

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 18 May 2021 09:00 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	IHIE-IYI (ABIA STATE) RURAL COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS FOOD SYSTEM DIALOGUE
CONVENED BY	Olusola Idowu, Permanent Secretary, Budget and National Planning & Chair, Nigeria National Committee on Food and Nutrition
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17230/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Nigeria

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

40

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

2

19-30

21

31-50

15

51-65

2

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

26 Male

14 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

16 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

3 Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

7 Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

1 Food industry

Financial Services

3 Health care

Nutrition

7 National or local government

2 Utilities

Industrial

1 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

13 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

10 Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

2 Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

2 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

9 Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

4 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The four pillars of engagement was strictly adhered to i.e. People, Practice, Policy and Performance. The Facilitators having an in-depth knowledge of the importance of the dialogue, selected participants from all works of life within and outside the community ensuring gender equality from relevant stakeholders, creating enabling environment for a conducive, free and fair hearing of all members. The topics discussed were designed specifically to capture the major purpose of the United Nations

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

• The dialogue reflected the principles of a peaceful environment having institutions that maintain peace like traditional rulers, police men, and Local vigilantes as planned for the dialogue to be free and fair and for all participants. LIFE – ND project is already intervening in the community and they are already feeling the impact of government. • The dialogue facilitators ensured that the range of participants was as broad and inclusive and covered the recommended stakeholders for the dialogue. • The stakeholders were pre-notified through a letter of invitation on the topics to be discussed and their roles. During the dialogue the local language (Igbo) and English was used for effective communication. • Provision was made for a conducive and well ventilated hall. There was adequate arrangement for communication. Gadgets. • A communique was presented at the end of the dialogue to communicate outcomes and recommendations. The invited stakeholders were happy to be part of the dialogue, having given them the opportunity to be part of the local decision making.

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

• The Conveners should engage more representative stakeholders and also look at the time factor of the dialogue.

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 major focus of the Rural Stakeholders Food Systems Dialogue was to engage more grassroots stakeholders in taking an aggressive approach to solving global hunger. In Abia State the dialogue was guided by the five (5) action tracks and levers of the UN Food Systems Summit.

Stakeholders during the dialogue explored different aspects of the food system to identify pathways that will improve nutrition security, reduce hunger and the prevalence of malnutrition in line with the national food and nutrition policy for Nigeria. Concrete actions for fighting hunger, malnutrition and strategies to reduce poverty and enhance the resilience, sustainability of food production and security were discussed. Participants were divided into five (5) groups to facilitate the discussions.

Group 1 focused on suggesting ways to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition to reduce incidence of non-communicable disease, enabling every individual to stay healthy and suggesting how everyone will always have access to enough affordable nutritious and safe food products.

Group 2 focused on ways to build consumers demand for sustainably produced food, strengthening the local value chains, improve nutrition, and promote re-use and recycling of food resources especially among the most vulnerable. It also recognised elimination of wasteful patterns of food consumption and transition in diets towards more nutritious foods that require fewer resources to produce and transport.

Group 3 focused on how to optimize environmental resource use in food production, processing and distribution thereby reducing biodiversity loss, pollution, water use, soil degradation and greenhouse gas emissions. It also centred on food system governance that realigns incentives to reduce food losses and other negative environmental impacts

Group 4 focused their discussion on elimination of poverty by promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all actors along the food value chain, reducing risks for the world's poorest, enabling entrepreneurship and addressing the inequitable access to resources and distribution of value. It was also centred on improved resilience through social protection and seek to ensure that food systems "leave no one behind", it also highlighted potential game-changing and systematic solutions to ensure that food system from land to waste are regenerative and circular where possible thus more resilient to future shocks in Nigeria.

Group 5 focused on actions that will work to ensure the continued functionality of sustainable food systems in areas that are prone to conflicts or natural disasters. The ambition under the action was to ensure that everyone within a food system are empowered to prepare for, withstand and recover from instability.

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

Participants at the end of the discussions affirmed that there cannot be Sustainable Development without bold actions to achieve food and nutrition security, agricultural policies that will lift small and large scale farmers and vulnerable communities out of poverty.

The following were the top findings and recommendations made by the participants at the end of the dialogue:

Findings

- Inadequate agricultural education on farming systems to farmers.
- Nonchalant attitudes of young people towards farming.
- Negligence and ignorance of citizens in taking balance diet.
- Limited storage facilities.
- Increase intake of processed food in our communities.
- Agricultural lands are being used for housing development.
- Inadequate financial support from the government to farmers.
- Poor access roads to farms.
- Inadequate basic infrastructures.
- Lack of basic nutritional knowledge.
- Little or no government intervention through policies/strategies and vision to help improve nutrition security.

Conclusions/Recommendations

Recommendations made by the participants at the end of the dialogue include:

- Government should come up with policies that will make agriculture attractive to young people: Farming offers the young generations a chance to make a difference by growing enough food to feed the world. Those who become farmers now have the opportunity to be the generation that will end hunger and alleviate malnutrition.
- Conservation farm practices for sustainable Farming: Based on principles of soil and nature protection, conserving farm practices serves as the base for sustainable farming. It manages to increase both the crop yield and soil properties as well improve nature biodiversity.
- Government policies should make food more available, accessible and affordable by increasing agricultural production. This will improve the economic and health status of the community.
- Farmers must be supported by the government financially to realize their full potential by enabling them to increase their agricultural productivity, promoting their access to markets and services.
- Research institutes should develop ways of enlightening the citizens on improved varieties of staple crops.
- Nutrition officers should continuously enlighten the citizens on healthy eating habits.
- Provision of markets, good access roads and basic storage facilities.
- Farmers should be discouraged from bush burning.
- Farmers should use more of organic fertilizers and natural pest control methods and reduce the use of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides.
- Deforestation should be discouraged and afforestation encouraged.
- The government should engage the services of indigenous people to secure the rural communities and farm lands.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

Group 2: Shift to Healthy and Sustainable Consumption Patterns

Actions urgently needed

- Awareness creation on radio, television and churches on healthy consumption pattern.
- Educating the rural dwellers on what a balance diet is and the importance of eating a balance diet.
- Integrating food policy and regulatory reforms to improve food environment.
- Using schools as a key environment for delivering healthy, safe and sustainable diet and fostering lifelong healthy and sustainable consumption.

ACTION TRACKS

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

Group 3: Global Food System at Crossroads: Policy Landscape and Governance Factor for Boosting Nature Positive Production at Scale in Nigeria: The Right to Food Approach.

Actions urgently needed

- Government should make bush burning an offence.
- Protection of land from erosion by planting new trees, applying of organic manure instead of chemical fertilizers.
- Government should provide adequate storage facilities for food crops.
- Government should provide funds/ grants and improved farm inputs.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
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KEYWORDS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Group 1: Poor people are able to eat nutritious foods that will not make them sick

Actions urgently needed

Strand 1: Reducing hunger and inequality

- Everyone should be encouraged to engage in one form of agricultural production e.g. backyard gardens, community gardens, and integrated homestead food production in order to make food more diverse and readily available.
- Food systems in the rural communities should be nutrition sensitive by incorporating nutrition objectives like planting pro-nutrition crops and tubers/roots, oil palm processors should be discouraged from adding chemical dye to the finished product e.t.c.
- Governments should make policies that boost agricultural production thereby providing an environment of improved food availability and opportunities for households to lift themselves out of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.
- Government should encourage fresh graduates to go into agriculture by providing grants and interest free loans.
- Female farmers should be given equal opportunity to resources e.g. access to farmlands.
- Government and research institutes should come together to improve the nutrient value of staple crops through bio fortification and make such crops available to rural farmers.

Group 2: Shift to Healthy and Sustainable Consumption Patterns

Actions urgently needed

- Awareness creation on radio, television and churches on healthy consumption pattern.
- Educating the rural dwellers on what a balance diet is and the importance of eating a balance diet.
- Integrating food policy and regulatory reforms to improve food environment.
- Using schools as a key environment for delivering healthy, safe and sustainable diet and fostering lifelong healthy and sustainable consumption.

Group 3: Global Food System at Crossroads: Policy Landscape and Governance Factor for Boosting Nature Positive Production at Scale in Nigeria: The Right to Food Approach.

Actions urgently needed

- Government should make bush burning an offence.
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- Government should provide adequate storage facilities for food crops.
- Government should provide funds/ grants and improved farm inputs.

Group 4: Advancing Equitable Livelihoods in Nigeria

Actions urgently needed

- Women farmers should be given equal access to resources like land, this will improve food production.
- Female health and nutrition should be made a priority, this can prevent health complications for them and the children they bare.
- Government policies should ensure that everyone has equal right to adequate food and social protection.
- Stakeholders should be provided with equal accessibility to land, natural endowment and economic opportunities.
- Youths and women should be duly represented in leadership positions in rural areas.

Group 5: Building the Resilience of Food Systems in Nigeria to withstand Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses

Actions urgently needed for Improved Food availability for resilience

- Good agricultural policy by Government
- Provision of agricultural loans to indigenous farmers.
- Availability of farm land, manpower, seedlings e.tc
- Educating farmers on farming systems and providing extension services.
- Encouraging youths to go into agriculture.
- Use of organic fertilizers should be encouraged.
- Building of food processing plants to reduce food wastage.
- Addressing the issue of climate change
- Provision of market to farmers
- Provision of adequate processing equipment to farmers
- Reduction of Post-harvest food losses
- Ensuring the accessibility of farmers to irrigation system

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

1. At the core of a lot of divergences is that some stakeholders prefer processes that rely on individual/household level change (demand side actions), while others prefer processes that rely on institutional change (supply-side actions).

Community Gardens: Some stakeholders welcomed the idea of having community gardens while others opposed it. Reasons for the opposition: Conflict resolution issues that may arise from sharing formula.

2. Reduction of fiscal space:

Some of the stakeholders were of the view that the government is doing enough in terms of interventions in the rural communities while others are of the opinion that the government is not doing enough. Even where there are cases of government interventions they are seen as being hijacked by portfolio farmers and effects does not trickle down to rural farmers.

3. Lobbying and interference by special interests:

Some stakeholders welcomed the idea of lobbying as it helps attract interventions in their communities while those that opposed gave reasons of such interventions being hijacked.

4. Social norms are difficult to change

Some stakeholders were of the opinion that you cannot have good nutrition if you are not wealthy. Opposing view: Those in opposition tried to prove that you can be wealthy and not eat right (hidden hunger).

5. The assumption that youths would want to work in agriculture or agro-processing / food manufacturing.

There were divergent views on the youth's participation in agriculture. While some stakeholders are of the opinion that if government can intervene more in agricultural development projects targeting youths, more of them will be willing to go into agriculture. Others were of the opinion that with or without government intervention, the youths are not willing due to their "get rich quick syndrome".

6. Need to ensure that innovation and technology transfer is fair:

There were no divergent views on the above area.

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6. Need to ensure that innovation and technology transfer is fair:

There were no divergent views on the above area.

7. Stakeholders working in silos

There were no divergent views on the above area.

8. Preponderant national emphasis on under nutrition

There were divergent views on national emphasis on under nutrition. Some stakeholders were of the opinion that government is doing a lot sensitization especially on breastfeeding, others were of the opinion that the government still has a lot to do on addressing issues bothering on under nutrition e.g Poverty.

9. Trust deficits:

There were divergent views on trust deficits. Some stakeholders were of the opinion that government has done enough in supporting agriculture while others claimed that such interventions were being hijacked.

- Provision of interest rate at a concessional rate
- Provision of subsidy to farmers on agricultural inputs
- Provision of processing equipment to farmers at subsidized rate

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ABIA-STATE-COMPREHENSIVE-REPORT.docx>