

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 18 June 2021 17:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	OPEN-SOURCE AGRICULTURE: Shared Access to Grow Food Secure Communities
CONVENED BY	Sky Sheridan: SkyFarms
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17145/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Netherlands, 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

77

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

5 0-18

18 19-30

45 31-50

12 51-65

6 66-80

0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

42 Male

32 Female

2 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

26 Agriculture/crops

8 Fish and aquaculture

0 Livestock

3 Agro-forestry

3 Environment and ecology

1 Trade and commerce

16 Education

6 Communication

0 Food processing

5 Food retail, markets

17 Food industry

3 Financial Services

0 Health care

0 Nutrition

2 National or local government

0 Utilities

0 Industrial

4 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

15 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

5 Large national business

0 Multi-national corporation

28 Small-scale farmer

6 Medium-scale farmer

3 Large-scale farmer

3 Local Non-Governmental Organization

3 International Non-Governmental Organization

4 Indigenous People

6 Science and academia

0 Workers and trade union

0 Member of Parliament

1 Local authority

2 Government and national institution

0 Regional economic community

1 United Nations

0 International financial institution

3 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

0 Consumer group

2 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Everyone who signed up had to sign an agreement based on these principles, stating they had read, understood and agreed to them. We did have some participants drop out because of this requirement.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

We made sure throughout the registration process to encourage people with tools, and concepts that centered around how to build trust.

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

We also were sure to complement the work of others with updates and sharing in our community their contribution, our appreciation and showcasing them in a uplifting and elevating way. Some of our participants were very pleased by the exposure they received, and the accolades shared among their fellow colleagues, and possible new consumers. We embraced multi-stakeholder inclusivity by inviting not just industry leaders, but policy makers, teachers, and regular citizens who may not have ever known about this food system. We wanted to consider the whole market, and aspect of food community, who is in and how to help people navigate that complexity to find their unique place in the solution. We set up the beginning of the dialogue with one of our community leaders, Kimberly Buffington about how to respect people's time, how to create a safe space of inclusion, and how to recognize the complexity of the topic we were all committed to sharing our ideas and solutions about.

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 our dialogue was to bring high-level experts to dialogue with regular citizens about ways we can use sharing and technology to close the gap between commercial and community opportunities. We did comprehensive exploration on food systems, exploration around action track 1, and focused on ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food for all. We were able to identify five areas where there were potential for levers of change, and action through collaboration and resource sharing that digital tools could provide. While many of them overlap, we found it helpful to break into 5 groups and then discuss those overlaps, and using the multidisciplinary interaction to amplify the ability to discover how we can move users within a food system from being passive and to more active.

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 key findings that emerged from our dialogue is the huge access gap that exists between communities being able to invest and have access to their own food supply, and being completely dependent on monopolistic commercial and governmental control of the food supply and farming systems. We also discussed questions such as why is food and farming made available for communities with subsidies or taxes that often go toward infrastructure, water, waste, energy. And why are more investors not making an impact in their community, particularly, said food and ag companies, to support the local community in free food growth. Findings were that a simple investment could be made with dynamic returns, and has been done in many communities around the world. Using these as an example and also the ideas that we appreciated came from the collaboration in each cohort.

An agreement of actions that were expressed among participants were that we need to move market investment from new innovative companies who receive first pick when it comes to implementing innovative market solutions, and shift them to community driven DIY projects, which require less front end investment and provide better returns collectively, and overtime. SkyFarms is one of these solutions and many of the participants are eager to work on the digital tools and network that will tackle things like fragmentation and flooded market, and inclusion to opportunities to invest in community support projects that turn food deserts into food oasis. Additionally, the use of data, and citizen science will make a big difference in identifying the capacity of food that needs to be grown in any given area, and to map insights about those local opportunities, spaces, stakeholders and resources that are freely available for such community actions. The following action points arose from these dialogues and are presented here in the hopes that they might be useful in the upcoming United Nations Food Systems Summit.

ACTION POINTS:

Dialogue and bringing people together as fundamental

Strengthening the agency of small and medium food producers and suppliers

Empowering consumers to be drivers of change

Imbedding a hybrid of new agriculture technologies, vertical, hydroponics, greenhouses, to enable communities places to grow anywhere, anytime

Addressing economic and social inequities through creating circular and shared value chains

A focus on the local level, but connecting those local systems together to share data, and knowledge globally.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

But I wanted to mention that the first issue is about just being able to actually own the problems even before you can own the solutions and how, in some parts of the world.

People are farming the land and are unable to make choices about their own crops or their own technology and are still in some form of exploitation or semi slavery and so that's the number one issue in this. Area towards making progress, but we focused a lot on education and the power of collaboration and how we can. Increase awareness of what's possible for growing food year round, and these technologies.

A lot of areas are doing this at the research level but it's not getting into the hands of people who needed the most or who could start their own small business. And contribute to the economy by having that access and so just looking at how can we continue to share information around circular economy entrepreneurship. And city planning at that level of including people's voices and.

Looking at the systems view so from our solution point of view, we saw, we need to be influencing at the grass tops level with people with influence over policy. And capital access and then the smaller scale grassroots level and just being able to give individuals, the power to be leaders in their own Community food systems. We also talked about having access to equipment for food processing and preserving and cooking and being able to help change some of the norms around that.

Moving away from mono cropping and industrial agriculture into more of that. Revival level and regenerative when we see the power of co OPS, or people working together to eliminate food waste or coming into a piece of the supply chain. And filling a niche so that others can really play their part, well, instead of having all of this hyper competition in ways that's not really spreading best practices.

I don't know that we had any conclusions to share other than knowing that we all have to take our own torch forward and continue to communicate with each other through ally ship. And knowing where there are good proof of concept about what we can do, and just keeping that hopeful attitude that we are working towards these UN goals with good best faith.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Among the participants there was some disagreement that needs further exploration. Particularly surrounding inclusion, and equity. Not only did we anticipate this, but help a space in the start of our dialogue for dissenting voices to be heard, and held a training in the start of the call about conflict resolution and how to talk about diverging ideas, opinions and facts. One of the biggest areas to focus on was why so many people who are involved in farming are being left behind by not only the UNFSS, but by the industry leading companies that claim to be solving a problem, but are only solving the problem at the level it was created at therefore perpetuating systemic problems that need to be deeply addressed.

We have several stakeholders within our network who are boycotting the UNFSS based on several concerns expressed here. Excessive emphasis put on technological solutions that are introduced as a universal solution to food systems problems. The Food System Summit's process is directed vertically by a non-institutional body, with a private secretariat and out of any control of the member countries.

The initiator and main partner of the summit is the World Economic Forum (WEF), which brings together the richest and most powerful corporations in the world. These corporations are largely responsible for the degradation of the environmental state of the world, the rise in inequality and food insecurity.

The UNFSS has not been validated by the UN General Assembly.

Civil society organisations and in particular organisations of food producers (peasants, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, rural women, pastoralists, agricultural workers, etc.) have been sidelined throughout the process leading to the "summit"

The lack of democratic inclusion of food producers' organisations (and particularly small-scale food producers) within the bodies created to manage the process

Joint Letter to UN Signed by 500+ Orgs:

SLOWFOOD:

A GROWING CULTURE:
Peasants Press Forum:

Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples'
Mechanism for relations with the
UN Committee on World Food Security

LANDWORKERS ALLIANCE:

LA VIA CAMPESINA SOUTH ASIA

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- SKYFARMS UNFSS OFFICIAL REPORT

RELEVANT LINKS

- **TRELLO PROJECT MANAGEMENT**
<https://trello.com/b/4F5HRP3J/un-food-systems-independent-dialogue>