

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Wednesday, 9 June 2021 17:00 GMT +03:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	University – Policy Dialogue for Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems in Africa- [Ministerial Meeting]
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary, Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17889/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/17889/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	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

134

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

12

19-30

62

31-50

54

51-65

6

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

78 Male

52 Female

4 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

18 Agriculture/crops

4 Fish and aquaculture

7 Livestock

1 Agro-forestry

12 Environment and ecology

11 Trade and commerce

13 Education

5 Communication

2 Food processing

Food retail, markets

2 Food industry

3 Financial Services

4 Health care

Nutrition

8 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

44 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

8 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

4 Large national business

8 Multi-national corporation

7 Small-scale farmer

1 Medium-scale farmer

2 Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

16 International Non-Governmental Organization

1 Indigenous People

22 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

24 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

23 United Nations

1 International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

17 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The dialogue was inclusive and drew participation from different countries across the African continent. It included participation from multi-national agencies and key decision makers at the national, regional and inter-continental level. This would be a demonstration of commitment at the different decision making strata

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

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

# 3. METHOD

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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

Provide a platform for agri-food sector stakeholders for dialogue to generate solutions and actions to inform the deliberations during the UN Food Systems Summit 2021

To explore engagement opportunities and chart a common pathway for strengthening Africa's Food Systems, considering the diversity of food systems on the continent

The dialogue was exploring how national governments and regional bodies could contribute to sustainable food systems through investment in local institutions including universities and research institutions. This is one mechanism to ensure safe and nutritious food for all as well as building resilience to shocks, vulnerabilities and stress. Further noting that to build sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems, there is need to examine existing systems and policies. Government leaders and policy makers, the private sector, civil society, universities, research institutions, and smallholder farmers and other value chain actors have a stake in shaping pathways for resilient and sustainable national food systems aligned with SDGs and Africa's Agenda 2063. . The dialogue looked at

- Renewed commitment for US-Africa partnership on agricultural advancement in Africa
- Perspective from European Union Commission
- World Bank efforts to rebuild and strengthen agricultural development and food systems in Africa and globally
- Current status of food systems in Africa and implication for poverty, food and nutritional security in the continent

Focus was on providing feedback on what emerged from the dialogues and country assessments, opportunities foreseen from the different member states for strengthening the food systems; recommendations on the key actions towards the five action tracks; and, developing key messages for consideration by the Presidents Summit on 1st July 2021

### 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

- Key messages from the Technical experts, policy makers and in line with the Vice Chancellor’s Statement calling for a dialogue with policy makers to explore engagement opportunities and chart a common pathway for strengthening Africa’s Food Systems, taking into account the diversity of food systems on the continent.
- Vibrant Agri-food-systems and institutions engaged in production to consumption of food, are key to delivery of the continent’s development agenda, Africa We Want, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- COVID 19 was a wake-up call to the glaring fragility and inequality of the global, regional and national agri-food systems. This calls for considering sustainability, inclusivity and resilience of food systems an urgent matter which requires building existing systems and policies. All stakeholders in the agri-food system including smallholders have a role to play in shaping the pathways for resilience and sustainability
- The future transformation of food systems in Africa requires innovativeness in research and education approaches that are rooted in local contexts
- Universities in Africa need to adopt and create knowledge to strengthen and transform the food systems through strengthening links and improving productivity, processing, storage, transport, food quality and business that link them with consumers
- Universities need to anticipate the skills set and knowledge demanded by the rapidly changing food systems and provide this information and skills in ways that trickle through the entire economy. Universities then need to translate the knowledge created into innovations that then transform and develop potentials that drive their own and Africa’s food system
- There is need to reassess and redesign the African Universities and assist them to build their capacity to develop and deliver Africa’s food system transformation
- Linkages amongst smallholder farmers need to be strengthened
- Human capital development for sub-Saharan Africa is important in enabling Africa realize its full agricultural potential to boost its food system. There is also need for targeted investment in key productivity enhancing innovations to harness scientific solutions for the targeted growth.
- Smallholder farmers have limited entrepreneurial ability, productive assets and skills potential for value addition. This warrants skilling such populations and improving the labor productivity. This will enable African Agriculture meet local and global food demand.
- Member States have to strengthen production fundamentals including research and innovation that direct how we leverage production resources to generate relevant technologies; guide threat surveillances and inform policy design and accountability
- Member States need to institute industrial policies that promote private investment and job growth in local non-farm sectors essential to attract investment in agri-food systems
- Member States need to scale-up technologies developed by Universities to make them more available for the Youth and use within the different countries
- Need to strengthen investments in the entire educational value chain to increase the numbers of Young people entering into the labor force
- Member States need to work with their universities and other actors within and outside Africa to Marshall the needed response to strengthen Africa’s food system and scale out best practices
- Member States need to foster global partnerships for sustainability and inclusivity, resilience and sustainability of the food system
- Member States need to strengthen their commitment towards regional, continental and global frameworks by increasing investments, financing and implementation, including CAADP, STISA 2024, AGENDA 2063.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

- i. Majority of the 1.4 billion population on the African Continent is very Youthful with over 60% of the entire population highly dependent on agriculture, thus warranting need for a vibrant agricultural sector; vibrant agri food systems and institutions engaged in the production-to-consumption of food. This is key in delivering the Agenda 2063 of the African Continent, the 17 SDGs and STISA 2024.
- ii. Investments in preparedness need to be increased to enable scientists forecast and build response capacities for African Countries to enable them manage emerging and future challenges.
- iii. Start-up venture capital funds are needed to enable young graduates to adapt agriculture as their careers
- iv. There is need to build the capacity for scientists to lobby for science for the development of a particular aspect of the respective country
- v. There is need for collaboration beyond the boundaries of jurisdiction and in particular within the East African Region. This will enable joint efforts towards tackling a challenge cutting across several countries
- vi. Very few countries have fulfilled the Malabo declaration of allocating 1% of the Gross Domestic Product towards agriculture. A different approach needs to be employed to ensure that the voices of the stakeholders are heard and the resources required are appropriated.

Renewed commitment to pursue sustainable agri-food systems noting that

1. Africa's burgeoning market is an opportunity for agriculture and food systems transformation but that challenges particularly poverty and malnutrition especially among rural households primarily smallholders in Africa remain high.
2. Agriculture, food product development and food accessibility need to be at the core of investment together with the knowledge and technologies to energize the transformation.
3. Co-developing, co-ownership and joint implementation of UNFSS agreed game-changers for food systems transformation on the Continent must be inclusive and provide equitable opportunities.
4. Commitment to Africa's Agenda 2063, STISA 2024 and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA).
5. Urge the international community to support an African multi-stakeholder Capacity Strengthening Platform for Sustainable Inclusive African Food Systems (Capacity Strengthening Platform for African Food Systems).

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

### ACTION TRACKS

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### KEYWORDS

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



# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Final-Africas-Ministers-Communique-09-June-2021xx.pdf>
- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/STATEMENT-BY-AFRICAN-UNIVERSITIES-TO-AFRICA-MINISTERS-PRE-UN-SUMMIT-ON-FSS-DIALOGUE-09-JUNE-2021.pdf>