds, equipment, hired labor, technology, training, and markets. In addition, less than 5% of women own a cow in India.

- How might technology enable women to own farm resources, thus boosting their agricultural productivity and profitability?

3. In low and middle-income countries, over 1.7 billion women do not own mobile phones. In cases where they do, they are less likely to make full use of their full suite of services. Although the use of mobile internet is increasing throughout India, only 28% of the rural internet users are women.

- How might we enable women in agriculture to achieve digital literacy to help them utilize technology to its maximum potential thus making them independent?

4. Digitalization helps to connect women with advisory services, potentially removing middlemen or reducing labor burdens, providing market or legal information, and enabling financial transactions.

- How might technology enable women in agriculture to break down market barriers (like access and financial advisory) thus encouraging local food systems?

5. In India 75 million women are engaged in the dairy sector, compared to 15 million men. Giving them access to technology has been proved to bring financial benefits in terms of income.

- What would 2030 look like if ALL women small-scale dairy farmers have access to technology?

6. Gender inequality undermines progress toward sustainable agricultural development across multiple dimensions.

- How might we enable women to be catalyzers of sustainable practices in agriculture and achieve increased carbon sequestration and neutrality?

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 type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governance
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MAIN FINDINGS

The first conclusion that emerged from the Dialogue is that the current old mindset based on a rigid patriarchal approach is neither working nor beneficial to the whole community. Women, and especially women farmers, are proven to be keener on learning from each other, exchanging knowledge, and being more trusted by institutions. Overcoming this anachronistic attitude characterized by supposed weakness and exclusion from the decision-making process is more urgent than ever. A community-based approach might be more realistic and sustainable. Scaling through educational institutions and private corporations to invest in women who want to pursue and grow in agri-entrepreneurship or digital literacy could bring tangible transformations. With an increased focus on mentoring and training, women could get the training and tools they need to help other women in the fields.

The second conclusion touches on the urgency of ensuring female access to basic education as the main step to promote gender equality in society. Education not just on the aspect of cultural awareness, but also on skill-building and machine handling knowledge from a practical perspective.

Programs should accelerate the pathway, shaped by the surrounding ecosystem, towards both access and new structures on which education is conceived, considering their physical inclusion.

Although moving in different directions, it is important to consider education and technology as intertwined, as technology could dramatically increase women's access to knowledge and education, and at the same time, education is fundamental to completely understand the potential of technological solutions, as well as their functioning. The main solutions that came up at the intersection between these two elements were related to a peer-to-peer connection allowing women to share knowledge and experiences despite being far away from each other, therefore kick-starting a dialogue that empowers local women to be at the forefront of initiatives and solutions designed to help them.

The third main conclusion deals with the relevance of providing gender-based solutions. To work in the long run, actions, programs, and technologies should be designed on women's real needs, by women. This means creating a new interface design conceived to facilitate the use of technologies for women and new tools shaped on their position and daily activities. But it also means introducing programs and solutions tailor-made to the specific role that women have within the family. In developing countries like India, agriculture continues to absorb and employ the female workforce but fails to give them recognition of employed or hired labor. In these contexts, women mostly perform manual tasks like weeding. Advancements for reducing the heaviness of this type of work can be life-changing and increase productivity, starting a virtuous loop where productivity advancements, in turn, improve day-to-day life for female agricultural workers and also benefit their families and communities over the long term: female farmers who increase their income reinvest that money into the family's health and education.

The fourth conclusion is that the overall value of women increases on the supply chain level and when we move towards technology as an enabler for the 'Marketing linkages'. Women are adapting to the technology - faster - if given a chance! The only efficient way ahead is to optimize the channels of knowledge acquisition: access to the right information and providing them marketing linkages.

Finally, we need to look beyond IT-enabled technology to envision women as Policy Decision Makers, providing practical insights, ownership, and the representation of the very gender for whom all the policies are being made.

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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/6

GENDER EQUALITY: How might technology enable women in agriculture to be included in the decision-making process for their family thus ensuring equal representation and overall progress for the family?

Equal inclusion of women in agriculture requires broader and better representation of women in the whole society. Besides being at the kitchen table, women are needed in leading positions: communication, decision-making, agricultural meetings, farmers gathering, traditionally represented by men.

Men could play a crucial role, especially if they are more sensitized and aware that these kinds of actions may have positive impacts on the whole family and children. But also programs and national policy can be central in making agribusiness more attractive and better designed for women. Social platforms and social marketing too can play a central role, bringing women and female farmers together, letting them exchange knowledge, and learn from each other.

Success is the best tool to assess progress, not income itself, because when female farmers are successful, other women are keen on learning from their example. Increasing productivity and, most of all, tracking the percentage of women leading farms on regenerative agriculture is therefore a must. However, traditional rule division and deep patriarchal society still represent a concrete challenge as these actions are implemented. Women are traditionally seen as weak individuals, while female empowerment can be regarded as a threat.

Inclusion and better representation of women in society cannot be reached without female access to schools, this is the reason why training is conceived and provided amongst the most urgent actions. It is widely known that in many developing countries education is male-centered, even though women are taking care of everything else in real life. National policies and programs should accelerate female access to education, which is strictly related to women's respect from the whole society. The urgency to reverse the current mindset characterized by male superiority over women and lack of consideration of female knowledge starts with access to education. Also how training is conceived can ease women equality: to be targeted on women, education shall focus more on the ecosystem around them. This approach can be further strengthened by increasing the number of gatherings and events on education, shaped to make women feel safe.

Access to land and technologies are additional urgent actions when dealing with women's equal entitlement. If for the land the issue starts with ownership, for technologies the challenge concerns both access and ability to use. This explains why participants stressed, among the most needed activities, the promotion of a systematic use of technologies through specific programs, in support of farming activities and to increase income, from housing improvement to better mobility. Given the severe and widespread gender digital divide, also for technologies, just as education, their design should not forget to embrace the whole environment characterizing women's daily activities. Both the housing dimension and their farming role should be therefore equally considered to reach outstanding benefits for women and the community as a whole.

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/6

PRODUCTIVITY: How might technology enable women to own farm resources thus boosting their agricultural productivity and profitability?

Inequality in women's yields has a lot to do with social norms, less quality of inputs and less ability to access and get resources, inevitably bringing to lower yields for women. In most cases land owned by men is over-fertilized, whilst land that is owned by women receives fewer resources.

This gender inequality has seeped so strongly into people's mindset that the agricultural sector itself is mainly conceived as a man's sector and society does not embrace the vision of women owning resources.

The fact that most women are not educated adds on to the problems. In many dairy programs all over the world, aimed at pushing towards higher yields or higher productivity, more inputs are required and more loans have to be taken. However, women's lack of financial literacy brings the system in favor of men. Indeed, many existing solutions, like mechanization programs, tend to indirectly push women out because they usually do not meet the collateral requirements of such programs: land ownership, financial resources, and investment knowledge and capacity. Hence, even if the programs are meant to be inclusive, the design of such programs tends to make them unequal: women's output is equal to women's input. The participants agreed that before we address the issue of providing women with technology and mechanization, we first need to bridge that gap of literacy. Added to this, women need to be involved right from the design and investment phase of the programs they should benefit from.

To make sure that women can actually have a voice in what technology they want to actually get benefits from it is important to understand the subtleness of gender relations. If not, even a women-oriented solution could eventually benefit men and feed the vicious loop, leaving women out of it.

One more piece of evidence that needs to be taken into account is that not all women want to own a farm. An ever-increasing number of women prefer working on value addition tasks rather than working on the field, due to the heavy physical labor required in the tasks they are assigned to. Giving women a bigger voice to express what they want, what their aspirations are, and where they see empowerment coming from is therefore crucial.

In many cases, female farmers lack recognition from local communities and the government for their accomplishments and farm work. A solution could be a database of female farmers who are at different stages of their farming activities, to better map the diverse needs. This would help in giving the right inputs to the right people through the activatable programs.

ACTION TRACKS

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✓	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 - 3/6

DIGITAL LITERACY: How might we enable women in agriculture to achieve digital literacy to help them utilize technology to its maximum potential thus making them independent?

There is a need to visualize in detail the digital ecosystem regionally, and women as its key users to build our own and others' understanding of it. People designing the digital platform should take into consideration the transparent evidence-based research approach. Digitalization can help shape a more sustainable future with evidence-based solutions, contributing at the same time to a more tangible transformation. But to reach the full potential of digital solutions, it must be user-centric. Technology can answer most difficulties farmers face. It can assist them with predicting climate all the more precisely, decrease the uncertainty, increase yield, and their net profit margins. In dairy farming, community-oriented connections need to be developed to do that to exponentially engage more purpose-oriented users. Bringing women into the design process is crucial to increase productivity, profitability, and adaptability to specific contexts: to empower women to stand for themselves, female farmers should be able to decide which technologies they want to use according to their interests and concrete role, before making sure they could benefit from such tools.

ACTION TRACKS

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/6

MARKET BARRIERS: How might technology enable women in agriculture to break down market barriers (like market access and financial advisory) thus encouraging local food systems?

Addressing proper education is the key enabler element for the empowerment of women to enter the markets. First of all, proper education is needed from the side of people who actually want to help solve the problem at any level. In order to provide concrete help and impact in a specific context, it is necessary to have extensive knowledge of such context and the mechanisms that govern it. In this sense, starting off from our local ecosystem or basing solutions on the consultancy of a local partner is fundamental to make sure no issue or obstacle is left behind, and no energy or resources are wasted on addressing issues that do not represent a priority.

Moving on, education strategies need to be boosted also in the local context where we want to unlock market access for women. This will pass to different dimensions of intervention. The first important element is related to using education to break down the cultural stereotypes that are related to the agricultural sector, and it being envisioned mainly as a "men thing". In this dialogue, it's fundamental to stop positioning women in a comparison with men, and start thinking about the unique skills and perspectives that they can bring to the table, therefore improving the whole performance and efficiency of the sector. This is a key ingredient to unlock real innovation.

Then, of course, education efforts need to be addressed directly to the women we want to help. It's important for them to know how to differentiate their product in the market so as for it to be impossible to be ignored, to know how to access credit, and to know where to find concise and down-to-earth information about the context they're operating in.

Two elements are perceived as critical in order to attain this goal.

The first is an intervention at the policy level, able to generate a wide impact and take full-on responsibility for the education of women. Each country needs to step in, but many companies can also help by starting from their own best practices and striving to disseminate them into the market.

The second important aspect necessary to achieve these educational goals is leveraging technological solutions to create a connection network between women from the same area and different parts of the world. This is critical to allow for knowledge flows, making sure women learn from one another and join forces to create a change in their contexts. The impact of the pandemic on remote learning modalities could definitely be a blessing in this sense if channeled properly towards positive solutions.

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/6

What would 2030 look like if ALL female small-scale dairy farmers had access to technology?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development set 17 goals to guide the world on how to manage development over the next 15 years. Goal number five aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Envisioning what 2030 will look like and how technology can be used to empower future generations of female dairy farmers and help them achieve their goals is empowering in itself.

How can we improve the livelihoods of female small-scale dairy farmers? What do they need? How can we make their lives easier? What can we do to help them increase their productivity and profitability? Through the use of new technologies like the Internet of Things, different wearable technologies, and artificial intelligence, we can improve the livelihoods of female small-scale dairy farmers.

The very first basis of the dialogue for women is that females are nurturing in their nature. They care for their surroundings around them. They go beyond their sense of selfish needs and make the communities around them grow together. If we really want to use technology as an enabling tool we need to make it gender-neutral: as of now technology is patriarchal, made by men for men. We need technologies linked to financial requirements, social inclusion, and market access: these are the areas in the dairy sector where technology is to be provided to women. A major issue is the knowledge gaps. If we see a more sustainable equitable future for women - the distribution of the resources and access to the technology needs to be ensured to reach them equitably. Patriarchy plays a major role when women are not the decision-makers. Thus, the social upliftment of women in this sector is another important side where urgent action is required. Making women entrepreneurs is a major channel to encourage leadership and cross this very patriarchal challenge. For example, on Facebook groups, people are sharing their experiences of Agri leadership. These spaces are still being dominated by men but on the ground level, women are handling the majority of the dairy tasks from the backend. Institutions and public policy play an important role, able to generate a great impact - policies need to be more gender-inclusive as well as gender-sensitive to cater to the sensitivities of women and at the same time including that very much required representation in the dairy sector!

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/6

SUSTAINABILITY: How might we enable women to be catalyzers of sustainable practices in agriculture and achieve increased carbon sequestration and neutrality?

Why does sustainability take the back seat as a priority in the topic of women and agriculture? We can find many answers: issues related to gender inequality, such as women having a lower voice culturally, women not being able to inherit certain assets in some parts of the world and a lack of self-esteem and empowerment amongst women, need to be tackled first. Especially in the case of emergent markets, the issue of carbon sequestration is not looked at as a key point. The focus areas there would span from increasing productivity.

When it comes to women empowerment, the change needs to occur at multiple stages. At an individual level, women need to become confident and self-reliant to be able to make decisions on their own. At a family level, it is critical for the woman to be appreciated at home by the family members, the husband, the kids, and the in-laws. A change in the family's mindset towards women is essential not only for the progress of the woman but also for the progress of the family. Women tend to be the center of the family and any skills and knowledge get easily passed on to the family.

At a community level, we need to understand the importance of female role models in the field of agriculture all around the world and especially in developing countries. Recognizing and acknowledging champions who are progressive in their practices would be a key factor towards inspiring widespread change. The individual level is as important as the systemic level.

These changes would empower women to be able to access the market and engage directly with multiple stakeholders. Such a development would help in bringing about a policy-level change.

Moving closer to the topic of sustainability, regenerative agriculture breaks the current traditions of the past 100 years and makes way for ancient knowledge. Female farmers practicing regenerative agriculture in the central European region are getting highlighted and taking up role model status. Sustainable practices in agriculture are used all around the world but we need to build connections to be able to share this knowledge.

We need to take into account that technology can contribute to the further marginalization of women if not implemented correctly. Cultural education and machine-handling knowledge would be needed to ensure that women can truly reap the benefits of using technology. Going further into the connection between technology and sustainability, tech companies step away from taking any responsibility for the health of the planet.

Experiences of women in India with sustainable energy alternatives like cow dung and biogas were discussed. The participants shared stories of how the usage of these sustainable resources helped women get more time at hand, thus helping them pick up new skills such as embroidery.

One way towards solving a lot of these problems women face would be to let them control financial resources around the world.

ACTION TRACKS

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Although spaces of intersections rather than areas of divergence prevailed during the dialogue, some aspects raised different opinions from the participants.

The first one is related to the perceived priorities to tackle in order to reduce gender disparities in agriculture. Some participants identified equality as the starting point for better implementation of SDG 5; others identified women empowerment as the most urgent aspect, others stressed the attention on productivity in agriculture.

Different divergences arose when considering the needed actions to break down market barriers for women in agriculture. With the participants being mainly aligned on the priorities to be achieved, divisions were identified when considering whether a top-down or a bottom-up approach is preferable to tackle problems in the most effective way. Some of the participants argued that policy is the first thing that needs to change, therefore suggesting the fundamental role of national governments and companies to act in favor of women empowerment in agriculture. Others pointed out that real change needs to start from people's mentality.

Different views arose also in the identification of which technologies and modalities can best ensure inclusion and equity for women in agriculture. Some participants stressed out that the use of mobile phones appeared not efficient in terms of increasing farming productivity and gender inclusion in specific geographical areas. Other participants pointed out the systematic approach that should be embraced by technologies, touching both farming practices and improved housing conditions as the sole way to ensure real equity.

Other aspects of divergence dealt with the level of education to be ensured to women to guarantee both respect and a leading role within society, and an active presence in farming. In fact, with no doubt on the needed urgency to provide women more and better quality knowledge inputs and education, also in the form of reducing the drastic gap in digital literacy, some participants highlighted the concern that higher quality education often comes at the detriment of farming involvement, leading girls and women to avoid returning to the fields. This kind of concern was also exacerbated in disagreement among the speakers on the fact that women really want to have exactly what men have.

Finally, some doubts were raised from the participants on the forms of the dialogue, as the best way to lead towards concrete and long-lasting actions.

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 type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

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