

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 28 June 2021 15:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Transforming food systems for the 21st Century: Why does facilitating safe trade matter?
CONVENED BY	Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21898/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21898/</a>
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

132

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-18	19	19-30	72	31-50	31	51-65	9	66-80	1	80+
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## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

69	Male	60	Female	3	Prefer not to say or Other
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## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

9	Agriculture/crops	8	Education	3	Health care
3	Fish and aquaculture	1	Communication		Nutrition
7	Livestock	4	Food processing	18	National or local government
	Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets		Utilities
1	Environment and ecology	4	Food industry		Industrial
53	Trade and commerce	2	Financial Services	19	Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

2	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
1	Large national business		Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
1	Small-scale farmer	47	Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer	3	Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer	3	United Nations
9	Local Non-Governmental Organization	1	International financial institution
2	International Non-Governmental Organization	6	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People		Consumer group
13	Science and academia	44	Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Independent Dialogue was organized and delivered based on STDF's approach to connect relevant stakeholders (international and regional organizations, national governments, private sector and others) across agriculture, health, trade and development. A short concept note for the event outlined the contribution of safe trade systems to food systems transformation, the diversity of stakeholder roles and responsibilities, and the interlinkages and complementarity between them, and emphasized the need for urgent action. Preparatory discussions with panelists before the event helped to further clarify the contribution of safe trade facilitation to the objectives of the FSS. These steps enabled the event to be delivered in a way that ensured good participation, exchange across different types of stakeholders and a lively and respectful dialogue. In follow-up, the key conclusions, findings and lessons from the STDF Independent Dialogue were shared widely (including via an STDF e-news item), with linkages made to other relevant events. These included: • A Global dialogue on trade organized by the WTO Secretariat in collaboration with the UN FSS, entitled "Trade, an essential piece of the food systems puzzle" on 6 July 2021. • side-session for the FSS "Promoting Sustainable Food Systems: The role of international standards" organized jointly by Codex, IPPC, OIE and the STDF on 27 July 2021 as part of the official Pre-Summit.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The STDF's global partnership of public and private sector actors from across agriculture, health, trade and development is working to facilitate safe trade, and support sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and food security in developing countries that contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals. The STDF is a multi-stakeholder partnership of diverse organizations with an interest in facilitating safe trade across agriculture, health, trade and development. Engaging different partners involved in this network (from international organizations to public and private sector from developing countries) and linking the dialogue to the STDF's Strategy for 2020-2024 "Safe and Inclusive Trade Horizons for Developing Countries" provided a way to reinforce and reflect specific aspects of the UNFSS Principles such as complexity, complementarity, multi-stakeholder, use of evidence-based approaches, etc. The Independent Dialogue was organized in line with the recommendations in the Convener's Reference Manual. The Dialogue was widely disseminated in advance, including on the STDF website and via STDF e-news articles, and open to all interested participants globally. Professor Spencer Henson (Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Guelph, Canada) was invited to make a keynote presentation during the opening session to clarify and tease out the linkages between safe food facilitation and food systems transformation. As part of the event, members of STDF's global partnership (including FAO, WHO, OIE, the World Bank, donors and developing country experts) participated in a plenary panel discussion, followed by breakout groups where all participants could contribute. STDF's short film "Shaping a safer world" (released in January 2021) was shown during the event to illustrate the issues at stake and link to the breakout room discussions.

### 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?

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Yes

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No

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The Dialogue focused on how the implementation of international standards (including Codex standards for food safety) and the facilitation of safe trade contribute to the transformation of food systems and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Recognizing the importance and urgency of such transformation to deliver food security for the future, the Dialogue aimed to better understand and position the facilitation of safe trade towards this outcome.

Trade helps to create jobs, improve incomes, attract investment and boost economic growth. Meeting international standards for food safety, animal and plant health is essential to facilitate safe trade. Safe trade enables developing countries to participate in and benefit from export-oriented agri-food value chains that generate employment and promote sustainable economic development. Safe trade protects the health of consumers, animals and plants, while helping to mitigate and adapt to the risks posed by climate change, promoting sustainable development.

International standards for food safety, animal and plant health are at the core of STDF's work to facilitate safe and inclusive trade horizons for developing countries, building on STDF's Strategy for 2020-2024 "Safe and Inclusive Trade Horizons for Development Countries". Meeting these standards results in effective national food control, veterinary and phytosanitary systems, which facilitate safe trade, in line with the WTO's Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. Meeting these standards promotes agricultural development, protects the environment and helps to mitigate against the risks of climate change. Like agri-food systems, effective SPS systems depend on inter-disciplinary, cross-sectoral and inclusive multi-stakeholder processes and approaches that cut across agriculture, health, environment, trade and development to enable diverse stakeholders to achieve more and stronger results together than would be possible alone.

The STDF Dialogue engaged members of STDF's global partnership to:

- Share experiences and learning about innovative and collaborative safe trade solutions in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, and explore how they are contributing to food systems transformation.
- Reflect on how ongoing trends – from the growth in regional and South-South trade to digitalization and inclusive and sustainable trade – are influencing SPS capacity development, and what this means for food systems transformation.
- Identify new opportunities for STDF's global partnership to influence and catalyse sustainable improvements in SPS systems that support agri-food systems to deliver for the world of tomorrow.

### 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

The STDF Independent Dialogue highlighted why facilitating safe trade matters for food systems transformation, and how interventions to build sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) capacity for trade can have even greater domestic impacts including to improve food safety for domestic populations.

There has been a huge increase in global agri-food exports, from US\$32.1 billion in 1961 to US\$1,448.6 billion in 2018. This increases the need to manage SPS risks linked to trade, and also to better understand the complexities and trade-offs linked to the implementation of SPS measures. For instance, trade-offs related to the relationship between food safety compliance, trade and food security, such as questions related to the local sale and consumption of products that do not meet standards for export. These linkages and trade-offs are complex, with positive as well as potentially negative effects depending on the specific context.

Trade plays a significant role in economic growth, job creation and poverty reduction. Trade benefits vulnerable groups, including women and youth, and generates other positive impacts on domestic systems. While there is recognition that SPS capacity building and trade contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals – including cross-cutting impacts on gender equity, environmental impacts and sustainability, and other domestic impacts – there is a need to better understand these interactions and, in particular, to move from recognition to mainstreaming.

Firstly, research has highlighted the linkages between gender and trade (including the Joint WTO declaration on Women and Trade in 2017). For instance, that women are disadvantaged in national and international food systems, or that they are more likely to be found in the informal trade sector, to face higher export costs and/or to be excluded in processes to promote compliance with SPS measures. In general, gender is not well mainstreamed in the design of SPS measures and SPS capacity building activities.

Secondly, on environmental impacts and sustainability, there are critical interplays between the implementation of SPS measures and efforts to promote sustainable agriculture. For instance, SPS measures may be associated with the improved and/or reduced use of pesticides, which is critical for sustainable agriculture. However, while this is recognized to some extent, it is inadequately mainstreamed.

Thirdly, the inter-linkages between SPS capacity development, trade and domestic impacts are not well articulated. While it is assumed that increasing SPS capacity to promote trade to regional and international markets generates wider, indirect domestic benefits (for instance for firms and groups not directly involved in trade), it is difficult to find examples of these indirect "domestic spillovers" in practice because they not identified and streamlined in the design of the capacity building efforts, and therefore not measured.

Moving forward, the key question is how to mainstream gender, environmental sustainability, and domestic issues in the SPS arena around trade? This also very much depends on the stakeholders who are engaged, and the frameworks used for priority-setting and decision-making.

The importance of partnerships for food systems transformation was emphasized. The STDF's multi-stakeholder partnership can play a role in promoting better practices to support the mainstreaming of these issues and food systems transformations. For instance, the STDF's evidence-based framework to prioritize SPS investment options for trade (P-IMA) identifies cross-cutting issues (including gender, environmental impacts and domestic impacts) as key decision criteria to be considered in ranking SPS investment priorities for market access. This is one example of an effort to begin to mainstream these topics.

Other key messages from the panel discussion addressed the following:

- the importance of international standards to promote harmonization and facilitate trade in support of food systems transformation.
- the importance of greater transparency, engagement and more effective collaboration (including with the right partners) to strengthen results. This includes, for instance, collaboration and partnerships across diverse public sector stakeholders working across SPS systems and trade facilitation, as well as public-private cooperation.
- The role and added-value of the "One Health" approach to promote synergies and address interconnected global issues (such as trade in wildlife or antimicrobial resistance) related to food safety, animal health and domestic public health.
- the crucial role of the private sector and the need to find new ways to leverage the private sector's knowledge to drive innovation and for the public and private sector to work together more effectively and with greater impact.
- the need for substantially increased resources and action to make access to safe and nutritious food a right, not a privilege.
- the importance of a food chain approach and utilizing systems-based approaches to strengthen food safety as well as plant and animal health for trade that contributes to food systems transformation in a way that promotes gender equity, as well as environment sustainability and other domestic impacts.
- emerging opportunities to promote innovation, including digitalization, to facilitate safe trade that mainstreams cross-cutting issues and promotes gender equity and environmental sustainability.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

- 1. Promote collaborative One-Health approaches and develop agri-food value chains rooted in international standards to boost market access.
  - 2. Further strengthen cooperation between SPS authorities and other relevant agencies, including those addressing customs, border management and environment.
  - 3. Increase public-private dialogue on SPS issues to build trust and create new opportunities for collaboration.
  - 4. Learn how cross-cutting issues have been addressed in other sectors, and develop and roll out new approaches to support gender mainstreaming in SPS capacity development.
  - 5. Design interventions to reach more small-scale farmers and business operators, and increase access to financing mechanisms to meet international standards.
  - 6. Clearly identify and communicate the business case for SPS investments, including through use of the STDF's evidence-based P-IMA framework to prioritize SPS investments for market access.
- Members of STDF's global partnership will further discuss how to address these actions areas within the STDF's global partnership as part of future workplans under the STDF's Strategy for 2020-2024. Other work carried out by STDF partners and other STDF members will also contribute to these action areas.

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KEYWORDS

- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- Human rights
- ✓ Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There were more elements of convergence, rather than significant areas of divergence, during the short event.

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Joint Codex, IPPC, OIE and STDF side-session for the UN FSS: "PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS: THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS" Tuesday 27 July, 19:30 - 20:20 CEST (Rome Time)**  
<https://www.standardsfacility.org/events/un-food-systems-pre-summit>
- **Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) Strategy for 2020-2024**  
[https://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF\\_Strategy\\_2020-2024.pdf](https://standardsfacility.org/sites/default/files/STDF_Strategy_2020-2024.pdf)
- **Global Dialogue on Trade: Trade, an essential piece of the food systems puzzle**  
[https://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/reser\\_e/gdt\\_6july21\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/reser_e/gdt_6july21_e.htm)
- **STDF Independent Dialogue, e-news**  
<https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?u=1dd65e410f4f874eaf3175abc&id=34b41e99cf>