

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 10 June 2021 16:30 GMT +05:30
DIALOGUE TITLE	Presentation on the perspective of African Organic Family Farmers on sustainable food systems
CONVENED BY	Ms Shamika Mone, President, Inter-continental Network of Organic Farmer Organisations
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21034/
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

98

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

52 Agriculture/crops
Fish and aquaculture
Livestock
Agro-forestry
Environment and ecology
Trade and commerce

22 Education
Communication
1 Food processing
1 Food retail, markets
Food industry
2 Financial Services

Health care
Nutrition
3 National or local government
Utilities
Industrial
Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan
Large national business
Multi-national corporation
52 Small-scale farmer
Medium-scale farmer
Large-scale farmer
15 Local Non-Governmental Organization
International Non-Governmental Organization
Indigenous People
Science and academia

Workers and trade union
Member of Parliament
Local authority
2 Government and national institution
Regional economic community
United Nations
2 International financial institution
Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
Consumer group
Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The selection of participants involved geographical consideration for organic farmers from different locations, religions and ethnic groups in Africa. INOFO and Seed Savers Network had developed a concept with clear objectives for the dialogue. The participants were briefed on the expectations of the dialogue using local languages in order to deepen their understanding. To enrich the dialogue, the organic farmers worked in 8 small groups in Kenya and also in Mauritius a group of farmers were also in a hall. This helped them to share their experiences, ideas and concerns amongst themselves and amplify their voices. There was a plenary session which was open to all participants and comments, questions, suggestions and clarifications were made openly and recorded. French and English interpretations were provided

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The structure of the dialogue enhanced high level interaction which was self-driven. Participants were treated equally despite their origin, religion, ethnic group or social status. Both local and international languages (French and English) ensured full participation and contribution without any language barriers through interpretations. The dialogue was organic farmer centered which ensured only issues and concerns of this group were the basis of the dialogue. Participants were accommodative and respected the experiences and challenges shared by other participants. Moderation supported the dialogue by ensuring the participants remained on the predetermined objectives. This ensured optimal utilization of the set time for dialogue. All the strategies set to guide the dialogue enabled farmers and participants to articulate their issues freely.

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

Organizing a dialogue with diverse participants requires more planning and adoption of strategies that recognize and embrace each of the participants. Any deviation from this would lead to dominance of the dialogue by a few participants and also result in inequality. These would compromise the quality of the deliberations as it will be skewed towards the few. Thus designing a dialogue which is participatory requires integration of principles of engagement to ensure equality and transparency. This will enrich the deliberations as participants will share freely amongst themselves issues affecting them.

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

The dialogue was coordinated by INOFO Africa secretariat. Secretary General Mr.Famara gave an overview of the INOFO focus and its membership. Participants who had not heard of the organization sought for clarifications. There were 2 keynote speaker: M/s Claire coordinator-African Network for the Right to Food from Togo. She unpacked more details on the UN Food Summit and shared the intent which was geared towards coming up with resolutions which will be adopted by different countries and included in the food system. She retaliated that sustainability should be the focus by adopting supportive standards to help develop environmental conservation. Therefore the UN Summit will impact on the policy direction of the government and shape the interventions to be adopted in the food chain. She gave insights on the possibilities of having outcomes on the voluntary sustainability standards that focus on small scale farmers by ensuring that big corporates do not overshadow them. This can only be achieved when small scale farmers participate and are involved in the UN Food System Summit. Therefore, it will be important for family and organic farmers at the national and international level, in Africa, submit their issues and amplify their voice. M/s Anne Maina National Coordinator-Biodiversity and Biosafety Association from Kenya. Her contribution was the issue that civil society has raised regarding how the UN Summit is organized. This relates to the position of African Green Revolution Alliance (AGRA), with headquarters in Nairobi , headed by Dr Agnes, as key organizers of the summit. She reported that over 1 Billion USD has been invested by AGRA in Africa since its establishment and the impact is not visible. She also shared that 20% of African population are food and nutrition insecure. The approach of AGRA in Africa has been one of promotion of inorganic fertilizers, hybrid seeds and pesticides which is not acceptable in agro ecology or organics. Therefore their involvement in the summit puts agro ecology at a bigger risk, if the resolutions are made within the context of conventional agriculture. She also shared on the efforts of Alliance for food Sovereignty in Africa by promoting transition to agro ecology and recognition of food sovereignty where farmers have control and ownership over their seeds. Corporates have hijacked the food chain and are striving to create a monopoly through mergers like what happened recently to Monsanto and Bayer. As a case study, she shared the Kenyan punitive laws in agriculture quoting potato regulations which are affecting farmers directly as well as the Livestock Bill, 2021 which is requiring bee farmers to register and failure to which a heavy fine is provided. The dialogue also involved group and plenary discussions. Participants interacted freely physically or virtually. The group that was hosted at Seed Savers hall had a one on one discussion of various issues in the current food system. All the participants had a constructive and valuable engagement in the zoom meeting where they exchanged ideas and shared their plight in the food chain. Interpretation was provided in French and English to enhance the communication.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Objectives and Focus of the dialogue

To create awareness on the Un Food System Summit to stakeholders in Africa

Access of information is critical in advocating for a fair and just food system. The dialogue provided an avenue to bring together various stakeholders from governmental and non-governmental organizations to engage meaningfully and timely to develop their proposition regarding what is desirable in the food chain.

This required dissemination of vital information regarding the Summit and why it is very important to us all. To enhance this, Seed Savers Network and INOFO invited a number of experienced Organic farmers and activist in the food system who have taken lead in campaigns against genetically modified organisms and pesticides in Kenya.

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

To facilitate a dialogue for organic farmers to air their opinions on the shortcomings of the current food system in regard to organic food

Organic farmers are faced with numerous challenges ranging from limited access to seeds, production and marketing constraints. This can be attributed from policy framework and interventions which are skewed towards conventional agriculture in Africa.

Thus offering a platform where the farmers deliberated on these issues and gave their suggestions on how the current food system can be improved was needed. This was achieved through this dialogue where organic farmers got a chance to sit on the round table to share on their challenges and offer a practical way forward that can reshape the current food system.

To deliberate on how organic farming can safeguard food sovereignty in Africa

The current food chain is skewed towards commercialization and input driven production systems. It continues the dependence on multi-national companies in supply of seeds, which are overpriced, and harmful chemicals. This is detrimental to the livelihood of small-scale farmers who are living below the poverty line, as a majority earn \$2 or less per day.

The farmer is already disadvantaged economically and is further deprived of their freedom to use inputs available in their localities for food production. It therefore becomes automatic that the farmer cannot make decisions on what to plant independently as s/he relies on what is available in the agro vets.

This reduces crop diversity and food diversity on what the farmer feeds to their family. The situation creates food and nutritional insecurity which can be intervened when farmers have right and control on what and how to produce their foods.

Outcomes

Organic farmers in Africa shared challenges and suggestions of their desired and ideal food system that serve their needs as follows:

Challenge: High Production and marketing of harmful chemicals

Suggestion: Developing an institutional framework to monitor and assess chemical toxicity. This means respective countries will have mandated institutions and laws that will restrict the use of chemicals that endanger the survival of mankind and biodiversity.

Challenge: low Involvement and participation in decision making processes.

Suggestion: Proper representation in the summit by real farmers who understand grassroots problems in agriculture. The voice of the farmer is not being represented by farmers but agents without mandate.

Challenge: High cost of certification

Suggestion: Localizing certification by recognizing local certification schemes. This will ensure affordability

Challenge: Minimal Organic agriculture training and courses

Suggestion: Raising awareness on the benefits of organic farming and supporting institutions to train agriculture professionals and farmers.

Challenge: Marketing of organic Produce and improving organic farmers livelihood

Suggestion: Developing organic agriculture markets and government interventions in supporting organic agriculture.

Challenge: Policy and laws that discriminate against organic farmers

Suggestion: Protection of farmers rights on seeds and in using local soil fertility amendments.

Challenge: Loss of agro biodiversity

Suggestion: Food system should have diverse crops and recognize the contribution of farmers managed seed systems. The summit therefore should put mechanisms to control bio piracy of pl

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

ACTION TRACKS

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy |
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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

ACTION TRACKS

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