

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 31 May 2021 11:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Animal food systems: Vision
CONVENED BY	Convenor: Prof. Noga Kronfeld-Schor, Co-Convenor: Dr. Gal Zagron, Ministry of Environmental Protection
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21856/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Israel

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

70

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

4

19-30

40

31-50

22

51-65

3

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

41 Male

29 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

1 Agriculture/crops
1 Fish and aquaculture
4 Livestock
Agro-forestry
5 Environment and ecology
Trade and commerce

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

3 Health care
Nutrition
27 National or local government
Utilities
1 Industrial
Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

3 Small/medium enterprise/artisan
6 Large national business
2 Multi-national corporation
1 Small-scale farmer
2 Medium-scale farmer
Large-scale farmer
13 Local Non-Governmental Organization
International Non-Governmental Organization
Indigenous People
14 Science and academia

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

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

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

This dialogue focused on proposing goals and solutions for the challenges that Israel faces in adapting its animal-based food systems to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, as posed during the first dialogue. The participants were divided into topic-based groups and asked to share their views on the measurable goals Israel should aim to reach.

Four of the groups focused on specific types of animal-based food sources:

- 1) Livestock raised for meat
- 2) Poultry and eggs
- 3) Dairy
- 4) Fish and other kinds of seafood

Three groups discussed general topics relevant to all animal-based foods:

- 1) Zoonotic diseases
- 2) Antimicrobial use
- 3) Animal welfare

The last topic was alternative proteins, which is unique in the topic-based groups involved and focused on the challenges in the entry of the alternative protein sector into the Israeli and global markets and food systems by 2030. The alternative protein participants were asked to also share their views on the 2030 Local and Global Food Systems considering the incorporation of alternative proteins, while referring to:

- The state of the alternative protein industry and infrastructure in Israel and its impact on the global food systems
- Their views on Israel's government's involvement
- Their views on Israel's academic arena addressing and influencing the food systems, locally and globally

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

One of the main conclusions drawn from the dialogues is that alongside cultural-driven consumption preferences for animal-based foods, there is a growing trend of semi-vegetarian consumerism due to consumer concerns. This is accompanied by a greater demand for transparency on the part of consumers regarding animal-based foods. However, critical information regarding zoonotic diseases, livestock and poultry feed and housing conditions, antimicrobial use, and animal husbandry conditions is not available to the relevant authorities, let alone the consumers. This information gap significantly hindered our ability to come up with goals during the dialogue.

This information gap directly hinders the traceability of animal-based foods. Traceability is crucial for food safety: from farm to fork.

It is therefore vital that the regulators - the ministries of agriculture, health, and environmental protection and local authorities - systematically collect information and supervise its accuracy and reliability. This requires appropriate regulation. There is a need to establish connections and strengthen existing ones between all relevant stakeholders and regulators, especially government bodies and professionals in the health, agriculture, and environmental protection fields – in order to share this information and act on it.

There is a consensus as to the need to improve animal husbandry conditions, especially in the poultry industry. It is necessary to increase the regulatory threshold requirements for animal welfare, above minimum conditions. This also requires an official body that will professionally train people for the job, initially and periodically.

In Israel, 80% of animal-based foods are imported. Most food importation, including that of livestock, is carried out by large companies. This concentrates wealth and power in the hands of monopolies and is detrimental to inclusive economic activity and growth and to local production. It is crucial to build up the local industry, and especially the small-scale producers.

Also, it was agreed that food losses must be reduced throughout the production, processing, marketing, and consumption chain.

Regarding the two issues unique to Israel which were raised in the previous dialogue – 1) religious dietary requirements and supervision; 2) the regulatory neglect and lack of supervision of livestock issues pertaining to the Arab minority:

The costs involved in producing kosher meat are 15% higher than those involved in producing non-kosher meat. Therefore, the law grants privilege to kosher supervisors at the expense of the consumers.

It was agreed that social aspects are involved to some extent in the Arab minority's resorting to illegal slaughter. Therefore, it is necessary to develop socially targeted solutions to this issue, which will complement regulation and enforcement.

Alternative proteins, including plant-based foods and cultivated meat and milk, may contribute to closing the gap between the limited production capacity of animal-based foods in Israel (a small, densely populated country) and the growing need and demand for these foods. In addition, the animal food industry (especially the meat and dairy industries) has a large ecological footprint compared to alternatives in land use, water consumption, introduction of biological contaminants into groundwater, disease spread and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Alternative proteins and cultivated meat may also serve as an engine for global and national programs for food security, economic development, and carbon neutrality.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

1) Zoonotic Diseases:

- a. It is necessary to create a warning system for infectious diseases, which will serve the ministries of agriculture, health, and environmental protection.
- b. It is necessary to prepare for disasters and mitigate their impact by monitoring wild animal and insects.
- c. Traceability is crucial – it is necessary to develop a system for tracing eggs and food products from farm to fork and a method of ranking henhouses, dairies, and slaughterhouses by sanitation and site quality.
- d. It is necessary to develop burial sites for carcasses and production excesses and find other uses for food designated for destruction, such as compost or food for zoo animals.
- e. Implementing microchips in farm animals should be considered.
- f. It is necessary to create accessible sites for testing game meat during hunting season.

2) Antibiotics:

- a. It is necessary to reduce the use of antimicrobials (AM) in livestock by 30% by 2030 and to eliminate the use of reserved AM and eliminate the use of AM to prevent diseases among livestock.
- b. It is necessary to create a database with information on the use of AM among animals and humans. The database should include a list of pathogens and AMRs (antimicrobial resistance).
- c. It is necessary to make reporting and registering AM use in livestock mandatory.
- d. The use of poultry litter and cattle manure to fertilize fields must be regulated regarding aspects of AM and AMRs.
- e. Research must be conducted on the quantities of AM used in Israel and on AMR mechanisms in Israel.
- f. Farmers should be incentivized to reduce the quantities of AM used.

3) Livestock:

- a. Food sovereignty – It is not possible to reach food sovereignty and meet current consumption patterns.
- b. Consumption – between the different opinions, there was an agreement of allowing the public to make more informed decisions, i.e., more transparency on health and environmental aspects (such as labeling). Regulators emphasized the need to provide. Other opinions referred setting specific goals to gradually reduce consumption, to 200 grams per capita per week, while increasing accessibility to plant-based protein and creativity in distributing it, as well as healthcare costs involved with high meat consumption.
- c. Alternative protein - there's a growing demand and growing need to encourage alternative protein consumption and subsidize research and development.
- d. Importation of live animals – the minimum agreement level was that this practice should not expand and should be humane and environmental.
- e. Kosher meat – it was agreed that there was a need for accurate figures regarding the scale of demand and the economic implications of kosher meat importation.
- f. Illegal slaughter- small slaughter facilities in areas where these are missing could mitigate some of the challenges raised. It was debated whether such applications have been filed.
- g. Different stakeholders referred to a need for regulation in regard to cattle rearing, with regard to animal welfare and planning/zoning.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

4) Alternative Proteins:

It is crucial to:

a. Promote production for local consumption (and by thus decrease the dependency on imports and strengthen food security). Can be measured by:

1. Alternative protein percentage of market share

2. Production v/s imports balance 2020 compared with 2030

3. High productivity employment rate- number of jobs added in the alternative protein (academic and industry)

b. Promote exports. Can be measured by:

1. Value/volume/share of finished goods

2. Value/volume/share of High throughput ingredients and machinery

3. Value/volume/share Proprietary knowledge

c. Promote local expertise. Can be measured by:

1. Number (and percentage growth) new of startups in the field

2. Number (and percentage growth) mature startups in the field, passed to manufacturing and exporting phase

3. GDP per capita investments in the field YOY change

d. Turn alternative protein production into a strategic diplomatic asset in the era of the climate and health crisis, a worldwide pilot and beta site and Basis for international cooperation. Can be measured by the number of multinationals interacting with local players and/or establishing their R&D/innovation centers in Israel.

5) Poultry and eggs:

a. It is necessary to implement existing resolutions and regulations regarding public health.

b. It is necessary to include environmental and public health factors in the requirements for raising poultry.

c. R&D and technological solutions should be promoted – early-sex sorting, innovation in eggs meant for consumption, processes that will minimize the infection of poultry meat by disease vectors.

6) Dairy:

a. It is necessary to produce accessible and healthy food for the population.

b. It is necessary to promote the physical and social well being of livestock in the dairy industry.

c. It is necessary to reduce dairy production's environmental footprint.

d. It is necessary to minimize food waste throughout the production process.

7) Aquaculture:

a. Israel has one of the highest fresh salmon consumption rates per capita, and consumption levels go up each year. The fresh salmon is flown in daily from Norway and its shelf life is shortened compared to shelf life in Norway, due to a faulty storage and cooling process in Israel. It is necessary to eliminate this consumption or find a local alternative.

b. Increasing domestic production Vs growing Import

c. Environmental concerns vs reasonable water treatment costs

Fish that are not authorized or safe for human consumption could be used as source for fish meal\ biofuel or feed for animals.

d. Internal regulation

Algae sector is a growing industry with high potential, there isn't enough regulation or formal governmental support.

Subsidizing skilled workers is essential for the continuation of the sector's development.

The algae sector is a growing industry and should be considered as a VAT free sector.

e. Alternative protein sources

Israel is a great candidate to develop alternative protein sources, but major investments are required in order to keep the R&D and also the production.

8) Animal welfare:

a. It is necessary to create sufficient regulation (by drafting secondary legislation), implement existing regulations, and transfer the authority over animal welfare to the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

b. It is necessary to end the live livestock shipments and the illegal slaughter.

c. It is necessary to implement mandatory labelling of animal products by the conditions in which the livestock was raised.

d. It is necessary to regulate and standardize halal slaughter

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

In all production-branch focused topic groups, participants diverged on whether animal-based food consumption and production should be increased, reduced, or maintained at current levels.

1. Livestock

- Environmental aspects of the local industry (extensive and intensive).
- Production – Different approaches ranged between reducing consumption by 50% by 2030 to not setting any goal in this direction. Another approach was to stop rearing cattle locally altogether.
- Consumption – divergence whether there should be affirmative approach towards changing the general public's consumption patterns.
- Food policy regulation - Is the promotion of the national nutrition guidelines a matter for the Ministry of Health or should it be implemented in decisions of other regulators? Should there be an affirmative approach to change? It was also suggested to relate to red meat in the same manner as tobacco, and that environmental and healthcare externalities will be internalized by the industry/retailers (not the farmers).
- Kosher meat – extent of demand; whether changing the mandatory requirement to import kosher meat should be a goal in itself; socialpolitical aspects of mandatory kosher meat importation requirement.
- Economic measures – ranged between removing regulation and imposing it.

2. Poultry and eggs

- Maintaining the current quota policy vs. a free economy – On the one hand, the argument was made that eggs are a "hard demand" and therefore prices going down will not lead to an increase in consumption. Cancelling the quotas may harm the livelihoods of hundreds of families in the north. On the other hand, maintaining quotas is detrimental to ensuring accessibility of food, some participants claimed. It should be noted that the quotas are granted to a very specific sector and promote inequality.
- Laying hens welfare – Some participants advocated a goal of 100% cage free hens by 2030 while others considered it unrealistic. Some even claimed that demanding unreasonable goals leads to stagnancy and lack of advance.
- Should consumption be expanded or reduced?

3. Dairy

This topic group included a wide range of divergence, from participants advocating the total elimination of dairy products for animal welfare and environmental reasons, to those who advocated increasing consumption and claimed that environmental and animal welfare concerns can be properly dealt with.

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