

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 8 June 2021 14:30 GMT +06:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Role of Fresh Markets in Ensuring Safe and Nutritious Food
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA), BSAFE Foundation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Promoting Knowledge for Accountable Systems (PROKAS), and The World Bank
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20073/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20073/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Bangladesh

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

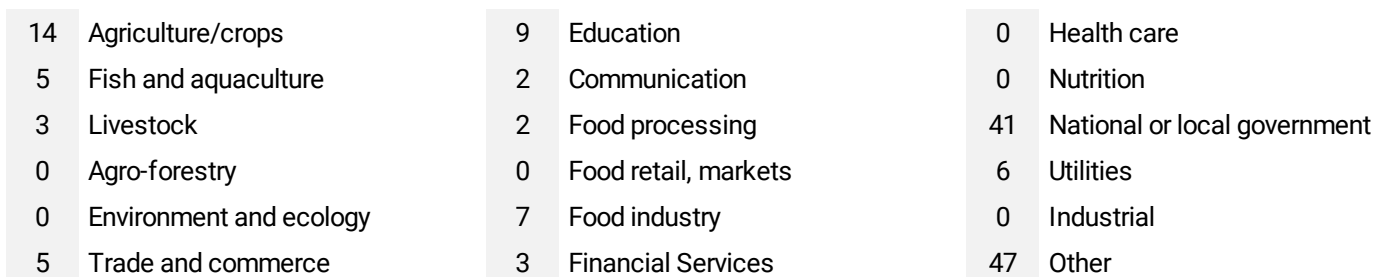
## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE



## 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 dialogue had six co-organizers coming from different sectors related to food systems namely, Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA), BSAFE Foundation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Promoting Knowledge for Accountable Systems (PROKAS) of British Council, and The World Bank (WB). BFSA is the central executive authority of Government of Bangladesh to ensure safe food at all levels. BSAFE Foundation is a not-for-profit civil society organization to address issues concerning access to safe and nutritious food to overcome barriers and challenges associated to food safety and nutrition and assist the government and policy makers in formulating appropriate policy environments. FAO, GAIN, British Council, and The World Bank are working with the government, private sector, and other stakeholders in multiple facets of food system. Thus, the dialogue brought together a diverse range of stakeholders working with the similar goals. This has paved the way to embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity, recognizing complexity, complementing each other's work, and building trust and partnership to work together for the transformation of our food systems.

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

Food markets are an important and integral part of the food systems. While organizing the dialogue, all the co-organizers shared the vision to promote food production and consumption policies and practices that strive to protect and improve the health and well-being of individuals within their capacities and circumstances, while respecting the local food cultures and contexts. The organizers and participants also recognized the utmost urgency of taking sustained and meaningful actions at all levels to transform our food system. They have also expressed their intentions to work together taking a systemic approach and to contribute their best to achieve the goals.

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

Ensuring participation or representation of different stakeholders is critical in order to explore and capture the nuances of the challenges faced by the food systems in a greater depth. Participation in the dialogues sparks enthusiasm among all to explore, engage, and contribute more into the process. Thus, Dialogue Convenors should create and widen the opportunities for everyone to stay involved.

# 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

Markets play a critical role in delivering food to urban populations. A recent FAO study indicates that 95% of urban poor mostly purchase their food from fresh markets as foods there, are fresh, diversified, and more affordable. However, food safety and hygiene conditions have been poor in most urban fresh markets. Due to absence of cross contamination prevention measurements and proper sanitation facility, fresh markets have been associated with the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 1 (SARS-CoV-1), and most recently SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) in humans. Fish constitutes 60% of total animal protein intake, but fish markets are commonly filthy, ill-managed, unhygienic and unhealthy. 50% of meat shops do not have proper drainage facility, 30% slaughter animals without inspection of a veterinary surgeon or meat inspector, 90% slaughter a sick animal, and 90% animals do not have anti-mortem examination. Risky practices (keeping live birds and slaughtering at the same place, keeping poultry overnight, holding poultry on floor, and housing sick and healthy poultry together), hygiene, and infrastructure in live bird markets (LBM) are associated with an increased likelihood of shop contamination with Avian Influenza Viruses. 62.8% shops do not isolate the sick, dehydrated, or physically damaged birds after arrival to the shops. No veterinarian is found in LBMs for anti-mortem and postmortem inspection.

Dhaka's population has increased by more than 4 folds in last thirty years, but market infrastructures and soft skills of people involved, have not been developed to handle such a boost in number of customers. Underinvestment in physical conditions of food markets has meant that bringing about change is a challenge with very little leadership coming forward to do so willingly in a coordinated manner.

Bangladesh incurs food loss during handling and storage in markets due to lack of technology, infrastructure, and awareness. It loses 30% cereal, 35% fish and 45% from farm to distribution. Post-harvest loss of fruits and vegetables ranges between 22%-44%.

The unmanaged food waste produced by fresh markets poses substantial threats to the environment (landfill gas emissions). These wastes can be used for energy recovery via waste to energy technologies, thus diverting food waste away from landfills. Reducing food loss and waste (FLW) and adopting these interventions can be benefitting for economy, environment, and communities.

Most of the fresh market workers work under very poor conditions. A field survey in various vegetable markets suggests that sanitation facility there, is not adequate and in some cases is not present at all. A study on meat shops found that 60% and 65% of them did not have toilet and hand washing facility, respectively. 87% of retail fish market workers do not wash hands after defecation.

The fresh markets and the backward value chain could not cope up well with the shocks of Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdowns. Urban markets have seen price hikes due to lack of supplies, whereas, the small scale producers suffered in getting their produces to markets and ended up dumping off the perishable products. Also, fresh markets lost customers because of allegedly being the hotspots of spreading Coronavirus, making people to switch to more expensive alternatives. The growth in online food businesses during this period has been inequitable, for both consumers and fresh market vendors.

### 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
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## MAIN FINDINGS

Improving the value chain to reduce food loss and waste and ensure food quality: Establish cold chains and device an integrated plan across the value chain ensuring proper price for products; forecast demands for major agricultural products and modulate production accordingly; invest in research for climate-smart production and marketing systems and scientific and hygienic post-harvest management and processing to increase shelf-life of perishable products; promote business ethics and modern trading practices; introduce dedicated refrigerated vehicles; use GIS mapping to select most effective spots to situate storage facilities; device pre and post-harvest waste management systems; promote community enterprise approach; organize farmers under cooperatives; ensure access to safe inputs, financial services, and wider markets; mechanize agriculture to reduce production cost; traceability

Upgrade market infrastructures: Build market infrastructures with trained manpower, WASH facilities, uninterrupted electricity, cold chains/ storage facilities, waste management and drainage systems, fire management and close routine monitoring by authorities engaging city governments, BFSA, and consumer associations; environment-friendly, gender-responsive, and climate-resilient physical designs; develop and implement a masterplan for markets; utilize biodegradable wastes in composting; improve crowd control; connect fresh markets with e-commerce; uptake digital payment systems; utilize resources in markets for food production for self-sustaining circular food system economy centering markets; mobilize public-private investments for market upgradation and transformation to smart markets; form fire safety response teams by market committees; source products from affiliated suppliers only; rapid food testing facilities; ensure proper functioning of market committees; introduce certification, grading, and registration scheme for actors; segregated space for different products and separate spots to display, process, and preserve; compliance with market infrastructure design standards; incentivize waste segregation at source; engage private sector in market management

Capacity building and awareness: Train up and build widespread awareness among all actors (from producers, vendors to consumers) on food safety, food and personal hygiene, safe food handling and transportation/ preservation, market maintenance rules, good conduct, waste management, food quality, and nutrition over mainstream and social media in collaboration with market committees, government, and private stakeholders; make farmers/ producers aware of safe food production and GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) through trainings and demonstrations; strengthen civil society and consumers' movement for safe and nutritious food; social and behavioral change programs; develop targeted knowledge products/ communication materials; conduct sector-wise mass campaign; trainings at different levels (market authorities, traders) on market management, governance, and systemic change to respond to shocks and crisis

Policy, governance, monitoring, and coordination: Enact legal framework including policies and programs aligned with international standards; horizontal accountability by all stakeholders; decentralized authorities; stronger and more coordinated monitoring and supervision throughout supply chain; prioritize development of market infrastructures in development agenda to ensure adequate allocation of public resources; enhanced cooperation/ coordination among relevant government departments and ministries; formulation of a separate body inside city government responsible for market infrastructure development, planning, implementation, monitoring, upgradation/ maintenance, and management; formulate and enforce regulations for better governance of markets; market management guidelines with specific responsibilities for market committee; provisions for penalties and rewards; stakeholder mapping with roles played by different actors to generate informed recommendations to enhance food safety; align all rules, regulations, and law enforcing agencies related to food safety under a common legal framework for better coordination and integration; incentivize value chain actors for producing/ marketing safe foods; record keeping system for traceability; decentralized laboratory facility; joint market monitoring through multi-stakeholder engagement; common platform for suppliers-traders-vendors-consumers; access to production and product information for consumers; forecast consumer demands and ensure supply of products accordingly to avoid price shocks and reduce food loss; engage CSOs and volunteer groups into complaint management; mobilize social investment and capital to leverage technology transfer, adaption of GAP, and market transformation towards responsible consumption and sustainable production; grading and certification of products based on testing; engage different stakeholders in decision making process; central monitoring system to track implementation of market management policies; strengthen monitoring systems; ensure good governance including accountability and transparency; formal institutional structure for market legislation; acts, rules in place with institutional structure to enact those; encourage urban agriculture; efficient coordination among physical infrastructure, management, and governance

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/10

### Discussion Topic 1.1: Market system, supply chains, and urban-rural connectivity - Challenges

In the prevailing subsistence-agriculture system in Bangladesh, small scale producers are the major contributor in the market systems. Foods travel not only from rural to urban areas, but from urban to rural, as well. Mostly fresh, unprocessed foods are transported from rural to urban markets, while processed and semi-processed foods make their way from urban areas to rural markets. Foods grown by limited usage of fertilizers and pesticides are considered safer among consumers. Rural areas are mainly considered as production centers, middlemen are believed to be transporters engaged in short-term storages and distributions, and urban people are chiefly consumers. In Bangladesh, food safety is an enduring issue and intertwining challenge due to consumption of contaminated, unsafe, and unhygienic foods that have long-term multi-faceted adverse effects on people. Unsafe food containing harmful bacteria, virus, parasites, fungi or chemicals (pesticides/ fungicides/ antimicrobial / heavy metals) cause more than 200 diseases and about 600 million people suffer from illness every year in the world. It has adverse effects on health, livelihoods, economic, social, political and environmental dimension of the society, which needs to be addressed with appropriate policy initiatives. Food safety is a shared responsibility between governments, producers, and consumers. Everyone has a role to play from farm to table to ensure the food we consume is safe and healthy.

#### Major challenges:

- Rural market systems are quite different from urban markets, though rural markets are the major marketing systems prevailing in the country.
- Supply chain is still traditional following age-old practices resulting in food loss and deterioration in quality and economic value. Modern trades, though slowly improving, constitute only 2% of the total market volume.
- Transportation of agri-products from producers' to consumers is very time consuming, often hazardous, and expensive.
- There is no or very limited cooling facilities available along the value chains.
- In most rural markets and urban growth centers, foods get contaminated by unhygienic environment, polluted water, and inappropriate handling, transportation, and storage
- Vegetables and fruits are not treated hygienically, which results in contamination and loss of freshness and nutrients
- Farmers are reluctant to grow safe foods using less pesticides as they think those products cannot attract consumers' attention in the markets, compared to products grown with excessive application of fertilizers and pesticides.
- More than 95% of the consumers in the market do not want to pay extra price for safe foods.
- At most rural and urban growth centers/ marketplaces, running water supply, sorting, packaging and storage facilities are unavailable.
- At urban points, departmental stores/ super-shops have potentials to offer safe foods but they constitute only about 1% of the supplies
- Sometimes, agricultural and non-agricultural products are transported altogether, which augments the risk of cross-contamination and food loss
- Transportation of agri-products from producers point to consumer point is very time consuming, often hazardous and expensive.

#### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/10

### Discussion Topic 1.2: Market system, supply chains, and urban-rural connectivity - Recommendations

- Establish cold chains across the supply chain to substantially reduce food loss and ensure quality and proper price for products, so that both producers and consumers can be benefitted
- Forecast demands for major agricultural products ahead and modulate production accordingly
- Invest in R&D for post-harvest management and processing to improve quality and shelf-life of perishable products
- Build market infrastructures through public-private initiatives facilitated with trained skilled manpower, cleaning and washing facilities, uninterrupted supply of electricity, cold chains and close monitoring by responsible authorities
- Enact legal framework including policies, programs, acts, rules, regulations, and guidelines aligned with international standards at national and local level
- Instead of vertical accountability, ensure horizontal accountability by all stakeholders. Decentralization of authorities and stronger regular monitoring and supervision at all the levels in supply chain need to be in place
- Government should allocate more funds and mobilize private investment for constructing suitable infrastructure like market places, storages, processing centers, training centers, and cool chains across the country
- Food systems have 3 dimensions: local, regional and global ones; a guideline to integrate these three dimensions need to be prepared and put in practice
- Upgrade fresh markets immediately, as more than 95% foods are sold and traded there, mainly by small producers and traders
- Encourage private sector invest in both rural and urban food systems and markets
- Implement 3A concept to improve market systems: 1) Awareness among all the stakeholders; 2) Actions needed to establish a sustainable market system and 3) Accountability in form of traceability, quality control, good governance, decentralization of authorities, and greater resource allocation
- Civil society and consumer's movement should be further strengthened for safe and nutritious foods.
- Promote community-based enterprising particularly for small scale producers and entrepreneurs
- Farmers and producers should be made aware of GAP (Good Agricultural Practices), such as proper amounts/ limits and times of applying inputs, through regular trainings and demonstrations.
- Scientific and hygienic post-harvest management and processing
- Mass campaign is needed to clarify that agro-products do not spread Corona Virus
- Encourage agricultural mechanization to reduce cost of production
- Analyse the 'syndicate' issue in markets (esp. among middlemen/ stockpilers) and formulate national policy to address it
- Farmers and small business operators should have easier and effective access to safe inputs (compost and natural fertilizers, safe feeds and fodders, natural pesticides, vaccines) and credits
- Linkages between aquatic and terrestrial food systems should be better understood and thoroughly analyzed to ensure production of safe foods
- Build widespread awareness among all actors (from producers to consumers at all steps) in the supply chain on food safety, nutrition, and its importance over mainstream and social media through advertisements, talk shows, brief videos; NGOs like BSAFE foundation can lead this; electronic media, esp. television can be the most effective media as most people can access it and pose greater belief on television contents
- Promote modern trading practices
- Introduce dedicated vans/ transports with short-term storage or cooling facility and make mandatory for agriproducts. Non-agricultural products should not be transported in the same vehicle to avoid any potential contamination. A round-trip rural-urban-rural transportation system can be deployed exclusively for agriproducts that will utilize the dedicated vehicles fully and efficiently, reduce transportation costs, and help keeping up product quality
- Establish an accredited laboratory to comply with international quality standards by government or by public-private partnership

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/10

### Discussion Topic 2.1: Role of markets in future food system (smart markets) - Challenges

The fresh markets are an important avenue for consumers, especially for middle to low-income consumers to get fresh and nutritious food at an affordable price. It is also the agglomeration point of all types of perishable and non-perishable food items including agriculture, livestock, and fisheries and for social interactions. Most fresh markets in Dhaka city are heavily crowded without proper ventilation and have unhealthy and unhygienic passageways, lack of parking space, power-back up system and poor infrastructure. The experience of shopping there can be stressful and lead to health and safety hazards. As a result, supermarkets are becoming popular. During COVID-19 lockdowns, e-commerce has flourished and endangering the very existence of fresh markets in future. Despite all the shortcomings, fresh markets are the main source of food for the middle- and low-income consumers and an integral part of Bangladesh's food system. However, there is a need to modernize the fresh markets so it continues to be the avenue for safe and nutritious food for low-income consumers while offering a healthy and safe environment. The concept of fresh market upgradation is about turning these traditional fresh markets into supermarkets. Rather, it is about ensuring that fresh markets' infrastructures (including WASH, ventilation, hygiene, fire services) are safe for vendors and consumers for improved shopping experience.

#### Challenges:

Vendors and shopkeepers need to hydrate vegetables and fruits to keep them fresh, as long as markets are open. The water they apply to keep the products fresh is neither clean nor safe. As a result, around 200 types of diseases emerge among which fecal coli form is one of the significant one.

Inadequate sanitation facility is another area that makes markets' environment unwelcoming for the buyers and sellers. Unavailability of toilets increases health risks for vendors, especially female vendors when they cannot access toilets for a long time. Markets lack proper handwashing facilities thus, vendors cannot wash hands after using toilets and after processing fish and meat, which increases risks of cross-contamination. Both vendors and customers lack basic knowledge of hygiene and waste management which pose threat to public health.

Due to lack of proper drainage facility, water clogs near the selling points and in the entire market area. This makes people's movement difficult and also creates an unhealthy environment.

Fresh markets in different city corporations do not have separate gateway for customers and food delivery vehicles to enter and exit. This creates traffic congestion in and around the areas where large and wholesale fresh markets are situated. In cases where passageways exist, those are narrow and clogged down with food wastes, delivery vehicles, and food stocks. This poor management of congestion augments the risks of spreading communicable diseases.

Fresh markets do not have adequate lighting and uninterrupted supply of electricity. As a result, the very limited storage facilities that exist inside the markets, get interrupted which results into loss of quality of foods.

Markets do not have separated space for live birds, other meats, fish, and fresh vegetables and fruits. Besides, fish, live birds, and meats are processed (slaughtering, cutting, cleaning, processing, and preserving) in the same place. There is no proper waste disposal system to dispose the wastes generated from fish and meat processing. Thus, fish and meat wastes and residues are often found on the floor. This is creating risk of cross-contamination and can spread many diseases (virus outbreak originated from animals).

Markets lack adequate manpower for fire management.

Local government has commitment, willingness, and legislations in place to improve fresh markets, but they have resource constraint.

#### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/10

### Discussion Topic 2.2: Role of markets in future food system (smart markets) - Recommendations

- Segregate the entry and exit paths and clean up heaped-up wastes or unused materials in the passageways to improve crowd control inside markets
- Improve ventilation and lighting by replacing the walls of the markets with transparent and meshed materials
- Put up rooftop solar systems on markets for power backup
- Digitalize transaction and business processes of conventional food markets; Connect fresh market vendors with e-commerce platforms to improve their access; Uptake digital payment systems to reduce risk of cross-contamination by replacing cash handling
- Utilize the rooftops of fresh markets for food production such as hydroponics, precision agriculture with IoT, and biofloc for fisheries, which can create alternate income source for low-income service providers working inside the markets and a self-sustaining circular food system economy centering the markets; however, research is required to identify the manageable and effective options for various kinds of markets
- Mobilize public-private investments to leverage the opportunities for market upgradation
- Changes in regulatory mechanism of fresh markets and governance of market committees
- Install adequate water points and sanitation facilities (toilets, handwashing points) inside fresh markets to ensure safe and clean water supply and proper hygiene
- Prioritize development of market infrastructures in development agenda of the government to ensure allocation of adequate public resources
- Enhance cooperation among relevant government departments and ministries
- Involve health departments to raise awareness regarding food safety
- Educate food vendors on safe food handling, risks of cross-contamination, and fire safety
- Conduct social and behavioral change programs and raise awareness among both vendors and consumers on personal hygiene, waste disposal and management, food safety, and good conduct in collaboration with market management committees, government agencies, and NGOs through IEC-BCC materials and other media
- Form a separate body inside city government structures which will be responsible for market infrastructure development, planning, implementation, monitoring, upgradation/ maintenance, and management
- Make fresh markets adequately spacious proportionate with the crowd
- Devise an integrated plan throughout the value chain to reduce food loss and keep up food quality
- Allocate separate vending spaces for live birds, other meats, fish, and vegetables and fruits; Develop separate facilities to process fish, live birds, and meats (slaughtering, cutting, cleaning, processing, and preserving)
- Develop proper waste disposal system in markets to dispose all kinds of food wastes; Introduce bin bags of different colors to ensure segregation of wastes at source
- Ensure proper fire management facilities in markets with sufficient manpower, equipment, and resources allocated
- Form fire safety response teams with participation of market committees
- Provide farmers/ producers with direct access to markets to improve food safety
- Formulate and enforce regulations for better governance of markets; provisions for penalties and rewards can be introduced

#### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/10

### Discussion Topic 3.1: Food safety and effective management of markets - Challenges

- Food wastes of fresh markets are disposed unsafely leading to contamination of the nearby food products
- Markets lack the minimal personal hygiene facilities for both sellers and buyers (handwashing facilities with soap is also absent), which augments the chances of contamination of the products from humans
- Shops are very congested with no separate sections for different food items, increasing risk of microbial cross contamination which is a food safety concern
- Markets lack sufficient supply of ices for preservation of fish leading to loss of quality and freshness
- Prices of agricultural products rise by four folds while reaching the end customers from farmers. Food traders often increase prices irrationally which triggers price shocks, putting low-income groups in food insecurity.
- Price of a few products sometimes rises up strikingly such as, onion, chilly, and potato due to fluctuations in production or imports. At such times, the syndicates of traders raise prices of those products even higher, to make very high profits unethically. Even if government takes steps to subsidize such price hikes by increasing international imports, reducing/removing tariffs on imports, and subsidizing those products locally, their initiatives make no effect as the private traders' syndicates control the entire market. Resisting such unethical business and disbanding the market syndicates are major challenges.
- Meat shops keep raw meat hanging in the shops without any covering which may spur microbial contamination.
- Vendors and buyers inside markets dispose all kinds of wastes together, without any segregation. There are no separate bins for different kinds of wastes and even if they are provided with separate bins, they are uninclined to segregate wastes. Thus, bringing behavioral change is a big challenge.
- Food safety gets compromised at production level sometimes due to presence of heavy metals (arsenic or lead) in the soil.
- Rates of food loss is very high along the chain while foods travel from farmers to the markets.
- Some of the vendors apply harmful chemicals to keep products for a longer time
- Risks of spreading diseases increase due to cash transactions conducted in markets

#### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/10

### Discussion Topic 3.2: Food safety and effective management of markets - Recommendations

- Maintain good hygiene inside markets, especially for vendors; raise awareness among vendors on personal hygiene; introduce and conduct regular health checkups for vendors
- Design and build necessary infrastructures to improve waste disposal and drainage systems of markets
- Develop cold chains throughout the value chain and cold storages inside markets for products such as fish to prevent loss of quality and freshness
- Encourage and implement basic waste segregate (biodegradable and non- biodegradable) inside markets; utilize biodegradable wastes to produce compost and use for soil fertilization
- Conduct routine market monitoring by food inspectors; engage city governments, BFSA, and consumer associations into monitoring
- Introduce grading system for food vendors
- Train up food vendors on safe food handling and preservation, and market maintenance rules
- Promote usage of refrigerated vans for transportation of perishable products
- Generate stakeholder mapping along with roles played by different actors to come up with informed recommendations to enhance food safety
- Develop targeted knowledge products on food safety for different actors with the help of social scientist and methodological approaches for better outreach and impact
- Establishing separate specialized markets only for fish and live birds to improve hygiene and waste management
- Put up potable water and sanitation facilities inside marketplace
- Improve product load and unload facilities in markets to reduce food loss and keep up quality
- Monitor waste management status of markets regularly
- Device pre and post-harvest waste management systems to utilize agricultural wastes efficiently (i.e. as fertilizer, animal feed) and to reduce food waste
- Upgrade traditional fresh markets to smart markets; examples of standard fresh markets from other countries can be followed
- Engage a third-party to manage vendors of fresh markets where all vendors will require to get registered with proof of identity and knowledge of hygiene and safe food handling to be allowed to vend in the market; allocate uniform for all registered food vendors
- Generate a list of safe food suppliers for each market and allow vendors to buy products from those affiliated suppliers only
- Keep rapid food testing facilities (nomadic labs) inside markets
- Raise awareness of food producers/ farmers on safe food production and GAP
- Align all rules, regulations, and law enforcing agencies related to food safety under a single umbrella for better coordination and integration; BFSA can be the suitable one to organize other agencies
- Develop guidelines/ user manuals for every actor inside markets mentioning their roles and responsibilities for proper maintenance
- Introduce grading and pricing of food items according to freshness/ proximity to expiry date to reduce food loss
- Use GIS mapping to select most effective spots to situate storage facilities

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 7/10

### Discussion Topic 4.1: Climate vulnerability, inclusion, and governance - Challenges

- Inadequate initiatives to educate consumers on food system and their role
- Lack of consumers' trust especially the educated group on food safety, as they believe that foods are not produced following safety standards
- There is no/ inadequate monitoring in fresh markets especially to ensure consumer rights
- Consumers pay tolls for public services but regulatory authorities often pay lower attention to improve market systems
- Lack of awareness about safe food handling, transportation, and marketing
- Inadequate consumer demand for safe foods
- No scope of traceability
- Food wastage due to inadequate storage and poor infrastructure in fresh markets
- No separate section for different categories of products in fresh markets
- Inadequate or inconvenient mechanism for consumers to submit complaint
- Lack of climate-smart and weather-friendly infrastructures and facilities in fresh markets
- Business of traditional markets are slowly shrinking due to expansion of online markets and super shops which is resulting into loss of work opportunity
- Fresh markets are not connected to e-commerce and online marketplaces
- Inadequate hygiene and sanitation facilities in markets for consumers, especially for women

#### ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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- 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 - 8/10

### Discussion Topic 4.2: Climate vulnerability, inclusion, and governance - Recommendations

- Conduct sector-wise mass campaign about hygienic food production, transportation, storage and mobile marketing system to enhance access to safe and nutritious food through fresh markets
- Allocate segregated space for different categories of products (fish, live birds, meat, vegetables and fruits)
- Incentivize value chain actors for producing/ marketing safe food, such as providing them safe food certification, ensuring greater market share and easing up market access for them
- Adopt good agriculture practices including record keeping for traceability
- Enhance joint market monitoring linked to enforcement of relevant laws through effective multi-stakeholder engagement (public-private partnerships); harmonize relevant laws
- Develop communication materials for digital platforms to bring changes into consumer behavior
- Develop women friendly market system
- Improve fresh market infrastructure with adequate hygiene and sanitation facilities
- Activate and ensure proper functioning of market committees
- Introduce certification scheme for fresh market actors
- Enhance coordination among government regulatory bodies
- Decentralize laboratory facility for food quality testing
- Develop separate slaughtering facilities
- Develop multi-stakeholder platform, common platform for suppliers/ traders-vendors-consumers
- Promote grading of products based on testing and certify them
- Set price ceilings for certain product clusters to reduce price shocks
- Ensure access to production and product information for consumers
- Forecast consumer demands ahead and ensure supply of products accordingly to avoid price shocks and reduce food loss and waste
- Form CSOs and volunteer groups and engage them into complaint management systems to empower consumers
- Develop climate-smart production and marketing systems and market infrastructures
- Designate BFSA as the coordinating agency to improve the fresh market monitoring and law enforcement

#### ACTION TRACKS

- |   |                                                                        |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ✓ | Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all      |
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#### KEYWORDS

- |   |                           |   |                         |
|---|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|
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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 9/10

### Discussion Topic 5.1: Role of governance and infrastructure of the markets in food systems - Challenges

Fresh markets within a food system are a complex circuit of various stakeholders at all levels (formal, informal, government, authorities), their key functions, their interactions, coordination combined within the overall system of the fresh markets and the way it all works as a whole with infrastructure, operations and maintenance and revenue management. Most of the fresh markets of Dhaka were built in the 1980s, however, not much upgrading has been done since then. Thus, these markets are often dilapidated and overcrowded with vendors and customers. With little reinvestment of profits or expansion, fresh markets lack the modern amenities, safety measures, basic services, and size to cope.

Fresh markets are essential parts of urban food system which impact food safety and affordability. They provide convenient access to food throughout the city for the entire spectrum of urban population. They connect rural and urban areas in terms of food and people. 85% of urban households in Dhaka, irrespective of income, purchase most of their fresh fruit, vegetables, fish and meat from traditional fresh markets. However, as fresh markets are usually densely crowded they have been marked as the potential "hotspots" of spreading COVID-19.

These markets are also "public institutions" packed with food, vendors, and shoppers, most of which are under-performing and not delivering the quality of services needed. Considering that 63 of Dhaka's 221 fresh markets were developed in the 1980s (when Dhaka's population was a seventh of its current size), it is no surprise that the markets need attention and urgent intervention. Therefore, how well fresh markets are managed and function will impact the livelihood of people in the short term, and economic recovery and employment opportunities in the medium term.

#### Challenges:

- Fresh market workers and shop owners do not use existing toilets, instead, they use toilets of nearby mosques or go back to their houses or wait until the market closes. 60% and 65% of meat shops and slaughterhouses do not have toilet and hand washing facility, respectively.
- 13,333 MTs of waste is generated by urban areas everyday (2005), producing 2.19 million ton CO2 every year, 68% of which is food wastes coming from markets and urban households, and 80-90% of which is biodegradable on average. Waste collection and dumping cost per ton is BDT 2,100-3000 in Dhaka metropolitan area. DNCC and DSCC spend 14% and 22% of their annual budget for waste management
- Most market associations are often unable to be strategic and deal with issues on an ad hoc basis.
- A 2010 study in Dhaka found that 42% of 100 fish sampled had been treated with formalin. Fecal bacteria from humans and animals were commonly detected on produce that is eaten raw, such as carrots and tomatoes.
- 45% of meat sellers do not know proper duration of washing hands, 30% of these workers do not have knowledge of zoonotic diseases, 85% and 90% of them do not wear protective coat/apron and gumboots, and 27% fish retailers suffer from lesions on hands, fingers, toes, and 10% had diarrhea due to unhygienic conditions and unsafe handling of fishes.
- Online sales rose by 70–80% during Covid-19 pandemic, with sales of grocery products the main contributor. 80% of e-commerce buyers live in metropolitan centers, leaving a large market untapped. Online vendors are predominantly formal private sector and do not cover informal food markets.

#### ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

#### KEYWORDS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 10/10

### Discussion Topic 5.2: Role of governance and infrastructure of the markets in food systems - Recommendations

- Upgrade physical features of markets with modern amenities and facilities to ensure food security, safety and affordability, considering local needs and food culture
- Introduce environment-friendly and gender-responsive physical design for markets
- Keep wide and adequate entrance and exit passages in markets
- Make market infrastructure resilient to withstand weather conditions such as monsoon
- Ensure WASH facilities in markets; build separate toilets for men and women
- Develop and implement a masterplan for markets
- Build infrastructures to allow better access for female traders and customers
- Upgrade by-laws and institutional arrangements such that to inform design guidelines
- Check and maintain compliance with market infrastructure design standards
- Develop a common framework to bring coordination among different acts/ laws and authorities
- Conduct studies to identify stakeholders' needs and roles, especially of vendors/ traders
- Train up and provide guidance to local operators to ensure safety
- Support small farmers/ farms so that they can best utilize the limited resource; organize them under some organization which can serve as an alternative to the conventional cooperatives
- Carry out monitoring for both agricultural and non-agricultural products that markets offer
- Organize and train up producers, transporter, traders, processors, marketers, and vendors on maintaining food quality throughout the entire value chain from production until delivery to consumers
- Promote community enterprise approach, as it has been successful in organizing producers
- Mobilize social investment and capital to leverage technology transfer, successful adaption of GAP, and market transformation with traceability towards responsible consumption and sustainable production
- Develop the rural markets and road centers which serve as the nodes in food systems
- Engage stakeholders (traders, vendors, consumers) in development of rules and decision making process through dialogues
- Introduce a central monitoring system to track implementation of market management policies; strengthen monitoring systems
- Engage private sectors in market management
- Build capacity of producers, traders and consumers to ensure food safety
- Make physical infrastructure, management committees, and governance to work together efficiently
- Device proper physical planning to ensure good governance including accountability and transparency
- Incorporate existing informal systems and understandings into market management guidelines
- Use the bylaw under City Corporation Act 2009 (section 7) which allows city corporations to allocate shops such that the shop allocation complies with the layout, plan and design of markets
- Introduce formal institutional structure for overall market legislation
- Get necessary acts, rules, laws, and bylaws in place and institutional arrangement to enact those rules and acts
- Form associations to manage markets following city corporation guidelines and taking public-private partnership approach
- Provide proper guideline to market committees; assign specific designation and portfolio to committee members with detailed responsibilities
- Provide trainings at different levels, market authorities, traders, especially on market management, governance, and systemic change to respond to shocks and crisis rather than going for ad-hoc solutions
- Incorporate climate resilient market design, reducing carbon footprint
- Encourage urban agriculture to reduce carbon footprint
- Organize food production in different zones to reduce travel time and distance
- Train up municipalities and producers about 3R to device waste management system, reduce usage of non-biodegradable packing materials, waste segregations at source, and connect them with waste traders/ recyclers
- Incentivize market cleaners to uptake waste segregation at source

#### ACTION TRACKS

- |   |                                                                        |
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#### KEYWORDS

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|   |                           | ✓ | Environment and Climate |

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There was no major area of divergence among the participants.

### ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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### KEYWORDS

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **UNFSS Independent Dialogue on Fresh Markets Official Feedback**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/UNFSS-Independent-Dialogue-on-Fresh-Markets-Official-Feedback.docx>

## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Media coverage link**  
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2021/06/08/study-95-of-dhaka-s-urban-poor-buy-fresh-food-from-kitchen-markets>
- **Media coverage link**  
[https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/modernising-kitchen-markets-stressed-better-food-management-257842?fbclid=IwAR3m9FntRCm0uotvnuopZgHgmv-hK\\_S\\_gHqZultyyMubrpXXMTUZY4dmqP4#.YL906eWXmCM.facebook](https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/modernising-kitchen-markets-stressed-better-food-management-257842?fbclid=IwAR3m9FntRCm0uotvnuopZgHgmv-hK_S_gHqZultyyMubrpXXMTUZY4dmqP4#.YL906eWXmCM.facebook)