

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 10 June 2021 03:30 GMT +05:30
DIALOGUE TITLE	Boosting Nature Positive production through Oceania Pacifika Food Systems
CONVENED BY	Shamika Mone, President, Inter-continental Network of Organic Farmer Organisations
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20125/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

121

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

4

19-30

41

31-50

26

51-65

4

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

60 Male

55 Female

6 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

41 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

2 Livestock

16 Agro-forestry

7 Environment and ecology

2 Trade and commerce

5 Education

3 Communication

4 Food processing

2 Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

2 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

35 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

9 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

1 Multi-national corporation

24 Small-scale farmer

7 Medium-scale farmer

2 Large-scale farmer

16 Local Non-Governmental Organization

12 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

4 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

9 Government and national institution

5 Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

6 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

1 Consumer group

24 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Organizing Committee for this event was a geographically, culturally and socially diverse collection of leaders from organic farmer organizations of the organic sector from the Pacific and French Territories, Australia and New Zealand in order to maximise the input of different stakeholders. The Invitation distributed via partner networks and social media channels was deliberately inclusive starting with French and English translated documents and messages. Follow up activity for registration included repetition and personalized outreach to members and supporters within the circles of influence of the Committee members. To set the stage for the Dialogue, a Discussion Starter document was created in English and French. The paper emphasized the critical urgency of reviewing, repairing, restructuring and re-inventing current food systems. It reiterated our commitment to organics, INOFO and the UN Food Systems Summit process, and the importance of input from stakeholders throughout the network. Plenary speakers presented in English and French with simultaneous interpretation. Three English and one French Breakout rooms were set up as choices during registration to engage participants in their area of interest and expertise.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Our Dialogue was a unique event tailored to the broad organic representation/stakeholders e.g. subsistence and commercial farmers and farmer organisations/sector bodies – incl. indigenous, certification/audit, education, farmers market, business owner, and to the Boosting Nature Positive Food Production Action Track, yet it was modelled on the UN Convenors' Reference Manual as well as other virtual Dialogues that members of the organizing committee had attended. In the lead up to the Dialogue, Breakout Room Facilitator and support team instructions clarified the importance of including as many voices as possible, anonymity through the Chatham house rules, and to set an atmosphere of equality and judgement-free brainstorming in order to capture every idea. During the Dialogue, welcoming remarks from INOFO President Shamika Mone and others laid out the principles, stressing inclusiveness of ideas, the urgent need to change the food system, and the importance of organic principles in the plan.

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

- Be prepared! Organizing, coordinating and executing an event like this virtually has many challenges. Pay attention to details and have contingency plans for as much as possible. Give the team plenty of time, map out and stick to a timeline. Adequate lead time for quality planning and to attract widespread participation is essential. Be sure to include someone on the planning team who fully understands the technology and is prepared to manage it.
- Crystal clear communications are critical. Despite our best efforts we still had miscommunications between us and with registrants. If possible, assign one person (possibly with an assistant) as the single point of contact and another in charge of all public facing messaging. Communication planning needs to include clear Action Items of who is responsible for what before during and after the event.
- Creating a safe space for open, honest discussion in the dialogue rooms can be challenging. Choose Facilitators with people skills in addition to technical knowledge. Encourage inclusiveness and a diversified representation of voices (by country, gender, age..) from the planning phase to ensure that the Dialogue will capture voices from the Region and reach out meaningfully to the each targeted audience
- Quality motivational speakers to stimulate discussion are important but the crux of the event is the Discussion, so focus on making that successful. Create adequate dialogue time for all voices to participate, consider a policy where everybody speaks once before anybody speaks twice in order to facilitate rich and open discussion. The prompting questions in the Reference Manual were helpful. Facilitators should meet together to discuss how to modify them for their audience, and how to bring consistency to all of the Breakout Rooms.
- Create a simple anonymous Evaluation Survey and send it to all of the participants immediately after the event and again with a post-event Thank You message. The feedback will show the planners what worked and how to improve.

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

We tailored our event from the recommendations in the Reference Manual yet adapted it to our audience, geography, and to the need for a virtual platform, therefore we will include the following explanation with this report. This was an interactive and independent Dialogue titled Uniting the Voices of Oceania Pasifika Organic Farmers through the Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organisations. The dialogue prioritized and targeted organic farmers in particular and brought together Pacific Organic stakeholders to brainstorm and propose evidence and experience-based, radical, game-changing solutions that propose transformative food production systems that will or would work for both people and nature. It provided a platform for diversified voices, ensuring fair and equitable representation of people of different genders, ages, and from different countries, territories and sub-regions. The Dialogue was Convened by the Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organisations through the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) of the Pacific Community, and Curated by Stephen Hazelman, INOFO Convenor for the Pacific Region. Facilitation was provided by a diverse coalition of colleagues from Pacific regional organisations, IFOAM Organics International and civil society. The Dialogue was conducted over 2.5 hours using Zoom. We targeted our focus on Action Track 3: Boost Nature Positive Food Production with a deliberate effort of establishing linkages to the other Action Tracks. The curation included three major sessions: 1. Session 1: Inspirational presentations where participants heard from five inspirational actors within the organic food system. • Dr Failautusi Avegalio, University of Hawai'i Mānoa Shidler College of Business – speaking on Cultural values and strengths. Moko Morris, Te Waka Kai Ora – speaking on Hua Parakore – Māori organics, validation and Indigenous rights, food sovereignty, community building. • Andre Leu, Regeneration International – speaking on Human and environmental health and imported foods including the scientifically proven dangers of pesticides. • Gilles PARZY TEHAU, POETCom Founding Member, BioAgriCert: International Certification Body, Organic Consultant – French Polynesia – speaking on the innovation of Agroecology Nature-positive production – regenerative, resilient • Franck Soury-Lavergne, BioCaledonia – speaking on the innovation potential for livelihoods of organic farmers. 2. Session 2: Facilitated breakout group discussion whereby stakeholders engaged in the work of Action Track 3: Boost Nature Positive Food Production at Scale. Through the registration process, participants chose from one of four virtual Breakout Talanoas (a traditional Pacific conversation): 1. People, Culture and Tradition – English 2. Health (inc. environment, social, economic) – English 3. Innovation (including science and research) – English 4. All topics – French Each discussion group was instructed to focus on statements zeroing in on systemic Solutions to food system problems. Participants were encouraged to create linkages across the three topics as well as the other UN Action Tracks in order to identify trade-offs, synergies, challenges and opportunities, and to co-design game-changing solutions. Participants were also invited to address some of the key crosscutting issues: such as gender and social inclusion issues, and climate change. All ideas were welcomed and appreciated under the Chatham House Rules. 3. Session 3: Our voices from the farms – Participants viewed short videos from Pacific Organic farmers as presenters organized their groups' input, followed by presentations from each Talanoa highlighting the significant Game-changing Solutions. The event closed with a reflection of discussion feedback including Game Changing Solutions from the four Talanoas, based on a rapid sense-making session by the Curator and Facilitators. The event was also livestreamed.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The Dialogue was centered around using organic practices to boost Nature-positive food production, emphasizing the linkages where organic agriculture is the vehicle to address; building resilience, advancing equitable livelihoods, shifting to sustainable consumption patterns, and ensuring that everybody has access to safe and nutritious food. We were not discussing only certified organic agriculture but organic agriculture based on the Principles of Health, Ecology, Fairness and Care. Shared regional values of love, kinship, relationships were a driver with the aim to go beyond sustainability – but to regenerate and find balance and harmony with our environment.

In particular, the role of organic producers, their organizations and the communities they are part of as the drivers of these changes and who frequently do not have a voice in food system policy discussions was a major focus. Farmers tend to be 'acted upon' by Governments and agencies rather than recognized as primary actors and agents of change and custodians of the land and ecosystems they work within.

It also focused on the 'Oceania Pasifika' region consisting of Australia, New Zealand and the 22 Pacific Island countries and territories. A diverse region both culturally and geographically but with strong commonalities, shared history including connections between the indigenous communities of the region, and shared values on which the Oceania Pasifika Organic Food Systems Dialogue was focused.

Our Dialogue strayed somewhat from the three UN defined aspirational outcomes of Protect, Manage and Restore to three aspirational outcomes inherent to Organics in the Oceania Pasifika region: Culture and Tradition, Health and Innovation. Culture and Tradition: The region has strongly held and maintained traditional cultural systems that provide not only valuable traditional agriculture and food perseveration techniques but also governance and leadership. This is a great strength of the region.

Health: The region has amongst the worst health statistics in the world with soaring rates of NCDs. We also have extremely vulnerable eco systems, the health of which is being severely impacted by practices of the current food systems and climate change. This is one of our most significant challenges.

Innovation: the remoteness of the region and the large distances between us has contributed to a strong culture of innovation and invention and a hunger for learning and creating new ways to meet our challenges. This is where opportunity lies for us.

These 3 areas also have applicability across all action tracks and will facilitate synergies.

The outcomes were fleshed out in the pre-dialogue Discussion Starter document along with open-ended questions to start people thinking of how to contribute to the dialogues.

This decision proved to work well as the participants, especially the Organic Farmers, who are familiar with the principles, needed little prompting to begin the Talanoa discussions.

The modern, industrialized, input dependent, export focused, agricultural Food System is failing, and the detrimental effects on Health, Equitable opportunities, Lifestyle, Environment, Climate Change and Local Economies is perhaps nowhere more apparent than in Pacific Island Countries and Territories [PICTs] as well as Australia and New Zealand. At the same time, Organically Managed Food Systems, including Pacific Organics, which includes Culture and Tradition, coupled with Science and Innovation, and the broad definition of Health to include Soil, Forest, Livestock, Fisheries Health, and including Social and Gender equity, are proving to be the solution to these challenges.

New and emerging approaches, when adopted alongside the use of traditional knowledge, and organic, regenerative and inclusive practices (such as agroecology, sustainable fishing and democratic food governance), give the potential to transition to nature-positive food production systems – ones that deliver a larger diversity of plants and animals to a growing population, without degrading the functional integrity of ecosystems, whilst meeting the nutritional needs of all current and future generations.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

As expected, each Talanoa had their own discussion with unique ideas and solutions, and also as expected, many of the same levers for change were identified in multiple groups. This overlap shows a strong precedence to prioritize the areas of agreement, while also recognizing the value of stand-alone solutions.

Although the Presenters and Facilitators worked hard to drive the conversations towards future statements and systematic solutions, all groups reported discussing the root causes, many of which are familiar themes. It seems that this was not altogether bad though as defining the problem is the first step to brainstorming solutions.

As detailed in the section below, the main findings or Game Changing Solutions identified include:

1. Leveraging culture and tradition, community knowledge and governance. Pacific Islanders and aboriginals are proud of their heritage. Culture and tradition must then be incorporated throughout our food systems, all the way up to policy and including indigenous governance training. Leadership buy in is essential, including National Governments as well as local, traditional and religious leaders. A successful revised food system will require a tremendous amount of policy, infrastructure and support. Our region is rich in Culture and Traditional Governance which can act as a lever for change and a framework for action.

2. Education, training and empowerment. Education, capacity building and knowledge products are critical and will look very different in an Organic Food System than they do in the present industrial model. Education will need to start in the early grades and continue through University and Extension outreach training. Education should include traditional knowledge. For this to happen we need to Capture and archive oral traditional knowledge and practices around sustainable living and food systems components. It also includes capacity building and awareness at community level. As some traditional knowledge is already being lost farmers and communities need awareness about the biodiversity they hold and the value of traditional practices for resilience – other parts of the world can learn from these.

3. Organic Farming must be recognised as a valued profession. They are the experts that lead the change. Organic farmers, are trusted experts with real-life experience which is respected and trusted. They are the ones who need to train not only other farmers but Extension staff, academics etc. Their involvement will never end but will need to be supported ongoing in order to keep the system practical, understandable and therefore successful. Farmers must be fully engaged in research and research funding needs to be realigned to organic. Farmers must also be properly compensated and full cost accounting implemented so they are also compensated for provision of ecosystem services.

4. Localisation. Supporting a local market economy is very important with food sovereignty and environmental sustainability as a goal. A comprehensive and wholistic approach to value chain development is required from production to markets. This includes using locally developed approaches for extension and training, for example the family focus works well in many places in the region, and research for local solutions. Also diversifying products to reach out to a wider market segment developing transformed products made from local raw materials.

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

KEYWORDS

✓	Finance	✓	Policy
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		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

Within our major discussion topics, we present what was discussed in terms of action areas to support impact. All groups acknowledged the interconnection between the action tracks.

Talanoa 1: Culture and Tradition

Pacific farmers are smallholders and indigenous by nature, resilient, sustainable, independent, rich in tradition and culture. In the Pacific region, organic production is both traditional and new. It is traditional in the sense that most producers to this day use tried and tested practices handed down through the generations that are generally in harmony with the environment and with modern organic principles. And it is new in that Pacific countries and territories are realizing the benefits of organics for obtaining access to markets, and the need for research and training to develop the sector.

Game-changing solutions captured in this Dialogue include

1. Leveraging community knowledge and governance. Pacific Islanders and aboriginals are proud of their heritage. Cultural preservation is a high priority. Most cultures are oral however, making the first priority to capture and archive them in order to preserve and pass them to future generations. Culture and tradition must then be incorporated throughout our Organic systems, all the way up to policy and including indigenous governance training. The Pacific Organic Standards already capture culture and tradition as a key guiding principle. The principle needs to be applied to Organic in an integrated and holistic approach to ensure the sustainability of our interventions. This includes applying a GESI perspective to untap potential of individuals (regardless their gender, age, socio-economic status...) and overall sector.

2. Tapping into academia and reaching out to youth must be prioritized.

3. Crosscutting with Health and Innovation, instilling indigenous knowledge into appropriate technology development, research and development, and implementation at scale is critical.

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KEYWORDS

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		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Talanoa 2: Health

Working on the premise of Health from a systems-wide perspective comprised of soil, plants, animals (including people), ecosystems, community/society and economy, etc., discussions revolved around the concept of food systems with the potential to improve health from many directions.

Game-Changing Solutions can be grouped under three broad concepts.

1) Create top-down, whole country support for organics at the national level. Country-wide bans on GMOs and synthetic and other inputs modelled on examples of islands like Cicia (Fiji), and countries including Bahrain, Sri Lanka and parts of India. In order to successfully ban chemicals, Governments must also scale up infrastructure for nutrient capture and recycling, as well as retrain Extension toward the elimination of chemicals. Cuba serves as an example of a country that has successfully changed their food system from one dependent on inputs, to a self-sustaining, nutrient cycling organic system where 80% of fresh produce consumed is grown within five kilometres of where it is consumed.

In addition to Political buy-in, significant investment in education will be necessary. University and related educators will also have to change from chemical use to teaching traditional methods, natural plant protection, vermiculture, seed saving, animal production etc.

2) Exemplify Best Farmers and Best Practices. Farmers want to be taught by farmers not "from the desk". Success will need support per #1 above to establish Learning Farms and curriculum based on real-life experiences. There is a strong crossover here with Innovation.

3) Applying a comprehensive approach to value chain development with the focus on Local. Generally speaking, Pacific Countries including Australia and New Zealand are fully capable of meeting the nutritional needs of their populations and need to shift from importing food and inputs to self-reliance, food security and soil sovereignty. This solution links very strongly to the other four Action Tracks. Exports are important for economic health but must remain secondary to developing local markets and taking care of the local communities/society. Market development, including to the hospitality sector, and value addition will need to be prioritized.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

Talanoa 3: Innovation

Organic farmers are innovative, successfully blending traditional methods with modern scientific knowledge. We know that the use of pesticides and inorganic fertilizers in these fragile Pacific ecosystems is problematic, yet farmers have become significantly dependent on them logistically and financially. We also know that natural nutrient cycling and Pest Protection Materials are possible for most agricultural needs. Due to the relatively recent appearance of Organics as a player in the agricultural arena, leading to the fact that organic farmers are significantly underserved in R&D and product development, the area of innovation is especially important for reinventing our Food System.

Game-changing Innovation ideas include

1. Investing in labour and time saving technologies, methods and techniques to make the profession of Organic farming more attractive to a wider number of people. Without mimicking conventional practices that are not regenerative, farmers switching to Organic need to know they can do so as a commercially viable alternative. Much of the innovation depends on sharing of current knowledge and technologies, which need to be collected, curated and in some cases scientifically tested.
2. As mentioned above under Culture and Tradition, this group also proposed exploring innovation into indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices. The Pacific Oceania community does not let go of their roots and highly values indigenous and traditional socio-ecologic farming and cropping systems. The region is more than ready to be proactive and pioneering on all levels. Based on their unique island and community structures, a multi-level approach with system transformation are likely to be successful in the Pacific.
3. Public and private funds and efforts to support research and innovation are critical and will need to shift focus from chemical/industrial research to sustainable practices. On the farming side this would include research on composting at scale, natural plant protectants and natural based livestock feed. On the production side, value added production without food additives and Organic compliant phytosanitary alternatives are among the top priorities.
4. To overcome barriers, lack of understanding and fear of change, the group identified the need for education at the community level an important and basic Organic and regenerative way of farming through a collaborative National and Organic Partnership incorporating already on the ground Organic certified farmers.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

With a group of participants as passionate and diverse as this, divergence is inevitable. Yet, when challenges are offered respectfully, dialogue can continue and ideas are strengthened.

There was considerable discussion concerning the role of government and universities, with agreement on the importance of Policy and Education coupled with experience that there is a significant need to implant Organic practices into these institutions. Discussions in all three Talanoas touched to some degree on people's resistance to change with first-hand experiences of farmers reluctant to take up Organic practices. Consensus realizes that this will be a major challenge for scaling up.

Along with resistance to change was some disagreement on the extent of challenges including labour, infrastructure, baseline data and data capture.

When discussing markets there was divergence on how much emphasis should be given to local versus exports.

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