

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Wednesday, 23 June 2021 12:11 GMT +03:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Food systems from a Nordic perspective - Towards the UN Food Systems Summit
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Mr Jyri Ollila, Convenor for the National Dialogue, Finland
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/18955/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/18955/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Intergovernmental
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Finland

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

121

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

18

19-30

49

31-50

47

51-65

7

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

50 Male

71 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

13 Agriculture/crops

6 Fish and aquaculture

7 Livestock

3 Agro-forestry

5 Environment and ecology

6 Trade and commerce

8 Education

2 Communication

10 Food processing

2 Food retail, markets

13 Food industry

Financial Services

4 Health care

3 Nutrition

38 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

10 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

10 Large national business

Multi-national corporation

8 Small-scale farmer

5 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

18 Local Non-Governmental Organization

2 International Non-Governmental Organization

5 Indigenous People

10 Science and academia

2 Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

5 Local authority

31 Government and national institution

8 Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

2 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

6 Consumer group

Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Nordic Council of Ministers meets annually in each policy sector: ministers of agriculture, food, fisheries and forestry have traditionally their meeting in June, this time on June 24th. Always on the day before the ministerial meeting a stakeholder consultative forum is organized. This time it was organized in the format of the FSS Dialogue. All five Nordic countries, including the autonomous regions of Greenland, Faroe Islands and Åland, were asked to invite participants from all parties involved in the food chain; natural resources, production, environment, processing, trade, consumption, nutrition, health, research, administration etc. All together 10 to 25 participants from each country. The invitation included information on and links to the FSS. All registered participants got an info package on food systems in advance. The dialogue discussions were set on existing work: two introductory speeches 1) on the ongoing PoW of the Nordic Council of Ministers and 2) on the research done by the Stockholm Resilience Centre on Nordic food systems.

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

The participants had a good advance understanding of the task and experience on such a dialogue between the Nordic countries. Trust and respect is self-evident.

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

It was repeatedly said that a dialogue itself is a strong element of a well functioning food system. That is certainly the case among the Nordic countries, where a long tradition of collaboration, consultation and coordination exists. This is important in building trust and respect, for better understanding the complexity of food systems and for making use of the intellectual resources of all stakeholders.

# 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

The method needed to be adapted for the situation: Five countries plus three autonomous regions, variety of food systems problematiques; national dialogues already being organized, and in order not to repeat work done, a different set of working groups was chosen. The dialogue was curated by Dr Sebastian Hielm, the Director of Food Safety of the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, a renown expert and active person in the Nordic cooperation. The choice seemed to be appreciated. In order to have a genuine dialogue there is a practical maximum number of participants. Therefore, the invitations were channeled through the national administrations in the countries, and send to persons already having showed interest in such a dialogue on the national level. This, logically, narrowed the spectrum of participation in some degree. Nevertheless, it was not seen as a major weakness for the quality of the dialogue.

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

For the entire dialogue, and specifically for the working groups, the following tasks were given:

The aim is to identify action, new avenues of innovation, structural reforms that will lead the Nordic countries towards sustainable food systems and, furthermore, what are the solutions we can offer for the global food systems and for the to take a look on the food systems of the 2030's: strengths and challenges of today; skills and advantages that help to reach the targets; trade-offs and win-win opportunities; actions needed to compensate those who lose; values and assets that cannot be displaced; regulatory action and guidance needed; needs for administrative reform; opportunities for international action, partnership and cooperation. And finally: concrete partner countries. Ideally, readily planned packages of action, identifying actors, describing processes, sketching financial needs. a) what are the characteristics of the Nordic food systems on which a reform can be built: strengths, opportunities, challenges. - The outcome of the session is expected to list strengths of the Nordic countries, on which we can build our food systems sustainable; points where we have to reform our systems and where it is likely to be painful choices to be made; furthermore: how could/should the Nordics contribute to the global food systems reform: our expertise, our experience, our resources. The list does not need to be complete; fresh ideas, feasible solutions are best for this purpose.

The Webinar was chaired by Dr Sebastian Hielm, Director of Food Safety, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland. The program, speakers list, background documents, briefing documents were put together by Mr Jyri Ollila, the Convenor of the National Dialogue, Finland.

Mr Jari Leppä, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland opened the webinar dialogue. Mr Leppä highlighted the good ground for such dialogue: there is a long tradition of dialogue, concertation and collaboration amongst the stakeholders and the wider civil society in general and especially in the field of food and agriculture. The five Nordic countries have a lot in common when it comes to food, and this makes cooperation between the five countries very natural. The Nordic Nutrition recommendations are an excellent example of that tradition of working together.

Ms Katja Svensson, Senior Adviser at the Nordic Council of Ministers reflected the work program of the Council of Ministers in relation with sustainable development and food systems. The strategic Vision 2030 of the Council aims at becoming "the most sustainable and integrated region in the world." The three elements in the Vision are 1) green, 2) competitive and 3) socially sustainable Nordic region, and they are divided into 12 measurable objectives. Food, consumption, recycling, biodiversity, sustainable land use and other food system related themes are included in the sub-objectives. The central theme of the sectoral agri-food-fish-forests work program is sustainable food systems.

Dr Amanda Wood, researcher at the Stockholm Resilience Centre referred to the recent publications "Nordic Food Systems for improved health and sustainability" and "Eight ways to change Nordic food and lifestyles" and "Cookbook for Systems Change" of the Centre. The Nordics are doing rather well in regard to several SDGs – ranked amongst the top places of a global SDG comparison - but lagging behind in SDGs 2, 12,13,14 and 15. The environmental impacts, especially related to extinction of species, N and P nutrient use are significant. Consumption of processed meat is a health concern. The outsourced environmental and climate impact is considerable, especially in water use, GHGs and cropland use. Overconsumption is a serious health issue: 47% on Nordic adults are overweight or obese, and so is one in seven children. Efforts against food loss and waste must be strengthened, even though the Nordics are doing well in overall circular economy.

### 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 five Nordic countries have organized dialogue events during the spring. Many of them have followed the Action Track logic. In order not to repeat these discussions, a different set of topics, topics that were known to be close to people's minds in the Nordic societies, was chosen. For each of the parallel working group, a top expert on the given topic was chosen to moderate the dialogue, one from each of the five countries, with the exception of Finland having two groups to moderate. The six working groups had the following titles:

1. Avoiding waste and loss, recycling – Nordic solutions (moderator: Troels Mandel Vensild, Denmark)
2. Sustainable consumption, nutrition and health – Nordic Dietary recommendations (Annica Sohlström, Sweden)
3. Safe food for all; AMR, One health – Nordic experience (Cathrine Steinland, Norway)
4. Sustainable use of renewable natural resources; natural resources; interlinkages food-water-forest-oceans-energy – Nordic view (Arni Mathiesen, Iceland)
5. Food systems and society; inclusiveness, equity, equality, fairness – Nordic way (Kaisa Karttunen, Finland)
6. Tomorrows perspectives; new technologies, global markets – Nordic horizons (Elina Lehtikoinen, Finland)

The main findings of the dialogue are listed in the working group reports below.

Dr Jaana Husu-Kallio, Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland, made the following points in her closing remarks:

- It is of great value to have existing structures of dialogue among the Nordic countries; together we can make a difference – we speak the same food language
- Our duty is to enhance global solutions, not only solutions for ourselves
- the SDGs are not met without reforming food systems
- the Nordic Council of Ministers has been early in taking food systems reform on the agenda, also the present program of work is a major effort for the reform
- dialogue is just a starting point; it must lead to action
- collaboration between all actors is imperative

The outcome of the dialogue was reported the following day to the meeting of the five Nordic countries' ministers of agriculture, food, fisheries and forestry. Ministers discussed food systems and gave a common statement on the issue. The statement is attached to this feedback report.

### 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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/6

### 1. Avoiding waste and loss, recycling – Nordic solutions

- Scientific and data based voluntary initiatives in partnership through the entire value chain
- we must build on incentives and win-win solutions, good public and private procurement practices and supporting legislation
- change of consumption patterns through education and improved awareness
- Minimize food waste along the entire food chain, including smaller portions, smaller plates.
- new circular production methods and better use of side streams
- telling the story of food: awareness leads to appreciation
- legislation for novel foods: longer shelf life
- overweight is food waste

### 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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/6

### 2. Sustainable consumption, nutrition and health – Nordic Dietary recommendations

- The strengths of the Nordic countries are the nutrition recommendations, school meal systems, awareness of and aspiration for healthy and sustainable diet
- Nordic countries have a similar approach to the term "prudent use" of veterinary medicinal products, and the fact that there are not economic incentives for veterinarians to prescribe medicinal products.
- We focus too much on increasing production. Instead we should look how we produce and how to minimize food loss and waste
- Surveillance is important, but not enough. We need to transfer experience into "practical change" and make sector specific action plans.
- Private enterprise can be drivers to sustainable development. Market players need to be further included in the strong Nordic "interaction model".
- Inform and educate about the benefits of the "Nordic model" of strong collaboration between authorities/academia/private sector.
- Translate the strong collaboration into the education systems, including the areas of medical, veterinary and environmental studies but also early education of children – the future consumers.
- Nordic countries are strongly engaged in developing aid, and this could be an area of stronger Nordic collaboration.
- "be bold" – politicians should dare to speak for the change. We in the richer and educated part of the world should afford the transformation, if anyone.
- municipalities to work for the local 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
- Data & Evidence
- Governance
- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate



## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/6

### 3. Safe food for all; AMR, One health – Nordic experience

- Th Nordic countries have monitored the AMR more than 20 years, longer than anywhere else
- work on global level is a challenge; exchange of information and experience takes some effort but is as important as the work on national level: How can we improve our collaboration with the developing countries?
- continuity of the work is important; we should not be awake only when there is a pandemic of a war going on
- consumers are a strong drivers for change – we should mobilize them
- cooperation between competitors is necessary
- education on use of medicals

#### 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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/6

4. Sustainable use of renewable natural resources; natural resources; interlinkages food-water-forest-oceans-energy – Nordic view
- Our renewable natural resources are in a relatively good shape: imports should be substituted by local production when possible
  - planetary boundaries: we must not outsource our environmental impact
  - innovations are needed, systemic change is necessary
  - more information is needed on changes of consumption patterns
  - blue production sector; great potential – good governance a prerequisite
  - Nordics have a relative advantage in ruminants/natural conditions

### 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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/6

### 5. Food systems and society; inclusiveness, equity, equality, fairness – Nordic way

- we need changes in the food systems, from production to consumer behavior; every action counts
- everyone should have access to healthy food
- there will be painful choices to be made; citizens must be involved in the decision-making – participatory processes
- Global justice; one should keep in mind that choices made in the North have global impact
- there is a lot of competence and knowledge in the Nordics; how are we going to share this with the rest of the world
- appreciation of each other's work; awareness of farming

#### 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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/6

- 6. Tomorrows perspectives; new technologies, global markets – Nordic horizons
- Challenges for the Nordic countries: dependency on imports and lack of labor
- Food sector should be made more attractive for young people to work; How?
- Innovations are needed; rigid legislation should not hinder new ideas
- A gradual transformation; tradition with innovation
- Mistakes should be allowed; innovation takes courage

### 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

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

No major point of divergence emerged. This was probably partly because the participants represented a rather established set of discussants; persons having already the experience of a national FSS dialogue and also other engagement in dialogue between the Nordic countries. Furthermore, the topics given to the working groups were knowingly chosen to be of strong interest in the Nordic societies. The purpose was to discuss topics where the Nordic countries could have experience and best practices to offer for the benefit of other countries.

### 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

# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

---

## ATTACHMENTS

- **Nordic Ministers' Statement of Food Systems**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Nordic-FJLS-Ministers-24.6.2021-FSS-FINAL.docx>