

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 4 June 2021 16:00 GMT +04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	The Third National Dialogue - The Future of Georgian Food Systems
CONVENED BY	Ekaterine Zviadadze
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/22578/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Georgia

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

24

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

3

19-30

17

31-50

4

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

6

Male

18

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?

Considering the scope of discussion topics of the Dialogues, our objective was to invite and engage all respective stakeholders of food systems in the discussion including producers, value-chain representatives, scientists, researchers, representatives of NGOs, international and donor organizations, government agencies, youth organizations, etc. All three Dialogues were announced well in advance to let every invited participant join the meetings. As food systems are complex, a holistic approach of three key measurements (economic, social, and environmental impacts) was applied. The participants of the National Dialogues shared opinions with each other. In particular, a representative of the private sector exchanged ideas with the government representatives, a food producer - with the consumer, etc. Participants of the Dialogues shared their feedback and suggestions in writing as well. The final draft of the document was sent out to all participants for their perusal. Based on thorough analysis and discussions, the key trends and the respective activities were outlined which shall be considered during the elaboration of the respective policy, implementation of which will ensure strong food systems by 2030, thus better and sustainable future for the country.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The first stage meeting of the National Dialogue of Georgia of the UN Food Systems Summit was convened on April 16, 2021. Fifty participants including representatives from the private sector, NGOs, scientific circles, public agencies, and international organizations outlined the key trends for sustainable food systems in Georgia. The second stage meeting of the National Dialogue was held on May 20, 2021. Fifty-four representatives from all municipalities of Georgia attended the meeting, discussed the identified key trends, and amplified the existing initiatives with their own visions about the food systems. The third stage meeting of the National Dialogue of the UN Food Systems Summit was convened on June 4, 2021, which brought together the participants of the previous two preparatory meetings who summarized and agreed on the findings. All three National Dialogues brought together a wide spectrum of stakeholders. All participants were very active and detail-oriented during discussions. Eventually, all their suggestions and recommendations were taken into consideration, summarised, and compiled under the key trends and objectives. All participants had the opportunity to present their feedback on the final draft of the document as well. Proposed recommendations seem crucial to ensure sustainable food systems in the country by 2030.

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

The first National Dialogue of the UN Food Systems Summit brought together fifty participants including representatives of the private sector, NGOs, scientific circles, public agencies, and international organizations. During the introductory part of the session, the National Convener and the Curator made presentations about the importance of the Food Systems Summit and the National Dialogues. The concept note of the food systems was elaborated. After the introductory part, the participants were grouped in break out rooms and were assigned to discuss the following questions: • Objective of the development of food systems in the country – outcomes by 2030; • Areas for improvement of food systems – identification of key trends and priorities; • Recommendations/ Actions; • Who shall be engaged in the actions? • Cooperation and partnership mechanisms. All participants were actively engaged in discussions. The facilitators of the groups presented the findings of the discussions that was followed by a wrap-up session. The second preparatory meeting of the UN Food Systems brought together fifty-four representatives from all municipalities of Georgia. The National Convener and the Curator opened the session with the presentations and introduced the findings of the first National Dialogue to the participants, including the key priorities for the sustainable food systems, as follows: • Ensure competitive value-chains in food systems; • Ensure effective systems of food/feed safety, veterinary and plant protection; • Sustainable use of natural resources, environmental protection, preservation of ecosystems, climate change mitigation and adaptation; • Elaboration of effective systems for crisis management. The participants were grouped into four groups. Each group was assigned to outline recommendations for the specific priority through the support of a facilitator. After group discussions, the facilitators presented the findings, which reinforced and enhanced the previous recommendations. The third National Dialogue of the UN Food Systems Summit brought together the participants of the previous two preparatory meetings. The National Convener presented a draft roadmap of the sustainable food systems, which summarised the recommendations and the key trends outlined during the first two National Dialogues. The participants had opportunities to amplify the proposed recommendations and to finalize the draft document.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Development of the full value chain in food systems and stimulating rural economic activity is crucial for sustainable development and inclusive economic growth in Georgia. The vital responsibility of the next decade will be to reinforce the development of quality and production technologies, which ensures competitiveness in both local and international markets. Despite implemented and ongoing reforms and development-oriented programs, the food system still faces challenges, which need to be solved as a precondition for the social-economic growth of the country. Our priorities for the next decade are to ensure the existence of a competitive value chain in food systems; To develop an effective system of food/feed safety, veterinary and plant protection; Sustainable use of natural resources, environmental protection, preservation of ecosystems, climate change mitigation and adaptation; Elaboration of effective systems for the crisis management.

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

Involvement of the civil society sector in policy performance along with the public agencies is of utmost importance. It is vital to actively communicate with the direct stakeholders of the food systems such as producers, unions, associations, NGOs, scientific circles, donors, international organizations, higher educational and vocational institutions, local municipality representatives, and the civic sector in the municipalities.

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models as well as the establishment of a Civil Committee can be considered as one of the best mechanisms of cooperation. Collaboration at the level of Municipalities, for instance, with rural councils is worth noting as well

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

Ensure competitive value-chains in the food systems (Action Track 1, Action Track 3)

- Increase the competitiveness of the agricultural products in Georgia and develop their value-chains;
- Ensure availability of the respective infrastructure for the compliance of products with marketing standards at all stages of value-adding;
- Ensure additional supportive policy for the small farmers and the households;
- Promotion of engagement of women and young producers in agri-food sector;
- Increase awareness of agri-food primary producers in agricultural practices;
- Improve access to mechanization;
- Develop agricultural land market;
- Develop highly-qualified services and ensure capacity building of human resources in the retail market of agricultural production inputs;
- Expand the roster of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) and plant protection products (PPPs) in municipalities, enhancing controls;
- Establishment of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and improvement of technological processes;
- Improve access to funds, agricultural insurance (to cover more risks) knowledge, information, and awareness-raising;
- Improve logistics in food systems;
- Provide support to the diversification of the rural economy;
- Provide support to agro/eco-tourism;
- Ensure efficient quality infrastructure (standards, labs, certification bodies) in the agri-food sector; Introduction of international standards in primary production;
- Support the development of organic agriculture;
- Establishment of producers' associations, their enlargement, and cooperation as well as the improvement of access to the market; Ensure availability of high-quality agricultural production inputs and creation of agri-food processing capacities;
- Promotion of digitalization in agri-food systems;
- Develop infrastructure such as green-houses, storage facility, hydro-melioration, mechanization, transport, energy, roads, internet, etc.
- Supporting the development of animal husbandry and animal breeding activities; refining preventive actions and control procedures for animal diseases; ensuring compliance of management, quarantine, and eradication measures for especially dangerous diseases with international standards;
- Conservation of Biodiversity, collection of local varieties, restoration, improvement, and creation Gene bank;
- Increase accessibility of high-quality agricultural production inputs;
- Improve irrigation and drainage systems;
- Provide support to the sustainable development of aquaculture.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

Ensure effective systems of food/feed safety, veterinary and plant protection (Action Track 2)

- Increase qualification of personnel involved in food safety and food controls;
- Achieve continuous development goals for integrated food safety system in the country through the mechanism of developing guidelines, standard operational procedures (SOPs), and instructions, both for competent authorities and food business operators;
- Bolster extension and consultation services to provide pertinent information on food safety issues to farmers and food producers;
- Research "Actual Food and Nutrient Consumption" in the country, undertaken by relevant authorized bodies;
- Improve food environment, raising population awareness on food safety and healthy nutrition, with particular emphasis on adolescents and young people;
- Enhance risk assessment capacity in food safety (refining risk assessment methodology), risk assessment and management, risk communication, and effective enforcement of food safety legislation as well as a systematic approach to risk assessment procedures.
- Improve laboratory capacity in the country; adopting new methods for laboratory test diagnostics in the area of food safety, veterinary and plant protection; expanding accreditation; capacity building for laboratory employees;
- Enhance and strengthen post-harvest storage and processing systems.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

Sustainable use of natural resources, environmental protection, preservation of ecosystems, climate change mitigation and adaptation (Action Track 3)

- Awareness-raising about climate change – conduct training for the representatives of municipalities, hold frequent meetings with communities about climate change and its impacts, and organize training for school children on environmental issues;
- Sustainable use of water, land, and forest resources as well as prevention of soil, air, and water pollution;
- Establishment of early warning systems; Ensure efficient management of the natural disasters;
- Restoration of windbreaks and promotion of planting trees for this purpose;
- Promotion of climate-smart and energy-efficient activities as well as elaboration and implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation action plans;
- Effective utilization of renewable energy sources;
- Support the development of a circular economy.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

4. Elaboration of effective systems for crisis management (Action Track 5)

- Ensure food security;
- Ensure crisis management plan is in place;
- Establishment of supply management systems for food and other basic needs;
- Establish an effective communication mechanism between the state and the private sector for a force majeure situation, which ensures effective management of crises and shocks.
- Management of food losses and expired food and improvement of related processes.

ACTION TRACKS

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy |
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| | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate |