

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 1 June 2021 13:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	The role of youth in food systems
CONVENED BY	WWF Sweden Youth and Reformaten
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/18613/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Sweden

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

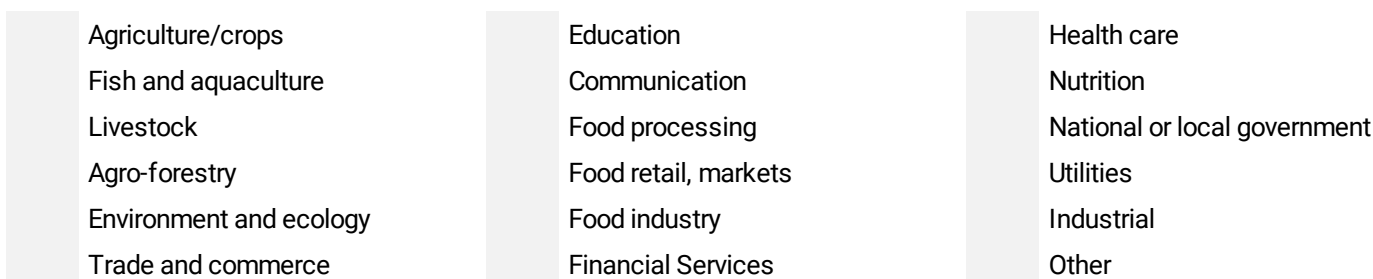
PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE



PARTICIPATION BY GENDER



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP



2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The invitation was sent out through multiple channels, and directly to underrepresented groups. We strove to get a good representation of organizations. We made sure that the dialogue moderators were aware of the principles, and to share feedback. Introductory presentations were chosen with the principles in mind.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Our specific angle was to discuss the role of youth, and we shared the invitation with youth organizations and related stakeholders broadly. We had the ambition to hold a high quality dialogue and were happy with the amount of participants, seen to the amounts of persons that they in turn represent.

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

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 dialogue was centered around the role of youth in sustainable food systems. Our angle was to invite stakeholders that represent youth organizations: young farmers, chefs, students at agricultural colleges, environmental youth organizations etc. The dialogue took its start in three keynote presentations followed by a dialogue around four statements that had been prepared by the convenors. The statements are as follows:

- As a decisionmaker I have made it easy for young people to choose sustainable food by...
- There are incitements in the food system for food producers to produce in a sustainable and fair manner, and social as well as ecological aspects are not weighted lower than economic aspects.
- As a company in the food supply chain we have enabled young people to eat ecologically and socially sustainable food.
- The food system makes use of the diversity in food cultures and traditions, and creates meeting places and dialogue centred around food.

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
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MAIN FINDINGS

General findings of the dialogue shows that there is a big need for just inclusion of young people in the conversation on sustainable food. There is a fear of "youth-washing", that young are being invited in general, but not listened to. Tokenism was also mentioned, and that there is a real need to actually act on what youth bring to the table. A general signal from the dialogue to the food systems summit is that political stakeholders and corporates such as retail and large food corporations need to listen better and engage in order to achieve a food system within planetary boundaries. The stakeholders in the dialogue were interested in continued dialogue, and the convenors are prepared to act on this.

The dialogue also shows how different stakeholders perceive the discussion on sustainable food. The need to include meat in a sustainable diet, the need to define local and that there is no single silver bullet solution was brought to the table and we can absolutely say that consensus was not established during such a short time. However, the session served well to bring the stakeholders to the table and to initiate a continued dialogue.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

- As a decisionmaker I have made it easy for young people to choose sustainable food by...

The participants brought up policy instruments, political arenas (global/national/local) as well as the need to base actions in an understanding of the cultural context. The three major conclusions:

1. Legislation and policy instruments must be used in a more strategic way to redirect the food system within planetary boundaries. Both production and consumption need to be included in a political framework.
2. We have to use politics to make food a voting issue, and to enable a public conversation about food politics. This is the most important tool in a democracy - to vote and to have a political conversation and this is lacking in food today.
3. Food is culture and connection, this must be highlighted in the work going forward. The narrative needs challenging, there are many ideas of what is traditionally eaten and where we should go with the food system.

There were no major disagreements, however, there were different strategies among the stakeholders to reach people: raising alarm or using inspiration. Both perspectives were deemed necessary, and complementary to some extent.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

There are incitements in the food system for food producers to produce in a sustainable and fair manner, and social as well as ecological aspects are not weighted lower than economic aspects. Major conclusions:

1. Use and change the economic system. What destroys our planet should cost, what is good should be promoted. True cost accounting is needed, and we should use subsidies and taxation in a way that will lower the burden on the planet.
2. The rural setting has enormous potential that is not used in a sustainable way. Much focus is on urban lifestyles, but bringing consumers closer to production can bring many benefits including a way of integrating food production in all society.
3. Put a larger part of the responsibility on retail and larger food corporations. The primary producers and consumers are weaker parts, and the economic burden should be more fairly distributed.

There was a larger discussion on if the existing economic system can be used and built on, or if we should strive for disruptive change.

There was also a lengthy discussion on how young people can be involved in the food system as farmers and entrepreneurs. There is a great need for more youth in the production system, and this will also help bridge over to consumers.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

As a company in the food supply chain we have enabled young people to eat ecologically and socially sustainable food.

- The primary production was in focus here, and that there needs to be more dialogue and knowledge around how food is produced. Changing diets has been in focus, but participants wanted to emphasize the "how is it produced" rather than the "what do we eat".
- Retail has a large responsibility in the corporate sector. The economic power lies here, and there is great potential in aiding consumers to sustainable choices.
- Companies can help politicians overcome "fear of action"
- Public procurement is a relatively small part of the food system, but is important as an expression of political will and to ensure a stable market for producers.
- From a nutritional perspective we eat wrong in Sweden, and companies have a strong responsibility here. They often refer to that consumers want to have choices, but deny that they are a part of the problem.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

The food system makes use of the diversity in food cultures and traditions, and creates meeting places and dialogue centred around food.

- The participants agree that food culture is an underrated discussion. Sensitivity to culture issues is vital, and can also have potential to restoring the food system to sustainable levels.
- Local varieties can also help with resilience issues.
- Understanding of the food system needs to take its basis in the school system. A whole school food approach is vital, and school gardens can help increase understanding of where food comes from.
- A specific suggestion came up that there should be a school program to get students to visit farms and primary production.
- short supply chains help establish contact between producers and consumers, and increase understanding of different cultures.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Areas that need further exploration are:

- The need to develop, or to fundamentally change the economic system, since the true costs aren't integrated into the economic system today.
- The need to focus on how we produce food or what food is consumed - some participants felt that too much attention is given to diets when we should be discussing how food is produced.
- The need to raise alarm and share a sense of urgency, as opposed to the need of inspiring and getting people to change through inspiration and a feeling of "we can do it".

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Reformaten**
<https://www.reformaten.com/>
- **WWF Sweden sustainable food**
<https://www.wwf.se/mat-och-jordbruk/>