

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 1 June 2021 13:00 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Dutch Member State Dialogue for the UN Food Systems Summit
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Ms. Beens, Director-General for Agro, Ms. Van der Heijden, Director-General for International Cooperation and Mr. Wijnker, Acting Director-General for Public Health. National Government of The Netherlands.
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20392/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20392/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Netherlands

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

361

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

12 Agriculture/crops

1 Fish and aquaculture

15 Livestock

1 Agro-forestry

14 Environment and ecology

15 Trade and commerce

33 Education

12 Communication

13 Food processing

12 Food retail, markets

29 Food industry

7 Financial Services

3 Health care

Nutrition

72 National or local government

Utilities

5 Industrial

117 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

25 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

13 Large national business

13 Multi-national corporation

2 Small-scale farmer

5 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

29 Local Non-Governmental Organization

16 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

63 Science and academia

1 Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

6 Local authority

83 Government and national institution

3 Regional economic community

4 United Nations

10 International financial institution

20 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

6 Consumer group

61 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

To ensure multi-stakeholder inclusivity, professionals from all parts of the food system were invited to the dialogue. A total of 300 participated. The dialogue built on numerous existing dialogues and initiatives aimed at making the Dutch food system more sustainable and achieving the SDGs. Participants of those initiatives were invited to give an update on progress and to help explore further steps. Chatham House rules and active encouragement to speak freely created an atmosphere that was conducive to a constructive and open conversation among stakeholders. A general, scene-setting, high-level opening session emphasised urgency, identified key features of the Dutch food system and suggested possible directions for solutions. The key challenges and pathways to solutions were further elaborated during six thematic break-out sessions. To reduce complexity, the plenary and the thematic sessions both focused on breaking down long-term goals into smaller, conceivable steps and on identifying the main conditions for these steps.

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

The plenary opening session and the thematic sessions could be attended virtually or for a small selection in person. Participants included representatives of the primary sector, food processing industry, retail, food education, healthcare, science, finance, non-governmental organisations, as well as national and local governments. Frontrunners and the Dutch UN youth representative on food and biodiversity also attended. Session moderators invited input from participants and audience members, encouraging them to express their opinions and ask questions. Each of the sessions sought to reflect on how solutions could contribute to the various action tracks and on the links between sustainability, health, economic inclusion and national and global dimensions. The Member State dialogue was aligned with a public debate on a food system vision that had taken place earlier in connection with the Rockefeller Foundation's Food System Vision Prize.

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

We strongly support the multi-stakeholder approach for the Summit. The gap between consumers and producers has widened over the years, and needs to be bridged if we are to change the food system. We therefore advocate involving both consumers and businesses from each part of the food production and supply chain. The involvement of frontrunners and young people can also create more scope for new and creative ideas.

# 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

The focus of this dialogue was on bringing the different aspects and stakeholders together in a comprehensive approach based on systems thinking. This approach included a broad range of stakeholders with direct and indirect involvement in the food system in order to address the interlinkages in the system.

The key questions discussed in the dialogue were: which further steps are desirable and conceivable in order to achieve a more sustainable and healthy food system that produces affordable food, is more nature-inclusive and has fair production conditions; and what do stakeholders need from each other in order to take the necessary steps towards this goal.

The dialogue was broken down into thematic discussions on sustainable and healthy diets, the food environment, finance, true pricing, food-feed competition, the Dutch food system in an international context, and new scientific developments.

### ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- Human rights
- ✓ Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

## MAIN FINDINGS

The main findings of the dialogue are as follows:

Policy gaps between the international, agricultural and health agendas need to be identified and bridged. This was underpinned by the role of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport; and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as joint convenors. Together, they advocated bringing together actions from different domains to help ensure coherence.

Participants expressed the hope that combining the results from the Global Food Systems Dialogues will led to agreement on common goals and a way forward at the Food Systems Summit. The climate agenda and the Paris Agreement were mentioned as examples of such goals and action agendas.

To raise awareness and increase involvement, the wide gap between food producers and food consumers must be closed. A growing number of initiatives aimed at improving mutual understanding already exist in the Netherlands, ranging from joint investment in and management of farmland to primary production. The involvement of young people and frontrunners is also necessary in order to break established patterns and help set inspiring examples.

Collaboration between science and policy is crucial for impact. The science-policy interface needs to be strengthened to raise awareness and reach agreement on the impact of policies and technologies on food system outcomes at national and international levels, and to arrive at scalable solutions and performance indicators for sustainability. Technology should be designed to work with nature, to improve environmental outcomes. The close cooperation between knowledge institutions, companies and governments in the Netherlands offers a good basis for jointly developing and testing new social and technological models for the food system.

The Netherlands can serve as a living lab, with its wide-ranging influence on food systems worldwide (e.g. 40% of all plant seeds worldwide come from the Netherlands). The Netherlands' experience and global connections can be used to help other countries develop their own independent food production system. The importance of exporting knowledge is expected to grow, relative to exporting products.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/6

### Sustainable and healthy diets

For many Dutch consumers, shifting to a more sustainable and healthy diet requires an adjustment in their diet. However, daily food choices are not necessarily individual and conscious choices, as they tend to be determined by the food environment (see below), habits and culture, as well as by food-related skills, including knowledge about buying, preparing and conserving food. The Netherlands Nutrition Centre provides public information on healthy eating, and there are also several national and regional food education programmes for children as well as regional initiatives involving citizen participation. Furthermore, a number of CSOs provide information and transparency on nutritional values and production methods and provide examples of attractive, sustainable and healthy meals. In 2022, the Nutri-Score front-of-pack nutrition label is to be introduced to make the nutritional value of food more easily available.

Nevertheless, a growing number of people in the Netherlands are overweight and make little use of information about the footprint of their meal, which often consists of ingredients from all over the world. In this sub-dialogue, participants discussed how we can help and encourage consumers to make more healthy and sustainable food choices.

The main findings of this session are as follows:

- Research shows that social norms greatly influence the choices people make. Existing programmes can be supplemented with further education and information activities, including giving examples, aimed at changing the social norm.
- Role models who lead by example could be very effective.
- Companies with a mainstream outreach can play an important role by setting attractive examples. -
- Changes to the promotion of and advertisements for products that do not fit well in a sustainable and healthy diet can also have an effect, by changing the social norm while leaving consumers freedom of choice.
- The effectiveness of communication can be increased by focusing on providing information at times of major life events, such as when a young person leaves the parental home. These are times when people are open to adopting new norms. To avoid the risk of losing the connection with consumers, it is important to use a positive message instead of emphasising what should not be done.
- Companies themselves can also change the social norm by making healthy and sustainable options the default option.
- Finally it is important to realise that changing a social norm takes time and requires a step-by-step approach.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/6

### Finance

Until now, the main focus in the Netherlands was on making production more sustainable with the help of defined measures. To leave more scope for entrepreneurship and long-term investment, a shift to a goal-driven approach is desirable.

The main findings of this session are as follows:

- To make the desired shift towards a goal-driven approach, farmers, the banking sector, CSOs and the government are working on a coherent set of key performance indicators (KPIs). A number of KPIs are already being used, e.g. the biodiversity monitor. Such indicators can be helpful in setting a pathway for progress.
- KPIs offer clarity for farmers and financiers considering longer term joint investments, as they enable benchmarking and monitoring of progress.
- For further progress, KPIs must be integrated into the whole food production and supply chain, including supermarkets, where they can serve as a tool for informing consumers. Furthermore, it is of the utmost importance to reach agreement at European level on a coherent set of KPIs in order to ensure a level playing field.
- Finally, a reliable measurement system is required to verify performance.

### ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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### KEYWORDS

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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/6

The Dutch food system in an international context

The food system in the Netherlands is entwined with the global system of agriculture and food supply in many ways. An extensive global trade network supplies our daily food. The Netherlands is considered a frontrunner in food production, as well as in innovation and technological development in the area of agri-food. As a major food importer and exporter, the Netherlands is also a key player in international trade. The Dutch food system is strongly dependent on the imports of raw materials while the global system faces considerable challenges related to social, economic and ecological sustainability. We therefore have a national and international obligation to make our food systems more sustainable. In this sub-dialogue, various stakeholders discussed what the role of the Netherlands could be in an increasingly global food system, specifically with regard to sustainability.

The main findings of this session are as follows:

- For the transition towards a sustainable food system, three routes can be taken: establishing international agreements, stimulating international codes of conduct with regard to sustainability and/or price incentives. International agreements and European ambitions can both foster transition pathways towards a more sustainable food system. Examples include the Sustainable Development Agenda, Paris Agreement and the Farm-to-Fork initiative.
- If sustainable production requirements are to be integrated into international trade agreements, the Netherlands as well as other importing and exporting countries will need to start a dialogue on more established sustainability standards and incorporate them into bilateral or multilateral trade agreements.
- Changing agreements will be time-consuming but the emphasis on dialogue is important: listening to each other in order to understand each other.
- In the process of making development more sustainable, cooperation is needed between all stakeholders, from consumers, producers, CSOs and banks to local and national governments.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/6

### The food environment

Our food environment, the way in which food is presented and the proximity of places where food can be bought, has a strong influence on consumers' food choices. Aspects include, but are not limited to, product range, promotions and advertisements, and the visibility of food. The current food environment regularly seduces consumers into making unhealthy and unsustainable choices, even though many people are open to making the better choice. In this sub-dialogue, participants discussed how we can make it easier for consumers to make healthy and sustainable choices, and how we can adjust the food environment.

### The main findings of this session are as follows:

- Food providers can change the food environment to encourage more sustainable and healthy options, for instance, by adjusting their product range, store design and setup, and nudging. In this way supermarkets seek to inform, inspire and activate consumers to make healthier and more sustainable choices.
- The process is not easy as food buyers are guided by their routines and habits. To accelerate change, some stakeholders suggest introducing marketing and pricing measures. The healthy and sustainable choice must be the easier choice, and must also be affordable. In City Deals local governments are working on pilots to shape the local food environment.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/6

### True price

The social benefits and environmental costs of production and consumption are to a limited extent reflected in food prices. Including these benefits and costs in prices can act as an incentive for more sustainable and healthier production and consumption. In this sub-dialogue, participants discussed how we can arrive at a 'true price'. The Netherlands has a Community of Practice on True Pricing that is experimenting with this. Recent studies were carried out into the potential of several methods of true pricing. The discussion built on these experiences. Key question was to identify the most suitable methods, in terms of reaching both consumers and producers, to reflect the cost of sustainable production.

The main findings of this session are as follows:

- Key performance indicators (KPIs) can be used as a proxy for true cost/true price. Recognised indicators can be linked to rewards for more sustainable and healthier production methods, like water storage and carbon capture and eco-arrangements in the Common Agricultural Policy.
- Quality label initiatives already exist in the market, but these are usually focused on more visible aspects (like animal welfare, hours of pasturing for cattle) or consumer health (such as calories). The steps taken are generally small, as consumers' willingness to pay for more sustainable or healthier food is limited.
- If acceleration is desired, the government can set minimum requirements for sustainability and quality, especially for less tangible ecological outcomes such as soil fertility and CO2 emissions.
- In addition, both the Netherlands and other importing and exporting countries will have to embrace more established sustainability standards (key performance indicators) and include them in pricing and (bilateral) trade agreements. Progress with the transition can and must then be assessed on the basis of these international agreements and ambitions at European level.
- Additionally, local empowerment and local amenities will help foster social change and social innovation.

### ACTION TRACKS

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### KEYWORDS

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	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
	Human rights	✓	Governance
	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/6

### Food-feed competition

To reduce CO2 emissions, cope with drought and variable precipitation, and reduce nitrogen deposition, livestock production in the Netherlands needs to change. The energy transition and increasing demand for housing put yet more pressure on farmland. Coupled with a growing population and increasing demand for food, we need new solutions to the food-feed competition. Currently, crops that would also be fit for human consumption are often used as feed, or feed is grown on lands suitable for growing food. In this sub-dialogue, participants discussed how we can arrive at a sustainable distribution of land use, and what we would have to change.

The main findings of this session are as follows:

- It is envisioned that agricultural land will in the future be used as much as possible to produce food for human consumption.
- Another top priority is preventing food waste and food loss, as well as high-value reuse of residual flows, for which European Union regulations now offer more scope.
- Strict requirements for food safety and animal health will be upheld. Change can be stimulated by frontrunners and leading by example.
- Finally, greater transparency for consumers, for instance by using quality marks, will improve their awareness about production methods.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There were no specific areas of divergence, but several points of attention can be formulated. The message on the speed of change needs to be realistic. Radical changes may result, for example, in a loss of consumer involvement. Furthermore, it is necessary to adapt legislation, such as on the reuse of residual flows, without compromising food safety. To maintain a satisfactory rate of progress, good examples and frontrunners may help to show the way with small steps. With regard to formulating goals in order to boost the development of key performance indicators, it is important to consider international arrangements and keep an eye on trade-offs. Key performance indicators need to be complemented with arrangements that link them to rewards, including from consumers.

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