

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 2 June 2021 15:00 GMT +06:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Independent National Dialogue on Action Track 5: Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stress in Bangladesh
CONVENED BY	Mr. Khaja Abdul Hannan, National Dialogue Convener, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/21900/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Bangladesh

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

100

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

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?

The dialogue was held virtually through Zoom and live streamed via Facebook allowing opportunity for different actors to join and engage in the discussion. More than 100 people participated in the dialogue live through Zoom and Facebook representing different Government Ministries, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, academia, and the private sector. In addition, the recorded Facebook session reached 689 unique users.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The dialogue was structured around a panel discussion building on three major themes related to building resilience to ensure food security and access to nutritious food in the Bangladeshi context and supported by guiding questions to reflect the complexity, complementarity of work and allow for the perspectives of multiple stakeholders from across sectors to be reflected. Likewise, the panelists were purposefully selected to represent different sectors.

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

National Dialogues on Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress have taken place in more than 130 countries. In Bangladesh, the virtual Independent National Dialogue on the Action Track 5 was held on 2nd of June 2021. The dialogue was conducted under the leadership of the National UNFSS Dialogue Convener, Additional Secretary at Ministry of Food, Mr. Khaja Abdul Hannan with support from the World Food Programme (WFP), UN Anchor for Action Track 5, and International Center for Climate Change and Development (ICCAD), technical lead for Action Track 5.

The keynote speech was given by the Director of ICCAD, Professor Saleemul Huq, and the synthesis of the panel discussion was done by Professor Shamsul Alam, Senior Secretary at the Economic Division, Planning Commission, and Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Executive Chairman at Power Participation Research Centre.

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The themes of the panel discussion and panel members are outlined below:

Panel Discussion 1: Food Systems and Resilience

This panel was chaired by Dr Mosammat Nazmanara Khanum, Honourable Secretary, Ministry of Food. The discussants included Mr. Robert Simpson, Country Representative FAO Bangladesh and Ms. Farah Kabir, Country Director, Action Aid Bangladesh participated. The panel discussion was guided by the three following questions:

- i. What are the priority investment areas for Bangladesh to address the multiple risks of climate change and natural disasters?
- ii. How can local production and consumption be incentivized to protect nutrition and environment?
- iii. What can be learned from the current pandemic which clearly has been a major shock for Bangladesh, in identifying the vulnerabilities in the food systems to shock, and how food systems can be made more resilient?

Panel Discussion 2: Universal Access to Food to build Resilience

The Universal Access to Food to Build Resilience panel was chaired by Mr, Md Sayedul Islam, Honourable Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children. The discussants included Mr. Rezaul Karim, Head of Programme, World Food Program and Mr. Md Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Secretary General, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. The panel discussion was guided by the three following questions:

- i. How can food systems be made more nutrition sensitive, thus ensuring that meals not only address hunger but also meet all requirements for healthy growth and living?
- ii. What are the key lessons from the response to the pandemic that can be used to ensure sustained access to nutritious diets even in times of shocks?
- iii. How can Government work with the private sector to protect the right to food?

Panel Discussion 3: Climate Resilient Development Pathways

The panel discussion was chaired by Mr. Md Mohsin, Honourable Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. The discussants included Dr Mahbuba Nasreen, Director and Professor, Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, Dhaka University and Mr. Khurshid Alam, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP. The panel discussion was guided by the three following questions:

- i. What are the key steps for enhancing resilience of those affected by climate change?
- ii. What are the three main impediments to integrated approaches for climate change adaptation and how can these be addressed?
- iii. What would be the three strategic directions for the private sector to transform food systems for climate resilient development?

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

Key themes emerging from the dialogue indicates that from a building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress (Action Track 5) perspective, in Bangladesh the focus needs to be on two main drivers of stress, shocks and vulnerabilities: (1) nature driven shocks, stress and vulnerabilities, primarily originating from climate change, but possibly also linked to earthquakes or similar events, (2) economic and human driven shocks, which may originate from pandemics (e.g. COVID-19), other economy shocks (e.g. the 2008 global financial crisis) or manmade conflicts (e.g. the Rohingya crisis). Of these two types of shocks, the first one can disrupt the entire food system by affecting the agricultural production and increasing salinity of land. On the other hand, the economic and human driven shocks may interrupt gains achieved by the country in domains of food security and nutrition, increase poverty and inequality, and jeopardize people's access to food. These two drivers jointly pose the greatest threat to Bangladesh's effort in building a resilient food system.

While taking part in the dialogue, the participants also have pointed out that the mechanisms to address these vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses can be organized along three key sectors that are likely to address both the nature driven and economic and human driven shocks. These three response areas are:

- The social protection system which is covering close to 40% of the population in Bangladesh,
- The agriculture sector that is employing close to 50% of the population mainly in rural areas,
- The Industrial sector employing 20-30% of the population including part of the informal sector mainly in urbanized areas.

Across all sectors adaptation, response and preparedness mechanisms needs to be nutrition sensitive and gender responsive. The GoB should play the leadership role while designing and implementing actions in line with national programming and planning while ensuring complementarity to government budgeting. Moreover, greater involvement of and investment by the private sector actors need to be ensured with a focus on increasing diversity, including biodiversity, of production and consumption.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

Social safety nets:

- i. Continue making government social safety nets more nutrition and gender sensitive. In this regard, it is important to emphasize on fully implementing the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) which has adopted a life-cycle approach to address the need of people at every stage of their lives. The emphasis on making the safety nets more nutrition and gender sensitive will allow the country to ensure access to nutritious food at an affordable rate for the poor whose livelihood strategies have been disrupted either by climate related shocks or due to COVID-19 crisis.
- ii. Introduce ways to be more responsive to an increasingly mobile population, anticipating increasing mobility of vulnerable groups driven by economic as well as environmental events. For this, the GoB can try to transfer cash to the potential beneficiaries by utilizing mobile financial technology. Important to note that at the union level, the government has the necessary infrastructure (e.g. Union Digital Centres or UDCs) to facilitate this transformation.
- iii. Strengthen data management to track vulnerable populations and individuals to allow rapid response in times of stress and sudden-onset shocks and allow the provision of complementary packages across sectors including health, G2P and food assistance.
- iv. Explore ways to integrate private sector, including local shops and producers, in social safety nets, linking them to smallholder farmers and food producers, transformers and aggregators, to ensure diversity of diets.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

In the Agriculture sector and rural communities:

- i. Modernization of agriculture production including post-harvest management of crops through use of adapted technologies.
- ii. Institutionalize national capacities to respond to and recover from shocks through building on existing systems (e.g., early warning) and introduction of new and innovative approaches (e.g. anticipatory actions, insurance schemes).
- iii. Rework and strengthen existing emergency food stock system including involvement of private sector and using food procurement systems as buffer mechanisms to ensure markets for vulnerable smallholder farmers
- iv. Adaptation of crops and cropping systems to salination along costal belt in southern Bangladesh; strengthen and utilize existing natural biodiversity to identify most suited crops
- v. Special focus on identified climate hotspots and plans to manage, mitigate, and adapt to climate stress and shocks in accordance with government plans. For that, detailed vulnerability mapping, heavy investment in disaster risk reduction and innovation of insurance mechanisms and targeted subsidies are required.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

In the Industrial sector and urban communities:

- i. Expand coverage of safety nets to target vulnerable urban populations, introducing mechanisms which allow mobility and migration between urban and rural areas
- ii. Increase involvement of industrial sectors in the safety net coverage for the families of their current and former employees, e.g., through special food and credit related schemes to support affordability of nutritious diets.
- iii. Establishing of Public-Private Partnerships to use market mechanisms to respond to shocks and emergencies while through pre-arrangements reducing the volatility of food markets post-disaster, also combining the strengths of government and private sector logistics and infrastructure capacity for the public interest.
- iv. Food industry to focus on production of nutritious and safe food, reducing food waste during production and post-harvest losses and establishing effective, efficient, and fair public and commercial distribution mechanisms.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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- Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy |
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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/National-Independent-UNFSS-Dialogue-AT5-report-Bangladesh-2-June-2021.docx>

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Facebook live event**
<https://www.facebook.com/icccad>