

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Wednesday, 19 May 2021 19:00 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Farmers and Consumers at the centre of 2021 UN SG Food Systems Summit
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Consumers International and World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/18375/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/18375/</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

56

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

56 31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

36 Male

20 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

18 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

12 Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

5 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

21 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

15 Small-scale farmer

15 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

2 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

5 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

3 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

12 Consumer group

2 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The dialogue was organised in full respect of all the principles on which the Summit is based. The aim was to create an occasion that would give visibility and a voice to those who normally stand on the sidelines of the debate. In particular, this second meeting focused on the development of real actions with which to achieve concrete change in the food systems. The awareness that change is urgent was present in all those who took part and inspired the identification of common priorities. The structure of the dialogue was designed to encourage open and constructive discussion. The questions addressed to the participants concerned expectations and desires from both the production and consumer side. There are interventions and challenges to be addressed, which are unachievable without the commitment of both sides and that is why the encounter between these two categories can be the fuse from which transformation can come.

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

The premises of this dialogue were to promote inclusive and win-win solutions by adopting a holistic and systemic approach to understanding how to act in a complex system like the food system. In fact, farmers and consumers are the first and last ring in the food value chain and it is essential that they strengthen and reinforce their collaboration, fostering a systems approach to the value chain based on a fairer share of value all along. In doing so, therefore, a multi-stakeholder inclusivity was embraced and it was emphasized that everyone is called upon to play their part. The topics covered were multiple and carefully selected to encourage exchanges and reflect the complexity of food systems. The outcomes identified during the previous dialogue were the starting point and the basis for the discussion and further development of this second dialogue. Throughout the dialogue, a balance was sought in the representativeness of both sides and the involvement of all was ensured. The principle of complexity, respect and trust was embraced by all participants, who appreciated the opportunity for interaction and mutual exchange and hoped that cooperation could continue in the future. The starting point for the dialogue was the recognition of the principle of "acting with urgency". The desire to take common action and issue a joint declaration was expressed, accelerating the pace of change and committing to a shared path.

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

It is important to ensure the representativeness of all relevant categories. Also, it is good to consider that the list of registered participants reduces as some do not attend. Another aspect to consider: it is advisable to share in advance the topics on which the debate will develop, so that participants can be more prepared and participate even more actively. In particular, if the topics addressed are specific, it is recommendable to offer the possibility of getting information in order to put the participants at ease during the dialogue. Lastly, in order to cover all regions of the world - in case it is an international online event - it is recommended to organize multiple sessions in different time slots to allow the participation of representatives from different time zones.

# 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

The Dialogue at stake is the second in a three-dialogue series and is intended to revert to and expand on the topics discussed in the previous one. The structure included a morning and an afternoon session, where the same issues were addressed. Compared to the previous dialogue, the focus was on more specific questions, encouraging debate and the expression of possible differences on controversial points and dig into the issues that are at the heart of the transformation we want to see in the coming years. The aim, in fact, is to develop a vision for the evolution of food systems that takes into account the perspectives and priorities of both sides.

One round of break up sessions was organized under the following themes:

- 1) Transforming consumption patterns
- 2) Delivering food security and nutrition
- 3) Sustainable production practices

Each discussion that took place in the various break-up sessions was reported back to the plenary by a representative from each of the two sides. At the end of this discussion, in the plenary session, strategies and visions were developed with respect to future steps that could be leveraged through the process.

### 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 concept that has been reinforced and reiterated is the will and the need to create an alliance between farmers and consumers, built on trust. This dialogue, then, has been recognized as the first step towards a long-lasting coalition between the two real pillars of food systems: farmers and consumers. It revealed the urgent necessity to redistribute power along the food value chain in order to create more equity and ensure food availability, sustainability and health. Moreover, it opened the door to a deeper understanding of the work done by farmers in their fields and to witness the process of food creation before it reaches consumers' plates. Consequently, the keywords that characterised this meeting were trust and informed choice. Participants expressed a willingness to engage and work together to create something different and reverse the vision according to which the two parties are the most fragmented and weakest in the food chain.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

### TRANSFORMING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

In this group, the debate was particularly active and focused on broad themes, seeking mutually convenient solutions. Much emphasis was placed on the role of education and the importance of its accessibility to all. A critical point discussed was the possibility of obtaining reliable information about the environmental impact of products and their sustainability. While consumers assume that food is safe, it is not as easy to find information about sustainability. On this last point, the multidimensionality of the concept of sustainability was underlined, encompassing the economic and social as well as the environmental sphere. Technology helps us in terms of traceability and transparency, alleviating the lack of time that can afflict consumers. Indeed, consumers who want to make informed and responsible choices may not always have the adequate resources and tools. Moreover, correct and complete information is not only consumers' prerogative but also a concern of producers who are keen to communicate to consumers how they have carried out their work and what the food they produce contains. A final point, therefore, concerned shortening the supply chain to strengthen the contact between farmers and consumers. In this group, much emphasis was placed on education and the importance of bridging the knowledge gap.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

### DELIVERING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The discussion opened with the problem of power redistribution along the food supply chain and the flow of information. Frequently as a result of partial knowledge and understanding of the process, there is disconnect between producers and consumers' demands and expectations. Another element that the group focused on is the role that government can play in facilitating or not facilitating sustainable production and encouraging fair supply chain. However, the issue that has most pervaded the debate is the role of proteins in a healthy and nutritious diet. Today, we are witnessing a tendency to replace animal proteins with vegetable proteins, ignoring or neglecting the miraculous effects that ruminants have in transforming cellulose originating from land where cultivation is not feasible into nutrient dense, high quality proteins. Questions were also raised about the true nutrient contribution of processed and transformed foods, which can undermine good nutrition.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

### SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Participants reflected on the spread of misinformation and difficulties in transferring reliable, science-based information. This is the pivotal point for cementing trust between each other. Therefore, changing the message too frequently and not anchoring it in evidence-based research leads to confusion and misinformation. Once again, technology has been recognised as a good vehicle to support evolving agricultural practices. However, there is still a need to make it accessible, especially to farmers in developing countries.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

All panellists and participants agreed on the positions expressed and elaborated during this second dialogue. Although there was an emerging need to establish practices that can enhance trust between producers and consumers in the food systems, globally.

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