

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 15 July 2021 11:30 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Global Wyss Academy Dialogue on Harmonizing food systems and nature conservation: towards just nature-people relations
CONVENED BY	Tatjana von Steiger, Head Global Policy Outreach, Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21140/
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

123

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

33

19-30

45

31-50

45

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

67 Male

56 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

6 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

6 Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

15 International Non-Governmental Organization

4 Indigenous People

31 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

5 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

3 United Nations

1 International financial institution

22 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

30 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

We started with a cross-regional dialogue allowing stakeholders from four regions to exchange among themselves, before entering into a cross-regional exchange. This allowed some that are not used to speak publicly to bring in their ideas / voice their concerns. As we had the first dialogue kicked off by a keynote of a young entrepreneur and activist from Ghana, this motivated also other youth to speak up. Also, in bringing in different views from different stakeholders, we were able to create a safe space.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

multistakeholder plus multisectoral; throughout the process we had a strong involvement of youth representatives. We also brought in voices that criticize the FFS21 for not being inclusive. As we invited in the global dialogue participants to challenge our declaration, and were open and transparent about the various views this helped to build trust in our dialogue and created a atmosphere that led to an animated and vivid discussion with good recommendations.

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

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

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Starting from the question on how to harmonize food systems and nature conservation towards just nature-people relations the dialogues were first reflecting in regional disparities and commonalities. Similar challenges were identified across the four regions in their transformation towards a just and sustainable food system and the following entry points were identified:

promoting opportunities for the youth in the food system,

realizing nature-positive and just food production, as well as

bridging the disconnect between consumers and producers towards fairer food supply chains.

The synthesized regional perspectives were incorporated into the discussion with global stakeholders and renowned experts. The global dialogue verified and refined the outcomes from the regional conversations and emphasized the importance of additional, cross-cutting points:

The role of power asymmetries in the food system, with the poorest and the non-humans paying the prize.

The importance of contextualized, local solutions, incorporating local knowledge, people and perspectives.

The recognition of the interactions between food systems and health systems, with healthy food depending on healthy environments.

The role of emotions as important drivers of change for the transformation towards a sustainable food system.

The importance of gender equality for a sustainable food system.

Focusing on the true cost of food in terms of unpacking the value of the food system.

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

MAIN FINDINGS

To harmonize food systems with nature and climate protection and human wellbeing, just nature-people relations must be put center stage. We call for recognizing, harnessing and protecting the wealth of knowledge from diverse systems, including lay, practical and local knowledge that can help us make our global food system more just, sustainable and resilient.

We consider promoting opportunities for youth in the food system, realizing nature positive and just food production and bridging the disconnect between consumers and producers to be mutually reinforcing if the right levers are deployed. In this context those levers would mean to 1) create governance structures and financial mechanisms that foster sustainable agriculture, fair food chains and healthy diets, 2) provide incentives and economic support for the youth to seek a career along the food value chain, as well as 3) empowerment, self-determination, dignity, the protection of rights and participation, allowing for engaged communities along the entire food chain that are encouraged to set development priorities and hold decision-makers accountable.

Accountability and transparency in sustainable resources and land use can bring more justice and equity to agricultural production and natural resource management. Sustainable land stewardship that perceives land, water and agrobiodiversity as part of the global commons, represents the entry point to develop multiple-benefit strategies for cultivating diversified food production systems, transforming production and consumption habits, restoring our ecosystems, enhancing the resilience in the climate emergency, contributing to local livelihoods and promoting human wellbeing.

To holistically address the climate and biodiversity emergency, fight inequality and achieve human wellbeing, the following principles must be applied:

- Valuing existing knowledge and tailoring it to a specific context to explore novel approaches.
- Sharing learnings, including across regions to assess the scalability of innovative ideas.
- Promoting locally adapted solutions that combine the best of local as well as scientific knowledge systems.
- Ensuring justice within societies by understanding the barriers as well as the incentives that cause injustice in the given contexts.

Complexity must be acknowledged, as out of the myriad of solutions from the micro to the meso scale, the best approaches will very much depend on biophysical, socio-economic and cultural conditions, governance and policy framework, as well as specific drivers of change, including fiscal incentives.

Systemic barriers must be removed and diversity celebrated, as solutions considering the specificities of the given context and which have been developed in a collaborative, holistic and integrated way, enhance the resilience of agricultural and food systems to pests, pathogens and the climate emergency. At the same time, those solutions must also promote gender equality and human wellbeing. Knowledge must be drawn from diverse systems, in promoting transdisciplinary approaches, and in bringing together scientific, lay, practical and indigenous knowledge and different world views.

The freshness of perspective from the youth must be embraced and we must answer to the fundamental questions they dare to raise and which have been buried for too long.

We call upon governments to implement governance structures and set the right incentives that reflect the ambition of creating just nature people relations and a sustainable food system. We urge the financial and private sector to use their capabilities and power for positive change. We call upon research to support the transformation through knowledge, including asking the uncomfortable questions related to power in our unsustainable food system. We require civil society to accept the shared responsibility and become agents of change.

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		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Promoting employment and decent work for the youth mirrors measures proposed in Action Track 4 Advance equitable livelihoods. To further this goal, governance structures must change, including tackling the political economy that creates perverse incentives, and developing a new communication approach to increase the attractiveness of the food sector for the youth and enhance their opportunities; setting the right incentives and creating new employment opportunities within the sector prevents a “youth drain” and the loss of traditional knowledge. Youth has to have access to finance, in order for it to deploy its full potential to innovate and co-create new solutions and financial institution need to be convinced to invest in young farmers and entrepreneurs.

Boosting nature-positive food production, as proposed by Action Track 3, requires a food system governance that reduces resource intensity to stop biodiversity loss, pollution and water and soil degradation, while recognizing and protecting the rights and needs of smallholder farmers, livestock keepers, fishers and hunters. This must go hand in hand with embracing multifunctional landscapes with diversified agricultural systems that build on the principles of agroecology as one specific entry point. In this context, land tenure security is a prerequisite for sustainable food systems, as secure access to land for land users can create incentives for the sustainable use of land. In this light, the financial sector needs to abandon financing unsustainable practices and finance innovative solutions that contribute to nature-positive food production.

Bridging the divide between consumers and producers in order to ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all and shift to sustainable consumption patterns, the interests of consumers and producers must be aligned to provide nutritious food at affordable prices, while ensuring a fair and livable income for producers. We call for addressing power structures in value chains that deepen the disconnect, by internalizing transparency and true costs, as part of redesigning food systems policy frameworks. One way to achieve this is by redirecting power towards consumers and producers, for example by shortening the food chain, strengthening local food networks and build consumer demand for sustainable food. Similarly, Action Track 1 promotes access to safe and nutritious food for all, while Action Track 2 calls for a shift to sustainable consumption patterns.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

- Role of science - to what extent does science also assume a normative function
- Role of technology - to what extent is it an enabler or an obstacle exacerbating power differentials
- Role and responsibility of business versus role of governments in terms of incentivizing transformation
- Regenerative agriculture : questioning the potential for new jobs, as other jobs get lost, or: is regenerative agriculture really the systemic solution to the challenge
- Notion of scaling / scalability - is not easy to capture
- Eurocentricity/westernised view of the debate, seeing nature of developing countries as the source for solving the universal challenges

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Wyss Academy Declaration on Food Systems: "Harmonizing food systems and nature conservation: Towards just nature-people relations"**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Wyss-Academy-Declaration-on-Food-Systems-.pdf>