

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Thursday, 3 June 2021 09:00 GMT +07:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	An In-depth exploration of Home-Grown School Feeding as a Platform to Enhance Local Food Systems
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	HE Sok Silo, Secretary General, Council for Agricultural and Rural Development.
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20978/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20978/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Cambodia

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

92

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

1 0-18      3 19-30      67 31-50      21 51-65      66-80      80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

68 Male      24 Female      Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

7	Agriculture/crops	26	Education	8	Health care
2	Fish and aquaculture	1	Communication	17	Nutrition
	Livestock		Food processing	14	National or local government
2	Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets		Utilities
4	Environment and ecology		Food industry		Industrial
4	Trade and commerce		Financial Services	7	Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

3	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
1	Large national business		Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation	3	Local authority
6	Small-scale farmer	42	Government and national institution
2	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer	9	United Nations
4	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
8	International Non-Governmental Organization	1	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People	2	Consumer group
	Science and academia	11	Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The event saw participation from technical experts and from various sectors and backgrounds including government (national and subnational level), private sector, NGOs and community (small-scale farmers). WFP and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) co-organized this event with the discussion content developed in alignment with the FSS principles. The range of stakeholders invited represented the many dimensions of food systems that HGSF is linked to – with the hope that the dialogue would help to identify partnerships and complementarities among them. Small group discussion centred around the following lines of enquiry: 1. How can HGSF best fight child hunger and address triple burden of malnutrition in Cambodia? 2. How could HGSF procurement models in Cambodia better contribute to building stronger nutritious value chains? 3. What coordination mechanism would best lead to maximizing the impacts of HGSF across the food system in Cambodia? Who should be involved and how? 4. How can HGSF programme best promote women's participation in the food value chain including nutritious food production and broader access to sustainable markets? Key challenges and opportunities arising from these topics were brought to plenary discussion at the end of the dialogue and all participants were encouraged to post questions and share inputs.

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

The format of using break out rooms to support small group discussion on key topics provided a comfortable space for open discussion and engagement. The dialogue was designed to promote inclusion - with simultaneous translation available for both English and Khmer speakers to actively participate. This whole process provided an environment where participants from different backgrounds and perspectives had a space to engage and contribute.

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

The online platform can be a challenge for sub-national government and community members to fully engage in discussion from a digital perspective. There should be more guidance and briefing at the beginning of the workshop to ensure that all participants are able to use the digital technology required for the session.

# 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 dialogue brought together about 90 participants from various backgrounds including government officials at national and subnational level, development partners, and private sector to discuss and explore the impacts of Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSF) as it contributes to local food systems in Cambodia. Recognizing that HGSF can be considered a game changer for strengthening local food systems globally, through its multiple benefit pathways, this dialogue set out to further explore some of the dimensions of HGSF in Cambodia that impact food systems and identify key steps in taking these forward in partnership within the framework of the Food System Summit (FSS).

The focus of the event was to identify opportunities for HGSF to be a game changer contributing across local food systems in Cambodia. HGSF, a national programme in Cambodia, is a school feeding model that is designed to provide children in schools with safe, diverse and nutritious meals, sourced locally from local markets, thereby supporting local agricultural production and processing and providing an ongoing market for local farmers. HGSF has multiple benefits across many food systems and supports a number of SDGs. It directly increases access to nutritious food for children, as well as providing economic support to actors across food value chains and also influences food preferences, knowledge and attitudes. The dialogue aimed at collecting inputs from key stakeholders to identify synergies, opportunities and challenges to unlocking the potential and maximizing the impact of HGSF as an important contributor to sustainable food systems.

### 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

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

## MAIN FINDINGS

It is undeniable that HGSF has huge potential as a game changer in building sustainable local food systems in Cambodia. The programme currently reaches over 1100 schools across the country targeting areas with the most vulnerable households and empowering local producers/suppliers to build local sustainable agriculture supply chains.

Under the identified key topics, a number of recommendations were highlighted by groups as key points to be taken forward to strengthen the HGSF model and its implementation. Those include:

1. Support the development of school meals that can address triple burden of malnutrition in Cambodia. The design of school meal menus to ensure nutritionally adequate and cost-efficient meals to school children is critical for the effectiveness and sustainability of the HGSF programme. Stakeholders discussed the need to build on the current model – through engaging across sectors – to further enhance both the nutritional content and cost effectiveness of the model. Linked to this, activities such building school vegetable gardens, creating a safe school environment and investing more on research are essential to maximizing nutrition values for school meals.

2. Review and revise the HGSF procurement model to contribute to strengthening nutritious value chains. The current HGSF procurement model is based on a purely local model whereby commodities are sourced through the commune, from the commune. In a vision of expanding HGSF nationally, touched on the concern if it is still suitable model for bigger coverage. No concrete recommendation for procurement model was raised, however, it has been recognized as an ongoing topic to be discussed, learned and reviewed in order to develop a sustainable procurement model for the national HGSF Programme.

3. Reinforce multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms at national and sub-national level to effectively steer and implement the programme. NSPC and MoEYS are playing crucial roles to establish and facilitate the effective mechanism platform for national HGSF programme. The active and systematic involvement from technical ministries such as MAFF, Mol, MoH, MoC, MoWA, etc., at national and sub-national levels need to be enhanced.

4. Ensuring meaningful participation of women in HGSF. Women have played big roles as part of small-scale farming in Cambodia. HGSF Programme has great potential to contribute to gender transformation change in the community by including a strong approach to empowering women in programme design and implementation.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

### TOPIC 1. Nutrition

How can Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) best fight child hunger and address the triple burden of malnutrition in Cambodia?

Recommendations for HGSF to address the triple burden of malnutrition include:

Revisiting food/menu options: the design of menus (composition and quantities) should be oriented towards standard food requirements for children as well as the kind of food and the quantities which local farmers can supply to schools. The food menu should include fortified, diversified, and nutritious food components. It needs to also adapt to local taste for school children. It is one of the most important aspects for the present and potential local food production through smallholder farmers as well as other aspects such as markets and aggregation systems. The Programme should consider providing more nutrition awareness raising and other relevant materials (e.g. cook- book) for both school children and people involved in food handling to improve their nutrition knowledge and practices.

HGSF has been considered as a platform to address nutrition issues in schools and community by linking farmers/ farmers' association to markets through the supply of diverse food commodities to schools. The discussion looked at how to ensure locally procured food supply to schools can be sustainable, timely, cost effective and how to avoid a mismatch between supply and demand sides. Proper planning between schools and producers was highlighted as very important, then putting all those plans in a concrete agreement, with technical support from relevant actors (Mol, MAFF, etc.). A wider scale coverage beyond the current 10 provinces was recommended.

Promote vegetable growing in schools and community: School/community vegetable gardens hold special promise in areas where children do not have regular access to fresh fruits and vegetables especially in the remote or mountain areas. School gardens combat malnutrition by giving students/ communities not only the chance to learn about nutrition and healthy eating, but also access to land in which to grow healthy food and food systems.

To fight all forms of hunger through improving nutrition, we need to start with food availability at community level, maybe from food production/ supply at school that could also be used by communities. It would also be good to equip children with agriculture life-skills that could be used at home as well as for their life. This would contribute to improve nutrition status in the whole community and make more nutritious food available in the markets.

Establishing farmer's associations in the community can also help encourage individual households to produce a variety of food (vegetable, chicken, livestock, etc.), and ensure more local food availability and sustainable response to the food demand within community.

Safe school environment: with food safety promotion at schools, students can access safe and nutritious meals. Junk food is not allowed to be sold in schools as per strict guidance from MoEYS/ School Health Department.

Nutrition sensitive HGSF: The Programme should consider nutrition sensitive activities such as community awareness on health, oral care, deworming, healthy/unhealthy food, nutrition, WASH, etc., improvement of WASH infrastructure, vegetable growing, safe kitchen/cooking utensil (no plastic material used with hot food).

Research: Existing studies (e.g., Cost of Diet, Food and Nutrition Guidelines, ISPA - FSN, School Feeding feasibility study, HGSF as poverty alleviation etc.) have been valuable in informing decisions for the national HGSF programme establishment. There are still many gaps in what we need to know to take the programme forward, however. More analysis is planned on HGSF supply chains (e.g., farmer and market, etc.) and how can we support national HGSF Programme to support nutrition sensitive value chains, and how we could understand nutrition outcomes and environment outside the school through supply and values chains around school, e.g., snack food, etc.

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### KEYWORDS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

### TOPIC 2. HGSF procurement models

How could HGSF procurement models in Cambodia better contribute to building stronger nutritious value chains?

Smallholder farmers play a crucial role in producing local food to supply to school for HGSF. A lot needs to be done to support smallholder farmers to sustainably produce safe agriculture products.

- Establish and strengthen farmer networks.
- Promote engagement of local authorities, private sector, and technical ministries
- Provide capacity building on both technical and soft skills such as agriculture techniques, business, coordination, leadership, and other relevant skills to farmer groups.
- Provide support to farmer groups, especially those who don't have enough resources such as agriculture inputs, capital and networking.
- Support farmers, especially women, to access local and national markets. This can be done through creating community markets, promoting local foods and campaigns to increase demand for healthy food.

While the existing procurement process is effective for the current HGSF Programme, concerns have been raised on its suitability model if the Programme is scaled up national-wide. Improvements in areas were identified in the dialogue discussion including promoting collaboration with subnational authorities from province to commune levels, private sectors and NGOs. Commune authorities have been identified as the key actor to lead and making sure procurement processes are transparent and inclusive. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) should be more involved in the local procurement process, especially in helping to ensure on food quality and safety, and supporting contracts.

### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

### TOPIC 3. Sector collaboration

What coordination mechanism would best lead to maximizing the impacts of HGSF across the food system in Cambodia? Who should be involved and how?

Effective coordination mechanisms are essential to drive the implementation of the HGSF Programme at national and sub-national level. MoEYS has been actively leading the national Programme while NSPC has been supporting the coordination and links with other social assistance programmes. Dialogue stakeholders collectively agreed that there should be more involvement from technical ministries such as MAFF, Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSAVY), the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) and the Ministry of Interior (Mol) to ensure the sustainability and country-wide scalability of the Programme.

To promote multi-sectoral engagement, NSPC plays big role in promoting national level coordination across sectors. At the sub-national level local authorities, cooks, parents, development partners, government and private sectors can be leaders in promoting health, hygiene, nutrition, food safety...etc.

The roles and responsibilities as well as coordination mechanisms should be described clearly in relevant legal documents (policy, strategy, Anukret) and operational guidelines and clearly communicated to relevant institutions.

Efforts are needed to strengthen the existing coordination mechanisms at provincial, district and commune levels. We should link HGSF committees to existing government platforms to strengthen these links with other agricultural initiatives. Involvement from private sector stakeholders and NGOs remains a gap in the current operational model of HGSF. Increase the engagement of these sectors will lead to programme improvements, especially in term of accountability, transparency and promote diversity of food production value chains.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

### TOPIC 4. Women's participation

How can HGSF Programme best promote women's participation in the food value chain including nutritious food production and broader access to sustainable markets?

Engaging women meaningfully in food value chains is still a challenge within the HGSF programme. While having many opportunities, there are also some gaps that need to be addressed to achieve gender equity, particularly for women farmers/suppliers. These include (1) limited business skills and knowledge, both technical and soft skills for women, (2) traditional gender roles leading to limited opportunities for women to participate in social and business activities, (3) inadequate supporting mechanisms and incentives for women to actively engage in markets, agriculture etc.

There are various opportunities for HGSF to address these challenges in order to promote women's participation in food value chains, including:

- Conduct a comprehensive gender analysis to understand root causes related to gender norms and other challenges that limit women's participation in HGSF.
- Provide capacity strengthening support to better equip women with the necessary skills and knowledge to engage with the HGSF mechanism. Areas could include business, marketing, agriculture techniques, leadership, coordination and networking.
- Provide funds, agricultural inputs and other support on capacity strengthening.
- Clearly define the roles of women in HGSF: how best they can be involved and what the enablers are for their participation.
- Engage men, especially commune councils, to get their support for women involvement in HGSF through providing basic training on gender and awareness raising campaigns on gender roles.
- Promote women champions in the community to encourage other women to follow the model.
- Strengthen food value chain analysis which can lead to identifying new market opportunities.

### ACTION TRACKS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
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### KEYWORDS

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

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

No particular areas of divergence. Although more time was perhaps needed to pin down the details of the following:  
- It was agreed that the governance of HGSP really needs to have participation from across sectors, although the mechanism for this still needs to be further elaborated/decided

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Remarks by Ms Claire Conan, Representative and Country Director, WFP**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/SFP-dialogue--WFP\\_remarks-030621.pdf](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/SFP-dialogue--WFP_remarks-030621.pdf)
- **Remarks by HE Put Samith, MoEYS**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Speech-H.E-Put-Samith-En.docx>
- **Opening Remarks by HE Sok Silo, Secretary General, CARD**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Speech\\_on\\_Home\\_Grown\\_School\\_feeding\\_Program\\_on\\_3\\_June\\_2021\\_EN.docx](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Speech_on_Home_Grown_School_feeding_Program_on_3_June_2021_EN.docx)