

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 25 May 2021 10:00 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Private Sector National Food Systems Exploratory Dialogue
CONVENED BY	Mrs. Olusola Idowu - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Budget and National Planning & Chair, National Committee on Food and Nutrition
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/19391/
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

189

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

11

19-30

127

31-50

51

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

126 Male

63 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

1	Agriculture/crops	1	Education		Health care
	Fish and aquaculture	12	Communication	2	Nutrition
1	Livestock	9	Food processing	2	National or local government
	Agro-forestry	1	Food retail, markets	4	Utilities
5	Environment and ecology	8	Food industry	4	Industrial
1	Trade and commerce	25	Financial Services	114	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

6	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
	Large national business	2	Member of Parliament
6	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
6	Small-scale farmer	5	Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer	1	Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer		United Nations
25	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
7	International Non-Governmental Organization	3	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
3	Indigenous People		Consumer group
3	Science and academia	122	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

We invited a diverse range of stakeholders from various sectors to participate in the dialogue, this allowed us to capture diverse perspectives and dimensions. Participants were informed of the importance of the dialogue and the need to act with urgency and in unison to address the issues that affect the Nigerian Food systems.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

During the breakout sessions, the facilitators were polite and received contributions from participants with respect. The discussions were geared towards recognizing the complexities in the food systems, acknowledging the efforts and contributions of stakeholders, identifying areas for improvements and actions to be taken in this regard

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

Future conveners could ensure to enhance gender inclusivity by sending targeted invitations to youth, women and PWD groups

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 major focus of the Inception dialogue was a comprehensive exploration of the Food Systems in the Nigerian context. The discussions were held along the five action tracks of the UN Food Systems Summit. The facilitators led the participants to conduct a diagnosis of the food systems, identifying critical actions that need to be taken in the next three years, analyse how the selected actions will be measured, and agree on who the implementers/drivers of these actions will be. The dialogue uncovered the role of policy to improve the performance of the food systems on several fronts (1) access to high-quality seeds and input (2) Regulations on the standards of nutritious food (3) Guidelines that foster financial inclusion for the women, youth and vulnerable groups.

The Nigerian agricultural system is threatened by climate change resulting in drought, flooding, erosion, low yields, and high infestation of pests and diseases. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a clear need to minimize the vulnerability of our food systems to shocks and stress. In the next few years, some of the actions that will give the highest impact include climate-smart agriculture (solar, irrigation, rainfed farming, recycling farm waste as manure). The adoption of processing technology, storage/warehousing facilities storage facility technology, will contribute to the reduction in the post-harvest loss while improving road infrastructure around food production centers. Despite several investments in the agricultural sector, the Nigerian food systems are still vulnerable to shocks, stress, and the effects of climate.

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

- **Standards and Regulations:** There is an opportunity to create long-term wins in the Nigerian Food systems if we can implement standards for the quality of food produced in Nigeria across the value chain from high-quality input, good agronomy to management of post-harvest activities, storage, packaging, and distribution.
- **Research and Development:** The Private and Public sectors can establish a partnership to enhance domestic R&D capacity and ensure the dissemination & adoption of viable R&D output amongst Nigerian farmers. R&D is urgently needed for seed production, GAP, food preservation, etc.
- **Awareness:** There is a general lack of awareness about the composition of healthy diets. This could be done through the advertisement of healthy foods and products and the nutrients they contain and will stimulate demand for healthy foods. Public awareness should be widespread, including for producers, in schools, rural communities, etc. This will stimulate the demand for healthier options and persuade the sector to deliver on this demand.
- **Logistics, Storage and Processing facilities:** The private Sector should leverage the demand for logistics, storage, and processing facilities that support the production of healthy foods, including cold storage transportation. This is a key solution to post-harvest losses in several parts of the country.
- **Technology and Climate Smart Practices for Resilience:** Farmers should be connected to climate information – rainfall, drought, flooding etc. to enhance their preparedness for shocks and stress. To promote further resilience, agricultural technology companies should promote small-scale, low-cost modular energy sources, and technology for farmers and agri-businesses.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

Track 1: Zero Hunger & Improved Nutrition (Access to safe & Nutritious Food for All)

Actions with the greatest impact for the next three years

- Collaborate with the government to define/develop a policy direction on the quality of food produced in Nigeria. This policy should include access to high-quality seeds, other input, and storage facilities.
- Deregulate the seed sector to allow for the use of technology to enhance the quality and productivity of seeds.
- Create incentives to make good quality fertilizer availability and affordability in the Nigerian market to enable farmers' access.
- Strengthen the capacity and availability of extension services to smallholder farmers.
- Enhance domestic R&D capacity and ensure adoption of viable R&D output on seed development by Nigerian farmers.
- Adopt the model of the ISD Tech-Match programme to up-scale domestic productivity and avoid post-harvest losses. Also, create interlinkages between global innovators in the value chain, local adopters, and implementing partners like the government.
- Upgrade the structure of Nigerian markets to include cooling rooms for fresh foods and vegetables to mitigate post-harvest losses.
- Reduce Post-Harvest Waste by improving logistics infrastructure.
- Roll out a policy on improving the capacity of Nigeria's security capital and infrastructure to facilitate the inflow of investments into the logistics ecosystem.
- Adopt social behavioral change communication tactics to encourage the consumption of nutritious foods, incorporate nutrition education and proper cooking methods into primary and secondary health care advisory to address child malnutrition.
- The government should sustain the creation of awareness on proper nutrition especially in primary schools, secondary schools, and rural communities.
- Encourage private sector players to invest in the production of dried fruits and the adoption of packaging that appeals to children as this will improve their nutritional intake.
- Revise the advocacy or communication strategy for the implementation of proper nutrition to ensure that the benefits of adopting appropriate food & nutrition practices are emphasized alongside the cost of doing the alternative.
- There is a need to emphasize the empowerment of the female gender both educationally and economically as they are pertinent to enforcing appropriate nutrition.
- Consider cash transfers to mothers in the rural areas to enable them to afford nutritious food for themselves and their children.
- The government needs to improve its capacity to enforce and monitor standards and regulations in food production.
- The government should ensure that it creates a level playing field for local manufacturers to compete in the food market. This entails the imposition of tax breaks and low-interest credit for local innovators.

Who should take the actions?

- The NESG should collaborate with the government to make a business case for the organized participation of the private sector in the logistics sub-sector of the food value chain, educating the private sector on the prospects of investing in the sub-sector.

Ways the actions will be measured

- We will track changes in the number of malnourished children in Nigeria As improve nutrition will lead to a reduction.
- The Availability and affordability of food irrespective of its season will be a major indicator that we have made progress with food storage and processing
- We will measure the average yield of crop per season as an indicator of improved access to high-quality input and good agronomic practices.

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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

Track 2: Shift to Sustainable Consumption Patterns (Increase consumption of healthy foods, reduce consumption of unhealthy foods, and reduce food loss and waste at household and food service levels.
Actions with the greatest impact for the next three years

- There should be National Nutrition Criteria to guide producers to develop healthy products and consumers to select healthy products. The private sector needs to create business solutions around providing healthy alternatives to consumers, especially through leveraging local and traditional food products.
- Increased public awareness about what healthy diets are – This could be done through the advertisement of healthy foods and products and the nutrients they contain and will stimulate demand for healthy foods. Public awareness should be widespread, including for producers, in schools, rural communities, etc.
- The private sector should fund research towards the development of healthy food products, including improved food preservation, as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility.
- The private sector should invest in logistics, storage, and processing facilities that support the production of healthy foods, including cold storage transportation.
- Promotion of legislation that discourages producers from the production of unhealthy foods e.g., sugar taxes, but incentivizes them to invest in the nutrition value chain e.g., tax incentives for affordable, healthy foods
- Implementation of easy-to-understand nutrient labeling on food products and adequate regulation to prevent labeling fraud.
- Nutrition should be approached from a business perspective and not a humanitarian intervention perspective – This will encourage private sector participation.

Who should take the actions?

- NAFDAC and SON: The agencies need to review their standards to include nutrient content guidelines and ensure that ingredients mentioned on labels are present and carrying out factory inspection to ensure that standards are followed before foods are released to the public
- Ministry of Finance, Budget, and National Planning: The Ministry should convene organisations concerned and nutritionists to work together to produce uniform stance and messages on what constitutes a healthy diet.
- FIRS: The Federal Government should provide tax incentives to Private Sector organizations that actively promote the production and consumption of healthy foods
- National Assembly: Strict regulations should be passed at the National Assembly to deter advertisements of unhealthy foods, food fraud, and promote nutrition labeling.
- Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria, other research institutes, and Universities: Research on infrastructure and technology that will improve the storage, preservation, and production of healthy and safe foods.
- Civil Society Organizations: Provide technical assistance to government agencies and conduct advocacy to the National Assembly.
- Private Sector Organizations, including Transport Unions: Adopt processes and products that facilitate access to and affordability of healthy foods.

Ways the actions will be measured

- A major boost in the investment of cold chain infrastructure and other food system innovations.
- Engagement of youth entrepreneurs in the value of horticultural crop chain.
- Increase in the estimated number of policies and publicity in nutritional information that will encourage the consumption of a nutritional diet resulting in the reduction of malnutrition and non-communicable diseases.
- Higher demand for healthier food products by consumers will result in the reduction of micronutrient deficiencies
- Further conversation and formal dialogues around food systems in Nigeria.
- A major accretion in the demand for healthier food products by consumers will increase the nutritional food content produced
- Implementation of family life extension programs into the Nigerian agricultural extension scheme to address socio-cultural issues within rural farming households towards consumption of diversified diets rich in protein, fruits, and vegetables.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

Track 3: Boost Nature-Positive Production

- Development of land restoration, and irrigation system to reduce erosion and tree planting to serve as wind-breaker.
- Introduction of solar systems for irrigation to reduce the total reliance on energy.
- Establishment of a rainwater collection system and the release of the right quantity of water required to save the cost and reduce water waste.
- Proper education of smallholder farmers on innovative ways of improving farming, food, and seed systems, and reducing logistics issues.
- Reduction in post-harvest losses by improving warehouse structures
- Expansion of farm market roads in between warehouses, regulated by the government to move food products easier
- increase in the quality of bags (e.g., low-quality nylons etc.) to encourage reuse by Nigerians.
- Collaboration of NESG with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in the coordination of key players to address linkages that can impact the farmers to improve the value chain.
- Leveraging technology between producers and consumers to return used products to the companies.
- Development of policies to encourage private sectors in the production of paper-based bags to reduce degradation of the ecosystem.
- Establishment of free trade zones in rural areas to improve the socio-economic development of the rural areas.
- Conversion of agricultural waste to value-added products and the development of policies to track carbon footprint through the value chain.

Who should take the actions?

- Cold hubs- Will build cold rooms powered with solar panels in strategic places in markets and make it sustainable for people to bring their products and pay for their services.
- Saro Africa- will provide an integrated Agric value chain input by:
 - a. Providing improved farm seeds to address the low yield of smallholder farmers.
 - b. Training farmers on good agricultural practice.
 - c. Offering extension service input to farmers.
 - d. Aggregation and link farmers to off-takers
- Policymakers will create a legislative framework that covers the protection of the environment by industries and punishment for defaulting industries that venture into the manufacturing sector.
- Ecological funds from the government constitute 1% of the Federation Account and it is known as the Derivation and Ecology Fund.
- The private sector can contribute to this fund to aid the development of the ecosystem.
- Manufacturing industries can embark on afforestation to replace the trees logged for industrial purposes to encourage a sustainable green environment.

Ways the actions will be measured

- Build monitoring and evaluation frameworks and tracking systems like dashboards for real-time data across the 36 States on improved agro-ecological and climate-smart agriculture.
- Provide technical assistance and capacity building programs to farmers to bridge knowledge gap through improved agricultural extension systems and this can be tracked by the ratio of farmers to number of agricultural extension officers as well as improved policies around agricultural extension system in Nigeria

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Track 4: Advanced Equitable Livelihoods

What actions in next 3 years will have greatest impact on the Discussion topic?

- Availability and adequacy of capital and data at all levels to stimulate broad-based incentive growth.
- Leveraging government, donors, and private sector resources for coordinated investments in infrastructure, and service delivery in the value chains.
- Mechanism and framework development in transparency and accountability among institutions, systems, and stakeholders.
- System automation to identify and track primary producers, buyers, and regulators in the value chains.
- Intermittent stakeholders' meetings and agricultural programs to advance an impartial livelihood and emerge the food system in Nigeria.
- The education and coordination of farmers in addressing issues of standards, quality, quantity, marketing, and involving them in incentive-based training through extension agents.
- Synthesis of service centers (registration and documentation of operators in the value chain, mechanization, irrigation, and agro-allied) with the local government and communities.

Ways the actions will be measure

- Development of a Policy framework that sensitizes Nigerian especially those in the manufacturing sector to increase the quality of their bags who in turn sensitizes customers to reuse them.
- Post-harvest loss- Develop a policy to synergise the private sector and government to preserve agricultural products in Nigeria.
- Organised private sector should collaborate with small holder farmers to come up with a framework for engaging the government to improve the transport infrastructure for ease of transportation of agricultural products.
- The private sector should present a position paper on some of the issues plaguing farmers to the government to exert pressure on them to ensure a good ecosystem for agricultural practices in Nigeria.
- Private sector and government should educate farmers and sensitize them on Policies currently in place that they can take advantage of for agricultural benefit.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

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

- The implementation and renewal of the National agriculture resilience framework (NARF) should be made a priority.
- Establishment of sustainable food system policy for national development and the review of existing frameworks for better implementation and productivity.
- Within CGI, take on climate risk profiles to map out opportunities to build resilience and quantify investments at the national and sub-national level
- Farmers should have access to climate information – information about impending climate problems should be communicated
- Get insurance companies involved in protecting informal farmers
- Engage state and local government actors in policy agenda
- Help farmers increase their yields – e.g. support for higher-yielding seeds, invest in seed systems, speed up the release process.

Who should take the actions?

- Flour Milling Association of Nigeria is funding a survey with NBS on local wheat production.
- Water Life Systems Africa is looking to roll out national programs on wastewater treatment using PPP and grants in Nigeria.

Ways the actions will be measured

- Build a measuring mechanism around policy and set key performance indicators
- Measuring mechanism which gathers feedback and information from private sector stakeholder – such as Nigerian export council working with NBS.
- There is a need to create a one-stop forum to monitor and collate the status of information in the agricultural sector: baselines for production, available seed variety, irrigation and extension services.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

- Post-Harvest losses: Surveys show that over 40% of harvested food produce is left to rot due to inadequate storage facilities, poor logistics, and lack of infrastructure. Proposed solutions to mobilise the private sector to invest in transportation of food across the country using specialized storage vehicles.
- Insecurity: the inadequate capacity of security agencies to provide security and the poor state of Nigeria's transport infrastructure discourages investment into the logistics sector of the food value chain. In the last few years, the farming community in Northern Nigeria has suffered displacement
- Poor quality Input: The unavailability and unaffordability of quality agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and seeds militate against the production of quality foods.
- The duplicity of standards enforcement: Nigeria has consistently failed to meet global food safety standards. This is a testament to poor adherence to food safety rules and best practices in food production in the country. Also, the duplication of food standard enforcement and regulatory mandates in government (SON & NAFDAC) constitute a hindrance to the effective management of food safety
- Market distortion activities such as bans on food e.g., Rice. There should be a plan to Improve local domestic infrastructure from planned food bans before implementation
- Several data sources on the status of food systems in Nigeria need to be harmonized
- Ambiguity in the certification and accreditation regimes. Integrate the regimes for the competitiveness of the stakeholders and operators of the value chains.
- Operation of logistics: Low-cost modular energy sources and technology for farmers and agri-businesses by the private sector.

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