

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 18 May 2021 09:00 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	SABAGREIA (BAYELSA 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/17247/
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

17

31-50

16

51-65

5

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

25 Male

15 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

1 Agriculture/crops

3 Fish and aquaculture

2 Livestock

1 Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

3 Trade and commerce

5 Education

Communication

3 Food processing

7 Food retail, markets

1 Food industry

3 Financial Services

3 Health care

Nutrition

3 National or local government

1 Utilities

1 Industrial

7 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 participants involved diverse stakeholders in the rural food systems of the community. Every participant was given opportunity to speak during the dialogue. The urgency of continuous, deliberate and useful actions to be taken to eliminate hunger and achieve consumption of nutritious globally food was made known to all stakeholders during mobilization and the discussion. Confidence building was secured through detailed explanation of the aim of the dialogue taking cognisance of the complexity of the food systems environment as well as sensitivity of the multi-stakeholder composition of the participants. All participants were addressed respectfully and informed of the global implication of the planned United Nations (UN) Food Summit. All track actions were treated equally during the dialogue.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Opportunities for Engagement. The peace in the community, the identified food inflation reported in the community, the primary occupation of farming and fishing in the community and the intervention and operations of LIFE-ND in the area provided an opportunity for engagement of the people in the area. Inclusive and Adequate Representation. Both male and female members of the community were selected as participants. Not more than two each of all categories of actors in a rural food system listed in the implementation manual were strictly followed. Provide effective communication and information. Both Local language spoken in the community, and pidgin English were used during mobilization and conduct of the dialogue, Town crier, visit to places of worship and, interaction with all sections of the population during the mobilization and use of interpreters during the dialogue were adopted. Immediate feedbacks were received and used to guide the progress of dialogue. Provide Effective Facilities. The Community town Hall located in the centre of the village with a capacity for 1,500 persons was used as the venue of the dialogue. Public address system, adequate lighting, and functional fans were in hall. The large hall space provided adequate space for five groups to carry out the discussion during the group session without interference between the groups. Communication Outcomes. There was a consensus that the rural food system required multi-stakeholder actions on the five tracks to achieve the SDGs related to Food security and shift to consumption healthy foods in a sustainable manner all over the world. The participants agreed that they a role to play as actors in the food system in bringing about the desired goals beyond participation in the dialogue. Measurement of Satisfaction. Participants requested time frame to know when a review and reconvening of the next dialogue in order to evaluate the progress of the suggested changes based on the indicators which they contributed to develop for measurement of the five track actions that needed urgent action.

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

Yes. Food systems are dynamic; therefore, urgency is of essence to obtain the desired effect of dialogue outcomes. Participants' contribution that reflects what they practice and do as different actors in each food system will engender trust in the vision and objectives and outcomes of food system summit. Conduct of rural stakeholders' food systems should take into cognisance the time requirements for in-depth engagement of all stakeholders. Gender disaggregation, similarity in roles of stakeholders in the food systems should be considered in the engagement of participants in discussing various aspects of a given dialogue focus or themes. Except for the pandemic, more participants should be engaged in each category to generate more ideas and gather more data. All aspects. Application of the Principles of engagement will reveal the divers' roles (specific actions by different actors that must be taken) and identify important cross-cutting themes in the naturally complex food system. The impact on the entire ecology of food system and the interconnection between every component will help to define how holistic changes must be implemented to achieve desired goals of a given Summit. Mobilization and sensitization of community members for a rural food system dialogue should apply the principles of engagement for effective and positive results.

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 the Rural Community Stakeholders Food Systems Dialogue was to explore through dialogue a rural community food system in the South-South Region of Nigeria guided by the five (5) action tracks and levers of the UN Food Systems Summit. Participants were engaged in discussion of the composition, working, previous and status of the food systems in the area. Detailed discussion examined food systems dynamics, major actors, environmental and gender issues, cultural practices as each affected food systems. Opportunities for improved condition as well as actions to be taken by different stakeholders to achieve food security, nutritious food, and healthy consumption pattern on a sustainable basis in the rural area were deeply discussed by participants.

Immediate feedback revealed that lack of arable land, manual method of farming, low participation of community members in farming, poor knowledge of soil information, poor knowledge of modern methods of crop production and animal husbandry, lack of storage facilities, flooding, and lack of government assistance to farmers were major hindrances to reduction of hunger and inequality making it difficult for availability and affordability of nutritious foods. Poor food hygiene, lack of knowledge of consumer rights and enforcement of rules by Food Inspectors and Veterinary Doctors in the rural areas increased unsafe food practices.

Limited livelihood activities, poor/low income, post-harvest loses, theft of agricultural produce were factors that reduced the resilience in event of shock, potential vulnerability, and external stress on the food systems of the rural people.

Cross-cutting issues discussed showed that food inflation could reduce action against hunger and malnutrition. Similarly, climate change resulting in flooding threatened availability and reduced production was further challenged by poor soil fertility, limited participation in farming as well as gender and cultural constraints in the community. Achieving healthy and sustainable food consumption pattern was also linked to be affected by the above-mentioned factors.

The right to foods in Nigeria will likely be challenged by low farm productivity which result in food insecurity and low nutrition food consumption. In Nigeria, weak enforcement of laws will also be likely to affect right to food policy.

Formation of farmer's organisations and involvement of mass participation in agriculture will enhance equitable livelihoods in Nigeria in the views of the participants. The adoption of innovation in agriculture in all crop and livestock enterprises, building of private storage facilities and establishment of private sector food bank will help the rural food systems withstand vulnerability, shock, and stress in rural food systems in Nigeria.

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

- Government and intervention agencies to assist in acquisition of and access to non-arable lands to households interested in farming according to their needs.
- All households in the rural communities, including public servants and private sector wage earners to engage in farming and other food systems components for which they have comparative advantage to undertake.
- Strengthening of Public Agriculture Extension services to provide technical advice to promote good agricultural practices in the communities to improve availability of food and introduction of new crops and livestock in the area. This will increase crop and livestock diversity and improve availability and affordability of nutritious foods in the community.
- Effective information sharing and dissemination on existing markets for farm inputs as well as related agricultural products and services will ensure all year farm production and reduce hunger and improve affordability of nutritious foods.
- Government to facilitate the establishment of private-public managed food banks/storage facilities to store harvested surplus Agricultural produce harvested in the community. This will reduce post-harvest loses as surplus during harvest and ensure continuous availability and affordability during lean period. This will reduce food inflation in the rural areas as currently experienced in the community.
- More punitive measures against thefts of agricultural produce and enforcement of existing laws and procedures regulating the food systems within the community to safeguard investments to improve availability of food and increase affordability of safe food in the community.
- To ensure increased affordability and availability of nutritious and safe foods, farmers and other stakeholders involved in rural food systems should avoid sharp practices, use of harmful chemicals, and adopt good agricultural practices in crop cultivation, livestock farming, processing and marketing of agricultural produce and services.
- That proper storage of crops in farms and foods at homes would assist in ensuring better quality and nutritious foods and household food availability and reduction of food inflation in the Community.
- To ensure the availability and affordability of nutritious foods, all farmers in the community should engage in mixed crop farming and diversity of livestock rearing.
- To ensure safe foods, regulatory agencies in-charge of consumer rights and food safety should be strengthened to deliver on their respective mandates.
- Individuals at all levels of the Community should ensure proper hygiene in handling processed, unprocessed and leftover foods, as well as the practice of eating sick or dead animals should be discouraged to ensure safe foods.
- That to promote food hygiene, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services should be available at household level and open defecation discouraged in order to reduce food contamination.
- Nutrition education highlighting the dangers of unhealthy food choices targeted at communities and schools in order to empower community members and school children to demand for healthy foods.
- In view of the frequent flooding experienced by the Community, Climate Smart agriculture technologies promotion, shoreline protection as well as dredging of the rivers would assist in mitigating the effect of climate change on food production.
- There should be provisions for good storage facilities and use of appropriate technology for food preservation to address wastage and post-harvest loses; and
- That the Leadership of the Community should facilitate and encourage farmers to organise themselves into cooperatives to benefit from such rural institution structure.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

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

- a) Transform all non-arable to cultivable lands accessible by households interested in farming of diverse crops and rearing of livestock including introduction of new crop species and animal breeds.
- b) Promoting/provision of agricultural machines and equipment for hiring by all members of the community.
- c) Massive education of farmers on good agricultural practices that incorporates diverse crops and livestock species that will lead to supply of all essential nutrients needed for good health. This should be done through public agricultural extension services to reach every household.

Strand 2: Increasing availability and affordability of nutritious foods.

- a) Mass production, processing and storage of foods involving all members of the community.
- b) Cultivation of diverse species of crops and livestock by farmers in the community. This includes the introduction of new crops species and livestock into the farming system.
- c) Resuscitation of crops and livestock previously farmed in the community. Example, beans, rice, and cocoa-yam. Cocoyam species that can resist blights (disease) should be re-introduced in the farming community.
- d) Massive production of short-cycle crops (3 – 4 months) lifespan (vegetables, maize, rice, okro and groundnut) while waiting for crops/livestock that take a long time to mature (e.g. cassava).

Strand 3: Ensuring safe food.

- a) Enforcement of existing laws regulating food vendors and banning of fishing using chemical substances.
- b) Discouragement of consumption of dead floating fishes in the water by community members as has been in practice.
- c) Promoting the extensive use of organic manure in crop cultivation by all members of the community.
- d) Proper examination of foods' wholesomeness before purchase in the market and thorough washing of raw foods before cooking.
- e) Getting assistance from extension agents in order to adopt current innovations in ensuring cultivation, processing and consumption of food that is safe.

Cross-Cutting

- a) Increase food prices hindering hunger reduction, inequality, and affordability of nutritious foods.
- b) Flooding because of climate change reduces food security by aggravation losses due to farmland destruction, spoilage, and displacement of farm households from their homes.
- c) Increase population reducing available land for agriculture and increasing food inflation.
- d) Traditional practices and norms hindering female participation in certain aspects of the food systems. Significant and continued contribution of the female folks to availability of food and affordability of nutritious food due to age-long customs threatens attainment of elimination of hunger and other related SDG goal.

Who should take the actions?

- a) Government, Community leaders, traditional leaders all actors in the food systems.
- b) Government, intervention agencies, community members.
- c) Traditional institutions, and Pro-food/rural development related Non-Governmental Organisations.

Ways in which progress could be assessed

- a) Difference in the number of households in the Community engaged in farming before and after actions were taken.
- b) Agricultural yield differences before and after actions were taken.
- c) Number of farming households in the community cultivating other nutritious crops aside their usual staple crops.
- d) Number of farming households in the community rearing different livestock apart from the native species.
- e) Number of farming households in the community with good knowledge, positive attitude, and practices on good nutrition.

ACTION TRACKS

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

KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

Group 2: Shift to Healthy and Sustainable Consumption Patterns

Actions urgently needed

- Mass production of safe food crops and micro livestock.
- Farming households to increase storage capacities of crop produced using appropriate technology/traditional methods.
- Mass cultivation of diverse nutritious crops aside from the usual staple crops in the community.
- Number extension activities promoting consumption of healthy foods and sustainable agricultural practices. (Number of Farmer-Field Days, number of demonstration plots established per planting season in the community).

Who should take the actions?

- Farming households in the Community
- Public extension agencies
- Rural institutions in the community including farmers' organisation, youth and women groups and faith-based organisations.
- Intervention agencies interested in rural agricultural development.

Ways in which progress could be assessed.

- Number of additional households engaged in agriculture in the community after actions have been taken.
- Number of extension workers working in the community (establish ratio of farm families to Village-based extension agent).
- Frequency of extension contacts with households engaged in farming in the community.
- Difference in individual households agro-produced storage capacity engaged in farming before and after actions were taken.
- Percentage of agro-produce stored in the household with respect to total production volume. (Higher percentage indicates progress).

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
<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 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

- Mass mobilisation of households to engage in farming activities.
- Use of mix traditional and modern technology and innovation in seed preservation.
- Formation and strengthening of farmers' organisations in Community.
- Review of existing food related policy to suit present needs and realities.
- Massive awareness on the Right to Food as a fundamental human right to be adopted and agreed to by all states in Nigeria.
- Enactment and enforcement of the Right to food policy and strengthening of institution for implementation.

Issues raised during discussion

- Aging of existing farmers reducing available farm labour.
- Lack of interest of young people embracing farming as livelihood activity.
- Inadequate adoption of innovation versus low returns on investment from Agriculture.
- Lack of organisation of farmers into groups
- Weak leadership of community-based organisations which could hinder mass mobilization in favour of mass engagement of persons into food system.
- Lack of awareness of farmers on their rights to food
- Non-existence of enforceable rules, traditional norms against non-farming individuals in the community

Who should take the actions?

- Community leaders
- Government
- Community based organisations
- Mass Media as aspect of social responsibility.

Ways in which progress could be assessed.

- Quantity of crops harvested, and volume of livestock produced before and after actions were taken.
- Price difference of food items including meats and fish before and after actions were taken.
- Number of newly formed farmers group after action was taken.
- Number of youths in the community engaged in agriculture in the previous two farming seasons.
- Number of states adopting farmer friendly policy which improves ease-of-doing agricultural business.
- Extent of availability of inputs and input price difference before and after actions were taken.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Group 4: Advancing Equitable Livelihoods in Nigeria

Actions urgently needed

- Mass mobilization of households into various components of the farming systems including production, processing, marketing transportation in various agricultural value chain.
- Equitable and socially inclusive interventions in livelihood opportunities across different parts of Nigeria
- Provision of equal opportunities for livelihood for both urban and rural areas in Nigeria.
- Joint monitoring involving rural communities' representatives and public reporting of how interventions are applied to reduce nepotism at the local level and tribalism at the National level.
- Increasing the range of agro-commodities value chains that are developed to offer more opportunities to more people in different communities.

Who should take the actions?

- Community leaders
- Government
- Community based organisations
- Mass media (including local/traditional media).

Ways in which progress could be assessed

- Number of livelihood opportunities available/created in rural and urban areas in Nigeria.
- Number of male and female beneficiaries of livelihood opportunities in rural and urban areas of Nigeria especially oriented towards agriculture.
- Number of new entrants into the farming systems including production, processing, marketing transportation in various agricultural value chain
- Number of new opportunities provided in value chains of neglected crops and livestock.

ACTION TRACKS

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

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

- Adoption of farming methods that can withstand adverse weather conditions e.g, cultivation of early maturing crops before flooding and drought resistant varieties of maize and massive cultivation of swamp rice in the flood prone area.
- Re-introduction of beans, rice, blight-resistant cocoa-yam variety into the farming system of the community.
- Adoption of mixed farming by all farming households in the community.
- Adoption of mix traditional and modern technology and innovation in seed preservation
- Promotion of improved knowledge of connection of environment and food systems among farmers in the community
- Improved local governance.
- Adoption of appropriate technology where light machines for planting, processing with some human effort is used to increase area of cultivation and processed produced.

Who should take the actions?

- Farming households in the Community
- Public extension agencies
- Private extension service/inputs providers.
- Rural institutions in the community including farmers' organisation, youth and women groups and faith-based organisations.
- Intervention agencies interested in rural agricultural development

Ways in which progress could be assessed

- Level of awareness of farming households on the connection between food systems and the environment
- Extent of participation of male and female farmers in local governance relevant to food system.
- Number of households adopting farming methods that can withstand adverse weather conditions.
- Extent of crop diversity cultivation among farming households in the community
- Number of households that have re-introduced neglected crops and new livestock species in the community.
- Average number of innovative technologies adopted by individual households and by the communities.

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✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
✓	Human rights	✓	Governance
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		✓	Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

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).

- a) Individual level change was more easily implemented than institutional change.
 - b) Individual level change outcomes can diffuse across the community and produce similar effect as institutional change over time.
 - c) Individual level change is more sustainable than institutional change.
2. Reduction of fiscal space:
- a) Arguments for reduction in fiscal space believe that few elites kept back the common resources for all (fiscal resources) thereby creating the situation of reduction, which is artificial.
 - b) Those in favour of reduced fiscal space argue that the fiscal space was reduced due to reduced national revenue at all levels of government, individual businesses.
3. Lobbying and interference by special interests:
- a) Some opinion noted that some individuals/groups were strong in lobbying and negotiating skills for their personal/group interest.
 - b) Other opinion believe that some individuals and group were selfish and hardly represented the interest of the group they were supposed to protect and or advance.
 - c) Nepotism hindered lobbying and brought interference in the sharing of common good to community members at the local level.
 - d) Others argued that tribalism hindered and altered equitable sharing of common good at the national level.
4. Social norms are difficult to change
- a) Sacred days of farming forbidding farming activities have been changed.
 - b) Observance of festivals before harvest of yams have changed.
 - c) Restriction of certain persons from harvesting certain crops (e.g., vegetables) are still in existence.
 - d) Female circumcision which affects health of individuals and reduce farm labour in extreme cases have been stopped in the community.
 - e) Forbidding women from going to farm during menstrual cycle no longer widely practiced in the community.
5. The assumption that youths would want to work in agriculture or agro-processing / food manufacturing
- a) Most youths (65%) do not want to work in agriculture or agro-processing/food manufacturing
 - b) Few youths actually own farms, work in agriculture or agro-processing/food manufacturing
 - c) Returns on investment from agricultural activities is low and therefore unattractive to the youths.
6. Need to ensure that innovation and technology transfer is fair:
- a) The female farmers are not given preference in technology transfer and innovation during intervention.
 - b) Social norms and gender roles hinder females from fair uptake of innovation technology in agriculture that may be available.
 - c) Male dominance in technology and innovation reduces female friendly technologies from adoption.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

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