

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 6 July 2021 20:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	OACPS FOOD SYSTEMS HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE : Building Resilient, Inclusive and Secure Food Systems for the Members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States.
CONVENED BY	The Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Liaison Office to the European Union and Kingdom of Belgium
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21375/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Intergovernmental
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

257

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18 50 19-30 100 31-50 100 51-65 7 66-80 0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

130 Male 127 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

13	Agriculture/crops	1	Education	0	Health care
16	Fish and aquaculture	24	Communication	21	Nutrition
11	Livestock	0	Food processing	39	National or local government
19	Agro-forestry	17	Food retail, markets	12	Utilities
17	Environment and ecology	9	Food industry	11	Industrial
8	Trade and commerce	14	Financial Services	25	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

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

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

As the UN Food Systems Summit is a “Peoples Summit” the OACPS Food Systems Dialogue (OFSD) sought to ensure that key multi-stakeholders were invited and included and were provided the opportunity to share views. Sequencing the interventions through an initial “high-level” opening segment, followed by 3 interactive, moderated discussions related to OACPS challenges, opportunities, and solutions for building resilient, inclusive and secure food systems at the community, national, regional, and global levels. The OFSD made every effort to engage all participants, while also having framing speakers on (i) sustainable production of green and blue food; (ii) food for health and wellbeing; and (iii) building a resilient future), and respondents from the OACPS and partners. The conveners would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the following for delivering remarks in the opening segment of the OFSD - Minister for Agriculture Republic of the Congo (for the keynote address), OACPS Secretary- General, UN Food Systems Summit Special Envoy, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate-General EU DG INTPA, and the Slovenian Presidency of the European Council. The conveners would also like to thank the following for framing the 3 interactive segments, FAO, WHO, SPC, UNDRR, and the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Special thanks are also extended to the following for their informative contributions during the interactive sessions, Ambassadors accredited to Belgium and the EU from Suriname, Côte D’Ivoire, Ghana, Barbados, Zambia and Ethiopia; as well as solution-focused contributions from the Chair of the UNFSS Action Track 2, Global Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, Head of Unit Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries, DG INTPA are very much appreciated. The participation and contributions from the following research institutions CARDI, and RUFORUM as well as the following private sector and civil society institutions COLEACP, LMMA Network International, PIANGO, and youth representative from the Caribbean is acknowledged

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Inclusivity was central to preparation and execution of the OFSD, with a theme mindful of taking account of the UNFSS Action Tracks, embracing a systems approach to OACPS food systems transformation, and endorsing and acknowledging cross-cutting priority themes. The participation of diverse stakeholders, from members of the OACPS, UNFSS Secretariat, the EU and EC, regional and international organizations, civil society, private sector and youth was deemed critical to the success of the OFSD and to successive initiative(s) for food systems transformation of members and regions of the OACPS.

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

It is important to ensure that a multi-stakeholders, multi-level approach (public sector and non-state actors), if this is to be the case, is well observed and that the dialogue is open and embracing of the perspectives and proposals provided; and time is provided to all participants to feel included and heard. The OFSD did not have breakout sessions. We acknowledge that such a modality may have provided higher levels of participation and richer outcomes. We will explore such a format for future dialogues that we will hold. We are of the view that the key to dialogue is openness and inclusiveness but that one must remain focused on the ambition/objective of the dialogue itself

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

As already mentioned, the OFSD did not have breakout sessions into smaller groups of the dialogue participants. Rather we retained a sequence of three interactive panel sessions/segments that sought to include all participants, with all the interventions available in and for the public domain

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The dialogue focused on examining the links between three of the five UNFSS Action Tracks, with resilience and building resilient food systems as the strong connector and imperative for the Dialogue. The OFSD sought to explore ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all and shifting to sustainable consumption patterns, while building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress, with a particular focus on the assessment of challenges and solutions for food systems transformation for the 79 members and six regions of the OACPS

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

Absolute, unequivocal confirmation that the promotion and realisation of sustainable food systems is strongly linked to the achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Solid, concrete multi-stakeholder investments and commitments by members, regions, and key partners of the OACPS to achieve food systems transformations is needed and critical to delivering the manifold results, outcomes and impacts

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

The OFSD "Sustainable production and value chains of blue and green food" discussion realised we need to:

- Achieve blue food systems transformation as much as green foods systems transformation if we are to feed the growing OACPS population with nutritious food, for livelihoods, health, and wellbeing.
- Deal with increased pressure on our fisheries (in our ocean, lakes and rivers) and particularly as the OACPS-Africa population grows fast, and mindful that fish is important for protein and micronutrients for many OACPS peoples.
- Invest in science and innovation, for governance and sustainable management of ocean resources as we face climate change and other exogenous shocks such as the ongoing COVID19 pandemic is needed.
- Embrace opportunities that include agriculture, coastal fisheries and aquaculture in nature and ecosystem-based approaches to support local economies is acknowledged and is important.
- Include local communities in sea and land innovations and production with all implementation occurring as co-development with communities and users where appropriate and necessary.
- Ensure all OACPS workers have access to capacity-building support opportunities that positively respond to real-time data, innovation and technology, and human capital needs and skills required.
- Scale-up efforts to conserve biodiversity to address food security needs.
- Recognise laudable efforts such as that of the Pacific Community's (SPC) to maintain genetic diversity of dispersing plant seeds and tissues across the region during the COVID19 pandemic as well as part of response and recovery efforts to disaster risk events – and seek to replicate these as and where appropriate.
- Consider sustainable management practices, such as agroecology, regenerative farming and community-based fisheries management as critical to both catalysing and augmenting food systems transformation. And note there are opportunities to further integrate agriculture, coastal fisheries, aquaculture, and water resources management through circular, nature and ecosystem-based approaches to support blue-green economies, at all levels.
- Promote coordinated national-level planning to ensure food systems transformation is a critical part of the national sustainable development agenda will involve and require whole of government, whole of country (all stakeholders) and whole of community approaches.
- Provide a strong enabling environment for food systems transformation (institutions and instruments) will be key for effective implementation.
- Phase-out and/or reorient harmful subsidies that impact the sustainability of the food systems will need to be implemented as soon as practicable.
- Explore the utility of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in the transition to more inclusive and sustainable food systems will need to be explored, realised, and made accessible to all.

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		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

The OFSD "Food Systems for Health and Wellbeing" acknowledged that:

- While non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are of global concern, it is at crisis point for many OACPS Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

o Seven of Fifteen countries of the Pacific-OACPS have high rates of diabetes and rank in the top ten in the world.

Unfortunately, COVID19 has further compounded these metrics.

o The single common factor is unhealthy diets, where there is co-existence of under-nutrition and over-nutrition in the same individuals, in the same family and in the same communities – and where too much of the wrong foods is being eaten.

o Notwithstanding the Pacific region is renowned for using traditional knowledge and traditional science processes; increased investment in building resilience through strengthened, tailored science and traditional knowledge approaches should be encouraged.

- A lack of coordination at global and regional levels, and a lack of ownership and commitment at national levels hinder efforts to address the high levels of malnutrition in the members and regions of the OACPS.

The following bold actions are identified for food systems transformation, for better health and wellbeing of peoples in the OACPS:

- Promoting traditional local diets and preventing the nutritional transition to western unhealthy, unbalanced and unsuitable diets;
- Raising awareness about the impacts of trade on diets, health and wellbeing of citizens of OACPS SIDS.
- Targeting fiscal policies for healthy and sustainable diets, which are needed to transform food systems and halt the consumption of unhealthy foods and drinks. This could include
 - (i) Placing taxes on foods and beverages that are high in fats, salt and/or sugars.
 - (ii) Providing incentives to encourage healthy options and alternatives by making them more affordable to consumers.
 - (iii) Nutrition labeling providing easy to interpret and understand nutrition information on packaged foods is critical to influencing consumer behaviour and market choice of unhealthy diets.
- Food fortification and food product reformulation: Increasing the nutrient value of foods by fortifying them with vitamins and minerals, and reduction of unhealthy sugars, fats, and salts.
- Regulation of marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages focusing on advertising and/or targeted campaigns that negatively influence or limit choices among children and/or mothers.
- Stockpiling of adequate strategic foods to mitigate against the many crises facing the members and regions of the OACPS (such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and disasters from extreme weather and climate events, as well as geohazards such as volcanic eruptions) that impact food production systems.
- Investment in food safety infrastructure and legislation to facilitate access of locally produced foods to markets.

A combination of improved food governance, education programmes and incentives can help transition to sustainable and healthy diets.

It is important that global players do not only push science-based solutions but also recognise and use local and traditional science and knowledge as part of the decision-making systems for production, consumption and resilience building in and across the member countries and regions of the OACPS.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

The third interactive session of the OFSD which addressed "Resilience for the Future" heard that:

- The impact of disasters disproportionately affects the most vulnerable and the poorest countries, including SIDS who suffer greatly from the impacts of extreme climate, weather and natural hazard risk events due to their unique geographical location.
- SIDS challenges of smallness and geographic isolation and dispersion can make food production prohibitive. To mitigate these factors regional approaches are necessary and should be encouraged.
- OACPS SIDS are highly dependent on specific economic sectors (such as tourism and fisheries) and are therefore more vulnerable to economic and exogenous shocks.
- The COVID-19 pandemic shone a spotlight on the importance of interconnectivity and integration and the links between natural, biological and human hazards.
- Risks are systemic and complex, and therefore require holistic integrated solutions, with better links to all key sectors, regulation, planning, enforcement and good practice.
- National and local disaster risk reduction strategies should be well articulated with mutually reinforcing sustainable development plans and climate change adaptation plans.
- Industrious coalitions need to be built between member states and groups with geographical similarities - further they would need to identify and prioritise their shared challenges and develop a resilience roadmap that they could collectively pursue.

The following bold actions are identified pathways for building resilient food systems in and across the OACPS, for the future:

- ▣ Increasing the adoption of holistic and climate-friendly production and consumption practices that also limit biodiversity loss, whether in aquatic systems, land, and forests.
- ▣ Mainstreaming sustainable use and adaptive management of natural resources by ensuring access rights to fisheries and land, and recognizing the value of traditional practices and knowledge systems.
- ▣ Adopting interdisciplinary approaches to respond to the factors that contribute to the fragility of agri-food systems in OACPS, including but not limited to climate change and variability, epidemics, emerging and re-emerging diseases.
- ▣ Increasing investments in productivity-enhancing innovations to harness science solutions for the sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth of food systems.
- ▣ Fostering global partnerships to develop more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems that consider the needs of smallholder farmers and encourage youth to embrace opportunities in being active partners in food systems transformation.
- ▣ Strengthening agricultural/fisheries/aquaculture value chains and de-risking of the food systems investments in the OACPS from climate risks, and other related hazards.
- ▣ Reimagining the market-led solutions to green and blue food systems and the corporate takeover of the food systems as potential, systemic risks to the resilience of OACPS' food systems.

Policy decision-making and the food systems governance space should recognise and include the voices of the civil society, women and youth.

Empowering local communities to produce traditional and local foods that are climate-friendly and developing technologies for value addition should be a key priority for members and regions of the OACPS

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There were no particular areas of divergence among stakeholders.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/EXT_2021-07-02-oncept-Note-and-draft-Agenda-OACPS-INTERGOVERNMENTAL-UN-FOOD-SYSTEMS-...pdf

RELEVANT LINKS

- **FAO Brussels website - Summary of the event**
<http://www.fao.org/brussels/news/detail/en/c/1416965/>