

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 20 May 2021 12:00 GMT +04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	The Second National Dialogue - The Future of Georgian Food Systems
CONVENED BY	Ekaterine Zviadadze
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21401/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Georgia

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

54

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

3

19-30

27

31-50

15

51-65

9

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

31 Male

23 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

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

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?

Considering the scope of discussion topics of the Dialogues, for the Second dialogue we invited municipality representatives. The second Dialogue was announced well in advance to let every invited participant join the meetings. As food systems are complex, a holistic approach of three key measurements (economic, social, and environmental impacts) was applied. The participants of the National Dialogues shared opinions with each other. Participants of the Dialogue shared their feedback and suggestions in writing as well. The final draft of the document was sent out to all participants for their perusal. Based on thorough analysis and discussions, the key trends and the respective activities were outlined.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The second stage meeting of the National Dialogue was held on May 20, 2021. Fifty-four representatives from all municipalities of Georgia attended the meeting, discussed the identified key trends, and amplified the existing initiatives with their own visions about the food systems. Both National Dialogues brought together a wide spectrum of stakeholders. All participants were very active and detail-oriented during discussions. Eventually, all their suggestions and recommendations were taken into consideration, summarised, and compiled under the key trends and objectives.

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

The second preparatory meeting of the UN Food Systems brought together fifty-four representatives from all municipalities of Georgia. The National Convener and the Curator opened the session with the presentations and introduced the findings of the first National Dialogue to the participants, including the key priorities for the sustainable food systems, as follows: • Ensure competitive value-chains in food systems; • Ensure effective systems of food/feed safety, veterinary and plant protection; • Sustainable utilization of natural resources, environmental protection, maintenance of ecosystems, climate change mitigation and adaptation to the changing climate; • Elaboration of systems for effective crisis management. The participants were grouped into four groups. Each group was assigned to outline recommendations for the specific priority through the support of a facilitator. After group discussions, the facilitators presented the findings, which reinforced and enhanced the previous recommendations.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Development of the full value chain in food systems and stimulating rural economic activity is crucial for sustainable development and inclusive economic growth in Georgia. The vital responsibility of the next decade will be to reinforce the development of quality and production technologies, which ensures competitiveness in both local and international markets. Despite implemented and ongoing reforms and development-oriented programs, the food system still faces challenges, which need to be solved as a precondition for the social-economic growth of the country. Our priorities for the next decade are to ensure the existence of a competitive value chain in food systems; To develop an effective system of food/feed safety, veterinary and plant protection; Sustainable use of natural resources, environmental protection, preservation of ecosystems, climate change mitigation and adaptation; Elaboration of effective systems for crisis management.

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

Involvement of the civil society sector in policy performance along with the public agencies is of utmost importance. It is vital to actively communicate with the direct stakeholders of the food systems such as producers, unions, associations, NGOs, scientific circles, donors, international organizations, higher educational and vocational institutions, local municipality representatives, and the civic sector in the municipalities. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models as well as the establishment of the Civil Committee can be considered as one of the best mechanisms of cooperation. Collaboration at the level of Municipalities, for instance, with rural councils is worth noting as well.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

1. Ensure competitive value-chains in the food systems

- Increase the competitiveness of the agricultural products in Georgia and development of their value-chains;
- Ensure availability of the respective infrastructure for the compliance of products with marketing standards at all stages of value-adding;
- Ensure additional supportive policy for the small farmers and the households;
- Promotion of engagement of women and young producers in agri-food sector;
- Make mechanization more accessible;
- Development of agricultural land market;
- Development of highly-qualified services and ensure capacity building of human resources in the retail market of agricultural materials;
- Increase a range of veterinary drugs and plant protection products in the municipalities; Enhancement of control;
- Improve access to funds, agricultural insurance (to cover more risks) knowledge, information and awareness-raising;
- Provide support to the diversification of rural economic capacities;
- Provide support to agri-tourism and eco-tourism;
- Ensure efficient infrastructure (standards, labs, certification agencies) in the agri-food sector; Introduction of international standards in primary production;
- Support the development of organic agriculture;
- Formation of producers' associations, their enlargement, and cooperation as well as the improvement of access to the market; Ensure availability of high-quality production equipment and agri-food processing facilities;
- Development of infrastructure such as green-houses, storage, hydro-melioration, mechanization, transport, energetics, roads, internet, etc.
- Support the development of livestock and breeding activities, fostering preventive actions against livestock diseases and control processes; Ensure compliance of management of severe infections, quarantine, and liquidation actions with the international standards.
- Biodiversity conservation, identification of indigenous species, their restoration, and improvement as well as the formation of the genetic bank;
- Improvement of irrigation and drainage systems;

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

2. Ensure effective systems of food/feed safety, veterinary and plant protection

- Increase the qualification of food safety and food control personnel.
- Achieving the goals of continuous development of integrated food safety system in the country through the elaboration of the guidelines, standard operational procedures (SOPs), and the instructions both for the competent agencies and for the food business operators.
- Improvement of the food environment, awareness-raising of the population on food safety and healthy food with the focus on adolescents and the young;
- Enhancement of risk assessment capacity of food safety (to improve risk assessment methodology), risk assessment and management, risk communication, and effective enforcement of food safety legislation as well as a systematic approach to the risk assessment process.
- Enhancement of lab capacities in the country. Introduction of new methods for the diagnosis of the lab tests in the area of food safety, veterinary and plant protection, and/or to expand the accreditation area. Capacity building of lab personnel;

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

3. Sustainable utilization of natural resources, environmental protection, maintenance of ecosystems, climate change mitigation, and adaptation to the changed climate

- Awareness-raising about climate change – ensure training for the representatives of municipalities and to hold intensive meetings with communities about climate change and its impacts as well as to organize the training of schoolchildren on environmental issues.
- Sustainable use of water, land, and forest resources as well as avoidance of soil, air, and water pollution;
- Restoration of windbreaks and promotion of planting of more trees for this purpose;
- Effective utilization of renewable energy in the regions.
- Support the development of circular economics.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

4. Elaboration of systems for the effective crisis management

- Ensure food security;
- Ensure crisis management plan is in place;
- Establishment of supply management systems for food and other basic needs;
- Ensure effective communication mechanisms for the public and private sector in emergencies, which will secure the effective management of crises and shocks.
- Management of food losses and expired food and improvement of respective processes.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy |
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