

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

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| DIALOGUE DATE | Monday, 31 May 2021 15:00 GMT +05:30 |
| DIALOGUE TITLE | National Independent Dialogue on Food systems |
| CONVENED BY | SANASA International |
| DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE | https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21812/ |
| DIALOGUE TYPE | Independent |
| GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS | No borders, Sri Lanka |

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

76

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

04

19-30

39

31-50

29

51-65

04

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

58 Male

18 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

50 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

2 Livestock

2 Agro-forestry

5 Environment and ecology

1 Trade and commerce

1 Education

Communication

5 Food processing

1 Food retail, markets

2 Food industry

1 Financial Services

Health care

3 Nutrition

3 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

1 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

5 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

3 Large national business

Multi-national corporation

33 Small-scale farmer

28 Medium-scale farmer

3 Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

1 Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

3 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?

We invited participants with a wider range with various experience in real ground level and policy level and experimental level who engaged in food production, supply and nutrition and they have been given equal opportunities to represent, express their views in a respectful platform where the trust among is assured that they really take part in the food industry as an essential and required element. By inviting the multi-stakeholders, it has been created a complementing platform where everyone gets to benefit from each other by sharing their experience, view and suggestion and is a learning platform on which the line out has been made to make the food chain sustainable and profitable. The exposure for invites made complex to give them a chance to see how diverse the food chain/food industry and support system and to open their minds in a broad spectrum of food in terms of production, supply and consumption. The agenda includes the introduction in which the principles are elaborated to the participants so that they are unified in terms of principles and their application in each step forward.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

When the dialogue is open and flows with the lineout, every discussion has been subjected to the relevant principles applicable in real practical scenarios concerning the different stakeholder perspectives. The majority of the participants were medium and small scale farmers and they expressed the urgency and the requirement of a sustainable food system to introduce to provide low cost and high nutrition food and how to fulfil the required productions to be aligned with the requirement. The nutritionist and the police level participants from the state enhanced the requirement for having a sustainable food system with policy-level decisions to be implemented so that they were complimenting each other.

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

Yes. We suppose to make engage representatives from all sectors of food producers such as fishery, livestock, dairy and organic base producers. Also, the suppliers, value adders and consumers of all social levels to be included and have free opportunity to express themselves.

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

The entire summit had been focused on all ATs to track how much each representative contribute to the thematic areas in the trackers. The summit has recognized the trackers are really useful in determining how much of efforts have been made so far and what are the possibilities, suggestions and available solutions that could be found in the ground levels and the top policy levels. Additionally, the focuses were on how to link the there two-level in terms of fulfilling the requirements of a sustainable eco-friendly food system that fulfils the requirements of nutrition as a whole.

It has been expressed the requirement of having access to safe and nutritious food for all with focus on the current tendency towards unsafe food and the high usage of them especially in the young generation and the bad consequence of that. This has been deeply highlighted in connection to the AT2, to make the change towards safe food usage with a sustainable consumption pattern to ensure minimal food wastage and to reduce the post-harvesting losses as much as possible at all levels in the food supply chain.

Summit has recognized the optimized livelihood with equity will be a leading factor to establish nature positive food production which will be the key to solve the quantity of food for family levels and to have high-quality food that fulfils the nutrition requirements.

The synergistic effect of all above will be the in build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress that the family and the community level has been highlighted by the summit.

Additionally, the summit drew the focusses on the financial aspect and policy-level actions to be taken in enhancing the sustainable food system to be established in the context of ensuring the human rights are respected and ensured.

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

The summit elaborated that how has the current unsafe food consumption emerged and the supply has been contributed to enhance the unsafe food consumption. Keeping this disaster in minds of the representatives, it has been suggested many sustainable actions be taken to ensure the current food trends are rejected and the sustainable food system has been established.

The key findings suggested reducing the current bad food consumption pattern (i) To force the policy actions to reduce the high level of marketing and media usage in advertising such junk foods. (ii) To force/suggest policy levels to get media more involved in popularizing nutritive environmentally beneficial food production and consumption, (iii) To take actions to build an efficient, effective and participatory stakeholder platform to take the required action to change the current food trends to more eco-friendly and sustainable one ensuring the better livelihood, a better nutrient with food secure and finally the whole food system to become food sovereignty.

It has been suggested for this system to be positively changed, all state entities, who are directly or indirectly affecting all levels of the food system, not just the agriculture ministry, should work in unions, and move towards nutrition-based food production, embracing the concept of food sovereignty. In addition, the local seed banks (state and private) and watersheds should be protected, post-harvest technology and ecological farming knowledge should be promoted, young farmers and women should have rights to land and farming, and farming should have an integrated management system. Moreover, the policies and bilateral agreements the state enters should be transparent, local teams should be linked with the global knowledge-based who are already working on these issues, and the cooperative systems should be promoted more.

Moreover, it has been deliberated his submissions around the 5 action tracks associated with the food system summit. While recognizing the importance of discourse on the food system, he emphasized the significance of pushing the agenda from food security towards food sovereignty. It has been pointed out that the so-called multi-stakeholder platform which is organizing the FSS, is not representative enough and consequently does not look at the food system with a holistic approach. The food summit is focusing largely on corporate businesses and state interventions and does not give enough attention to people's engagement and peoples ownership of food productions. It has been commended the current government's decision to move towards toxin-free agriculture and stated that there should be an organized collective strategy to push this forward in a people-friendly way, blocking it from being hijacked by the lobbying groups lead by chemical companies.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

1. Farm organizations are not strong and do not always represent the needs and rights of farmers. There are about 15,000 registered FOs with legal authority to act on farmer's needs. But only about 5000 are really engaged with the mandate they are supposed to be working on. Most are politicized or organized only to distribute fertilizer grants from the state or to undertake local infrastructure contracts. There is a lack of knowledge and competency for FO leaders to engage with the policy and the market. Suggested- strengthening the FO should be done in a coordinated manner, involving all those who have a vested interest to do that. For this a proper national plan and a coordinated action process should be developed, profitable businesses should be introduced to farmers, FO leaders should be well networked to cross learn and empower each other.
2. Members are poor and highly indebted to Microfinance companies. Most farmers are encouraged to grow what is sold at supermarkets and organized markets. What they grow are often easily perishable crops. When distribution channels are disrupted or farm production is not properly organized, they find it difficult to sell at wholesale markets. Suggested - organize better distribution in local areas using locally available state Agri officers, part-time farmers should be promoted to engage in subsistence farming and also to grow what can be preserved, more local markets should be created. Market expansion should be bottom to top, not top-down where a few supermarkets expand their presence in every township.
3. Farming has become unprofitable. Farmlands have become highly toxic, water seed, fertilizer and pesticides have become very expensive inputs. Suggested - Crop diversification should be promoted, post-harvest food wastages to be reduced, improved distribution systems backed by the government should be introduced to minimize the middlemen in the supply chains.
4. Food produced by farmers are not safe/ Consumers are not getting good food at an affordable price. The promotion of Agribusiness had delinked the farmers from the concept of food production. Suggested - Traditional eco-friendly farming systems should be reincorporated into the current farming system Intercropping should be promoted, Traditional, nutrition-rich grains should be promoted.
5. It is important to regulate and standardized how media portray food. Current media advertise unhealthy food. Establishing a sustainable food system is determined by consumer demand and media plays a negative role. Instead, media can deliver knowledge on healthy and environmentally friendly food. Suggested - There should be a media regulating policy related to the promotion of food.
6. In some areas of the country, such as upcountry, farmers have very limited land. Most land is been given to bigger plantation companies. Suggested - There have to be policy-level actions to address the land ownership to improve better land use and productivity.
7. With the changing weather patterns and intense droughts and torrential downpours, farmers find it difficult to stabilize their income. Technical knowledge related to adaptation methods and technology does not reach the lower segments. Suggested - Climate-smart agriculture to be promoted, technology should reach to the farmers continuously without stagnating at the officer level, there should be coordinated institutional solutions to manage climate change-related risks, knowledge of farmers about risk mitigation strategies should be expanded.
8. Losing peoples ownership in the food system. When food security and nutrition is highlighted without discussing the real actors of production, farmers lose their right and authority on farming matters. Also, consumers will end up having to eat whatever is supplied at the market. Suggested - Instead of food security which is a very narrow term, food sovereignty should be promoted, people maintained seed banks to be established at region levels, better accessibility to technical support and information. Local knowledge on sustainable, climate-resilient, healthy food production to be revived.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

While agreeing to all ATs, there was one divergence that it has been pointed out that the so-called multi-stakeholder platform which is organizing the FSS, is not representative enough and consequently does not look at the food system with a holistic approach. The food summit is focusing largely on corporate businesses and state interventions, and does not give enough attention to people's engagement and people's ownership for food production.

ACTION TRACKS

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production |
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