

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 7 July 2021 10:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Sustainable Food & Tourism Value Chain and Local Natural Resources – Lowland & Coastal area
CONVENED BY	Ms. Ermira Gjeci, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/22299/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Albania

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

102

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18

10 19-30

52 31-50

39 51-65

1 66-80

0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

60 Male

42 Female

0 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

45 Agriculture/crops

9 Fish and aquaculture

12 Livestock

0 Agro-forestry

3 Environment and ecology

0 Trade and commerce

4 Education

1 Communication

5 Food processing

0 Food retail, markets

1 Food industry

1 Financial Services

1 Health care

0 Nutrition

8 National or local government

0 Utilities

0 Industrial

12 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

11 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

4 Large national business

0 Multi-national corporation

3 Small-scale farmer

2 Medium-scale farmer

3 Large-scale farmer

7 Local Non-Governmental Organization

1 International Non-Governmental Organization

0 Indigenous People

8 Science and academia

0 Workers and trade union

0 Member of Parliament

12 Local authority

23 Government and national institution

1 Regional economic community

4 United Nations

0 International financial institution

0 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

1 Consumer group

22 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Principles of engagement under UN Food systems sub-national dialogues have been respected. The lowland & coastal region of the dialogue and the key economic sectors have been highlighted in the invitation letter/email. This dialogue consisted of the presentation of local food systems issues along with the 5 Action Tracks, by addressing the challenges in that region, by discussing interlinkages between the 5 Action Tracks, on policies and actions. It was also stressed that through the dialogue discussions people have an opportunity to get their voice heard at the national policy level and also in the international forums. All involved stakeholders were invited and encouraged to take an active role in the discussions. Participants were given the opportunity to listen to each other. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development led the sub-national dialogue supported by UNRCO and FAO Albania. The objective of the Dialogue was: -to understand local food systems; to exchange perspectives on local food systems – know challenges in food production and consumption in Albania, what is working well and what are the challenges toward sustainable food systems. A large number (102) of national and international participants representing governments, businesses, farmers, organizations, academia, civil society as well as university students representing the next generation of sustainability leaders, have been together to define the current status of our local food systems from the perspective of the healthy and sustainable consumption and discuss the challenges and areas where the next steps on the short and long term are needed. In addition, interested people participated in the live broadcast on YouTube; 44 people viewed the recorded video and live stream.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Dialogue emphasized listening, honesty and open-mindedness. The Chatham House Rule of non-attribution encouraged participants to engage in frank and open discussion with the inclusion of respective stakeholders (with a gender-sensitive and participatory approach). Due to the broad range of participants, all main aspects were reflected. Every participant was given an opportunity to express their opinion either directly or through discussion in the zoom chat/inbox. Every comment, opinion is reflected. The sub-national Dialogue consisted of 2 sessions. The first one was the introduction of the 2021 UN food systems Summit and objectives of the Sub-National Dialogue; the second one was focused on local (lowland and coastal area) food systems. The 4 thematic Discussion Topics (•1: food, nutrition, and health and • 2: sustainable consumption and production - SDG12 • 3: equitable livelihoods and value distribution •4: resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses) were formulated in the form of short, ambitious statements, to be realized up to 2030. During the second session, four facilitators presented these topics and led the discussions addressed through questions.

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

All stakeholders and actors should participate in the sub-national dialogue; moderation and presentation of all action tracks should be presented in a clear language by presenting them from a local/regional perspective. In a complex, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder discussion, it is critically important to emphasize to the participants that there is no right or wrong answer or opinion and that everyone's voices and opinions count. This will ensure healthy discussion and richness of opinions and ideas. Be sure to give participants ample opportunities for questions and answers and make good use of the chat/inbox functions to provide opportunities for all participants to express their views-comments- questions.

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 title of the sub-national dialogue was “Sustainable Food & Tourism Value Chain and Local Natural Resources”. The Dialogue two /Sub-national Dialogue has been organized for low-land & coastal areas in Albania (Shkoder, Lezhe, Durres, Tirane, Elbasan, Lusnje, Fier, Berat, Vlore) based on key sectors such as Blue Economy (fish & aquaculture), Vegetables (Field & Greenhouse), Dairy & Meat, Olive & Olive Oil. The Dialogue was organized under the concept “an extensive exploration everywhere”. 102 guests participated in the dialogue. Five Action Tracks has been conducted by 4 facilitators. The presentations aimed at creating an open and trusted atmosphere among participants so that everyone has a voice.

Action Track 1: Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all.

- Food security and nutrition challenges and the population groups most affected
- The availability and accessibility of healthy and nutritious diets to all population groups.
- Main dietary patterns in the country. Any specific concerns with dietary patterns and diet-related non-communicable diseases;
- Policies and initiatives to ensure food systems lend themselves to providing nutritious diets for children and adolescents;
- Policies or initiatives in place to promote healthy diets and better nutrition, such as integrated school meals, nutrition education, regulation of advertising and marketing of certain foods not conducive to healthy diets to improve the nutritional value of food, and food labelling;
- Food safety policies and control systems in place to assess the main sources of foodborne diseases and food safety
- Main challenges regarding animal diseases, plant pests and diseases, and preventive management and surveillance systems.

Action Tracks 2 and 3. Sustainable consumption and production

- Policies, initiatives and the raising of awareness among the public and private-sector stakeholders to prevent and reduce food loss and waste along the value chain.
- Short value chains that respond to consumer demands, providing diverse foods at an affordable price;
- Policies to prevent land degradation; management of crop yields and the use of pastureland;
- Sustainable and efficient use of water in irrigation and food processing; water quality assurance;
- Analysis to understand the overall environmental impacts of the main agrifood value chains;
- Investment in sustainable agricultural techniques
- Functioning food supply chains with adequate infrastructure for value addition, storage, processing and distribution;
- Adoption of measures to strengthen the sustainability of food supply chains;
- Reviewing support to agriculture, including subsidies, with a view to facilitating the green transition.

Action track 4. Advancing equitable livelihoods and value distribution

- Access to finance and credit for operators in the food and agricultural sector.
- Social protection measures such as input subsidies, innovative insurance solutions to manage extreme weather and climate variability risks on crop and livestock production. Action track 5. Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses
- Measures in place to ensure that the country food systems are prepared to avoid, mitigate and/or adapt to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses
- Emergency plans ready to be operationalized to address food safety, animal health and plant health threats and outbreaks;
- Food assistance programmes in place, when needed, to contribute to food security and nutrition.

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

- It is necessary to build stability, trust and tradition of cooperation between local government, local partners, businesses, farmers, academia, education etc. for the good functioning of the food system, and vice versa;
- Comprehensive approaches are necessary: "One Health" as a multisector, and transdisciplinary approach—working at the local, regional, national levels—with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment;
- "Nexus thinking" by considering and understanding water, food, forestry and energy and their interrelationships; all aspects of sustainability (Economic, environmental, social and cultural); local-national-regional-global.
- School, preschool and early childhood meal service and nutritional education are the key for healthier eating habits.
- More fruits & vegetables and less meat for sustainable diets;
- Need on the mechanization, innovation and digitalization of the food safety chain;
- Climate change effects are risking the food system and the agriculture producers;
- Not only farmers are a group risking their income, even consumers are in risk, banks and investors are risking their money and the society as a whole is losing from all that;
- Tackling the problem of deforestation starts by educating kids during their school years;
- More data are need with regard to agricultural production and its related areas, to assess implemented policies and develop better ones. Without data the policy making process is like a "ship with no compass". For example, the INSTAT agricultural surveys could add modules relating to SDG 2.4.1 which is about sustainable production;
- A key point in addressing food safety would be to have better control on the way pesticides are used in the production process;
- To improve food system sustainability, it is imperative to develop short value chains (SVC). In Albania, SVC are considerably underdeveloped throughout the country. Nevertheless, there is evidence suggesting that small producers in rural and semi-rural areas try to produce processed food such as fruit jams and juices, cheese and canned vegetables. In order to build SVC some issues need to be considered:
 - a. Products in a short value chains should reach minimum standards as those going through a collector.
 - b. For some products that undergo a processing process, and need the application of food safety standards.
 - c. In order to guarantee the quality of agro-processing etc. small-scale equipment of good quality/standards should be installed.

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

Action track 1.

1. Agro tourism and short value chain as a tool for SFS
2. Establishment of measures for good management of potable water, protection of water resources.
3. Special attention to the issue of mechanization, innovation, and digitalization in the food sector, especially in food safety because this is the biggest problem today that we can achieve fast results and on a large scale.
4. The group of farmers producers (about 83%) who produce for their own consumption and for their livestock should be given more attention. They do not have proper access and support
5. Improve the legal framework and information on labelling, drafting a national plan for food and nutrition as well as a national guide for healthy food consumption.
6. The need for better coordination between the main food chain.
7. Pay attention to traditional food products which keep the tradition alive and add value to agro-tourism in Albania.
8. Consumer awareness campaign on food products.
9. Investment for the supply of potable water as drinking water for animals.
10. Awareness and education of the young parents regarding the healthy diet.

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

Action Tack 2 and 3

1. Improving young parents' awareness of healthy diet
2. Develop better-coordinated value chains
3. Build capacities of extension service agents
4. More data collection and analysis related to the agricultural sector
5. Create insurance markets for agricultural activities
6. Support the development of short value chains initiatives
7. Build farmers capacities on nature-friendly production practices
8. Importance of Food Loss and Waste and need to analyze where we have losses, at what levels and why we have losses
9. Need to analyze the pesticides and chemicals in the agriculture production
10. The need for an analysis of the environmental, economic and social impact of a sustainable food system

ACTION TRACKS

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
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KEYWORDS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

Action Track 4

1. Accelerating economic growth by enhancing financial education among farmers that can access loans to protect and develop their agriculture businesses
2. Reducing rural/urban inequalities through modernization of agro-food processing sectors in Albania through a deeper integration into regional agro-food value chains, especially in those sectors (fruit, olive, medicinal and aromatic plant viticulture) in which Albania has prospects for faster export growth.
3. Promote the value chain that includes food production directly related to tourism among others for the economic empowerment of rural women and youth.
4. Ensure the food monitoring system cover the short chains.
5. Promoting local product development – e.g. branding and identification with geographical regions
6. Improving management skills on small / family farms
7. Develop farmers registry and certification
8. Ensure farmers will fill the Global Gap
9. Insurance companies need to have a guarantee fund offered by the government in order to create opportunities for agriculture and livestock businesses to insure their small businesses
10. Strengthening the role of women for better adoption of climate change (Gender Clime Resilience)

ACTION TRACKS

	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

Action Track 5

1. The disaster response capacity at municipality levels is weak and therefore support from the central government level is required to enhance disaster response as well as Disaster Risk Reduction related capacities.
2. Developing support programmes for the affected areas via subsidy systems and/or undertake investments in rehabilitating the damaged public infrastructures, such as channels and dams.
3. It's important the erosion control as well as the need to decrease desertification and more efficient utilization of water resources by using new technologies like drip irrigation etc.
4. Regarding animal diseases is the request for vaccinations for diseases by insurance companies but also by subsidy agencies such as ARDA. So the introduction of herd health management concepts in a universal way to benefit from both insurance and subsidies.
5. In the pandemic situation the importance of local products and production remains very high and should be considered in the ongoing national and global policies.
6. Local government has emergency plans that address food security
7. Protection of animals from infectious diseases, through the implementation of biosafety practices on farms, good animal feed treatment, implementation of food chain control for animals, implementation of requirements in milking, equipment, safe transport staff and certification of the veterinary product.
8. The sustainable management of forest and pasture resources with one objective restoration and rehabilitation of degraded forest and pasture ecosystems.
9. In a pandemic situation the food systems must be adapted and implemented in accordance with the new conditions dictated by the emergency situation where the priority is to review the rules of conduct of staff in relation to the requirements of personal and local hygiene, regarding the specifics of disease manifested pathogenicity, routes of transmission as well as their zoonotic character.
10. The importance of ecological and biological agriculture related to the use of pesticides, and the use of the good practice. Linkages with organic agriculture, tourism and consumer health.

ACTION TRACKS

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

- Insurance for agriculture businesses
Is the government obliged to offer any guarantee funds or covering the losses for every climate disaster is sufficient?

- Insurance for ruminants

Ruminant herds are normally owned by small farmers which are not ready to pay the insurance premium set by insurance companies which, from their end, increase this premium due to the high risk of the sector. The government (veterinary system) can not fully ensure the health and tracking of all herds in Albania.

- Ethical issue for ensuring food for poor people

In order to secure food for all, technologies can be subsidized by the government in order to help the food processing industry to produce not only animal food but affordable food for the poor as well.

This will categorize people in social strata by not offering equal opportunity for future generations for physical or intellectual development.

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