

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 11 June 2021 09:30 GMT +12:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	New Zealand National Food System Dialogue 3
CONVENED BY	National Convenor Philip Houlding, International Policy Director, Ministry for Primary Industries
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/22952/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	New Zealand

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

146

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18 38 19-30 66 31-50 31 51-65 11 66-80 0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

71 Male 73 Female 2 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 facilitator was trained in the 4SD/UNFSS dialogues approach - Diverse participation of people and organisations - Diversity of perspective and views was promoted

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

- multiple stakeholders participated - online and in-person dialogues were held - respectful debate was promoted - when recording the views and opinions expressed they were not attributed to specific individuals to encourage inclusive and frank discussion

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

- The principles of engagement provided an inclusive and collaborative guide for meaningful discussion

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

A) Major focus box

Three National Dialogues were held with participants discussing what a sustainable food system could look like for New Zealand. The Dialogues were a comprehensive exploration of New Zealand's food system.

The Dialogues brought together a diversity of stakeholders to explore key food system issues and ways of working together. Participants included food growers and producers, agribusinesses, industry bodies, community groups, the science community, national and local government, and non-governmental organisations.

The Dialogues were designed to reflect Te Tiriti o Waitangi and integrated te ao Māori. Treaty partner representatives were invited to participate in the Dialogues and two Māori food system experts presented at the in-person Dialogue.

Dialogue participants were encouraged to explore how they consider the New Zealand food system should look in 2030 to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and what might be required to get there. Participants were allocated to discussion groups of up to ten people. Each group received a discussion topic outlining a vision for the New Zealand food system, as well as conversation prompts designed to be broad enough to allow for a range of perspectives.

The National Dialogues were independently facilitated by Emily King, a food systems expert who was trained in the UN dialogue format and had previously facilitated independent food systems dialogues in New Zealand.

Three broad food system topics were discussed.

- environment and sustainable production
- food and human wellbeing
- food waste.

Participants were encouraged to share their perspectives and values on how the New Zealand food system could transition to possible future states (see table below). Participants were welcome to discuss the viability of these possible future states and their own views on desired future states. These possible future states were developed by the independent facilitator of the National Food System Dialogues.

Possible future states for the New Zealand food system

Environment and sustainable production

- Fishing, farming, and growing practices are transformed to achieve environmental, social, and economic sustainability.
- The New Zealand food system has a positive environmental story that mitigates and adapts to the effects of climate change and improves soil and water quality.

Food and human wellbeing

- Healthy, sustainable, and culturally appropriate food is accessible and affordable for all New Zealanders.
- New Zealand food is known internationally as high quality and environmentally sustainable, while at home, our people can afford to eat healthy and culturally appropriate food.

- New Zealanders can express their identity, choose their preferences, and have the right to define their own food systems.

Food waste

- Food waste is reduced by 50% by 2030.

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

Four key findings:

- There are diverse perspectives and values on New Zealand's food system and how to improve sustainability.
- The importance of working with Māori (indigenous people of New Zealand) to transition New Zealand's food system to be more sustainable, in accordance with the Treaty of Waitangi (New Zealand's founding document)
- The requirement for national policy coherence in food systems.
- Major threats to our food system such as soil loss, climate change and water quality, and how to build a resilient food system.

Environment and Sustainable Food Production Findings

Te ao Māori approaches and their potential to address food system challenges:

- the value of indigenous knowledge of food systems when used alongside, or as an alternative to, other scientific approaches.
- the value of a holistic approach, trying to balance and work in harmony with the entire ecosystem.
- the interface between mātauranga Māori (traditional indigenous knowledge) and regenerative farming, with some participants noting the similarities between the two.

Climate change and biodiversity loss, with the natural world seen as key to addressing these challenges:

- the tensions between the goals of economic, environmental, and social sustainability
- potential for organic and regenerative agriculture
- the progress New Zealand has made over the past decade in addressing these challenges
- the complexity of sustainable production in New Zealand
- the shared challenges that farmers are facing
- the value in international connections
- the importance of the local approach in combination with international cooperation, as there are global commons issues.

Approaches to incentives and regulation that have shaped the New Zealand food system and its outcomes:

- the removal of agriculture subsidies in the 1980s and the economic and environmental effects of this
- the establishment of the nitrogen fertiliser cap in Taupo
- the role of supermarkets and large food businesses
- the high levels of debt carried by many farmers and how economic sustainability could be supported by commercial banks building a better understanding of farm systems.

The role of learning, innovation, and communication in improving New Zealand's food system:

- the importance of a coherent industry approach to move towards industry sustainability.
- the benefits of collaboration on best practice and the need to communicate across the food system.
- the importance of localised approaches that align with a broader national context.
- the role of traditional and established practices
- the role of innovation

Ensuring sufficient domestic access to food while maintaining exports:

- the interaction between food exports and domestic food prices
- the importance of primary sector exports to rural communities and wellbeing
- the right balance of food that should be produced for local consumption and for export
- the length of supply chains with respect to reducing cost.

Food and Human Wellbeing findings

The role of the government in New Zealand's food system:

- government's role in feeding the New Zealand population and the importance of ensuring access to healthy food is provided in a culturally appropriate way,
- the importance of long-term cross-government leadership and commitment
- the need for collaboration across government
- the role of a national food strategy, with many participants considering it necessary to provide a framework for action
- the lack of official data on food consumption and nutrition.

The national food regulatory system relating to food exports and safety:

- the focus on export producers or local producers with some participants considering that export producers are prioritised above producers growing for the local market or community.
- the regulatory burden of the food system and its impact on consumers

Major threats to our food system such as soil loss, climate change and water quality, as well as how to secure the food system's health and prosperity:

- the challenges facing our food system are interconnected and complex.
- the importance of land use to ensure that access to traditional food baskets is retained and that fertile land is not lost to development
- supporting local growers to operate and grow food
- the relation between poverty and access to nutritious food
- the intergenerational impacts of policy decisions on food systems

- the benefits of diversifying New Zealand food production
- New Zealand's food identity and the cultural importance to many groups;
- the opportunity to incorporate and learn from te ao Māori
- championing the role of diverse cultures, including Māori and Pasifika, as leaders in the food system.
- food as culture and not just nutrients
- the human right to access food and water and how it is essential to community wellbeing and human development
- the role of colonisation and its influence on the current food system with respect to inequality of access and nutrition.

Access to nutritious food:

- the relationship between income and food choices
- the role of the community in healthy food choices
- accessibility to high quality food
- perceptions around the quality of food that is exported and food that is available in domestic markets.

Several options to ensure New Zealanders have access to nutritious food:

- empowerment to access and grow nutritious food
- education and guidance
- community support services.

For further information please see pages 6-14 from the Summary of New Zealand's National Food System Dialogues (attached).

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The role of a national food strategy

Many participants considered it necessary to provide a framework for national action on food systems. Most participants also agreed that a national food strategy with clear governance, based on te ao Māori was critical. A health first approach was considered central to the development of a national food strategy which supports local producers whilst also considering New Zealand's need to stay connected to global supply chains. The New Zealand Government currently has cross agency governance in place to establish metrics and indicators to measure and manage our food system.

Food Waste

Participants discussed how to develop an agreed and understood definition of food loss and waste as this was seen as a key first step for effective discussion and action. Many participants considered that the food waste definition needs to include both pakeha and Māori perspectives and can draw from international bodies such as the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation. Quality data was seen as a crucial place to start to ensure that we can track national improvement. A stocktake of current data is required with a scope to establishing new data – recognising that there is often a high cost for robust measurement. The Ministry for the Environment is developing an official definition of food loss and waste. The Ministry is also working on targets for food waste as part of the development of a waste strategy.

For further information please see pages 6-14 from the Summary of New Zealand's National Food System Dialogues (attached).

[Below is continued from Main Findings]

How to better connect communities with New Zealand's food system. Potential solutions included:

- creating robust data systems to measure sustainable food system indicators that align with New Zealand's values
- scaling up existing initiatives
- improving marketing and advertising as participants discussed that it is currently skewed towards unhealthy food and business profit
- the food industry communicating the value of health and sustainability to the public
- exemptions to compliance costs for local producers to increase food affordability.

Food waste findings

The importance of having an official definition of food loss and waste:

- the definition needs to include both Pakeha (non-Māori New Zealander) and Māori perspectives
- quality data is a crucial place to start to ensure that we can track improvement
- a stocktake of current data is required

Participants noted that the Ministry for the Environment is developing an official definition of food loss and waste. The Ministry is also working on targets for food waste as part of the development of a waste strategy.

Food waste is an issue that cuts across all parts of the food system:

- how consumers understand food waste is important
- the role of producers in preventing food waste
- there are examples of best practice throughout New Zealand.

The discussion often took a step back and considered the broader, systemic issue of food insecurity.

- questioning how the level of food waste reflects on food distribution
- the role of innovative thinking.

The role of social attitudes in minimising food waste.

- the importance of changing attitudes
- the role of education
- intergenerational leadership on reducing food waste.

Solutions to food waste and how multiple lenses are needed. The discussions emphasised the importance of considering food waste through a climate change lens:

- consideration of alternative approaches such as closed loop systems
- rebuilding our connection to the process of how food reaches us as consumers.

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There was divergence of opinion on how to provide sufficient access to food domestically while maintaining food exports and environmental indicators:

- the interaction between food exports and domestic food prices, with some participants considering exports were placing pressure on domestic food prices.
- the importance of primary sector exports to rural communities and wellbeing which is a driver for maintaining export levels.
- the right balance of food that should be produced for local consumption and for export.
- the focus on export producers or local producers with some participants considering that export producers are prioritised above producers growing for the local market or community.
- the regulatory burden of the system and its impact on consumers, with some participants raising that the high compliance costs associated with meeting export requirements are passed onto consumers or are a barrier to entry for many.
- perceptions around the quality of food that is exported and food available in domestic markets. Participants discussed the perceived tension between exporting our 'best' food and not having affordable food available to New Zealanders. Some industry representatives were surprised by this perception, given that domestic standards are calibrated with international standards. It was noted that communication was required to present information on the quality of food locally compared to that of exported food.
- The role of the food industry was discussed and it's significant part in defining food systems and community, however, that health and sustainability could be valued higher and there was an opportunity for industry to step up and communicate this to the public.
- The tensions between the goals of economic, environmental, and social sustainability. Many participants considered policy direction to be required to balance the three dimensions of sustainability, and clarification on the outcomes that New Zealand is seeking for the food system.

For further information please see pages 6-14 from the Summary of New Zealand's National Food System Dialogues (attached).

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

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Summary-of-New-Zealands-National-Food-System-Dialogues.pdf>