

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 15 June 2021 13:30 GMT +05:30
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	From Seeds to Table: Re-instating the farmers to the core of the food systems in Asia
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Ms Shamika Mone, President, Inter-continental Network of Organic Farmers Organisations
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/23679/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/23679/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	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

### PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18	6	19-30	29	31-50	29	51-65	4	66-80	80+
------	---	-------	----	-------	----	-------	---	-------	-----

### PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

67	Male	33	Female		Prefer not to say or Other
----	------	----	--------	--	----------------------------

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

25	Agriculture/crops	11	Education		Health care
1	Fish and aquaculture	3	Communication		Nutrition
1	Livestock	8	Food processing		National or local government
3	Agro-forestry	3	Food retail, markets		Utilities
15	Environment and ecology		Food industry		Industrial
3	Trade and commerce		Financial Services		Other

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

9	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	1	Workers and trade union
1	Large national business		Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation	4	Local authority
5	Small-scale farmer	1	Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer	1	Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer	1	United Nations
7	Local Non-Governmental Organization	1	International financial institution
1	International Non-Governmental Organization	11	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
13	Indigenous People	1	Consumer group
7	Science and academia	7	Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The dialogue was organized by the Inter-continental Network of Organic Farmers Organization, a global network of organic farmers organization within the IFOAM - Organics International. INOFO organized five (5) Regional dialogues so that context, realities, solutions and recommendations are based on regional realities and situation. The participants of the dialogue came from South East Asia (Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam), South Asia (India, Sri Lanka) and the Pacific (Australia). Each countries, excluding Australia, presented and proposed solutions to the five tracks of the UNFSS with focus on environmental, socio-cultural, economic and political dimensions. The dialogue was also coordinated with the INOFO country conveners and is open to the local stakeholders so that they will be able to share and discuss their perspective and important role in crafting recommendations for the UNFSS. Majority of those who participated are from the agriculture sector, followed by the environment and ecology sector, then those who came from other different sectors. Each participant has the opportunity to share their recommendations during the open forum, giving enough time for each to speak their minds and are ensured that their points will be included in the report. There was no unfriendly debate, only sharing of perspectives and point of views while facilitators ensured that sharing are not going far from the objectives of the dialogue.

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

Act with Urgency and recognition of complexity- The participants discussed the importance of acting on SDG #1,2,3,10,11,12,13,14,15,16 and 17 since most of them are from the agriculture sector and are directly involve in the whole food value and supply chain, including partnership with institutions and government units and agencies at the local and national level. The participants were also those who have first hand experiences in the challenges of the current food systems, from land rights issues, rising prices of inputs and labor, unfair market treatment and trader relationships, climate change, declining soil fertility, ecosystem and biodiversity destruction, corporate takeover of the whole food system and more. These challenges are being felt by the farmers, specially small scale farmers in the developing South who lack structural support from their own government and have difficulty reeling from the effects of climate change every cropping season are now coming together to propose a working solutions that addresses many of the SDGs from land to market - but with focus on the environmental, socio-cultural, economic and political dimensions of farmers and their communities' everyday realities. Commit to the summit - as many optioned to boycott the UNFSS, INOFO and its member organizations chose to engage and propose appropriate solutions to the realities of the majority of the farmers globally, that is more than 80% of the world's total population of farmers. The current food system has done a great damage to the small farmers, to the local ecosystem and the environment as a whole, small organic farmers contribution will mean a lot to the improvement of the current food system. Respect and embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity - Respect is the working principle in the conduct of the entire summit. Since the participants are coming from different sectors, each were given the chance to speak their minds and their contributions as a sector, there were no unfriendly debate, only passionate discussion and proposal of solutions.

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

The principles of engagement are quite basic and simple, however, building trust is not as simple as it seems. There has been a lot of agreement, specially with governments, to uphold the principles and unities in every agreement, however, until now, many government have not implemented many of international agreements. For other conveners, it is important to read, understand and keep in mind the principles during the conduct of the dialogue to be guided in every step, from the development of topics, assigning speakers and asking the right questions during open forums. These are helpful in crafting questions and developing guides in the presentation and overall structure of the dialogue.

# 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

INFO Asia's dialogue followed the method as recommended in the reference Manual , but we have added a component where we invited speakers from different organizations with highly successful implementation of actions, programs and projects which we see as important basis in the crafting of solutions for the UNFSS. The topics presented by each speakers were also in accordance to the objectives of the UNFSS, the dialogue itself and the organization to educate its members of the importance of the activity and being involved in the process. The speakers also came from the member organizations of INFO and their presentations reflect what their members are doing on the ground which are important to highlight what has been already working and deserves recognition by the UNFSS as solution. Aside from that, there is also no break out group. We decided to have a plenary session instead so that all participants will have the chance to hear each point, if they agree or disagree with the presentations or they have other solutions that may be relevant for them. In the process, participants were also able to understand the different context and perspectives of other nation in the practice and implementation of organic production system. The flow of program is as follows: I. Opening remarks/rationale II. Presentation of speakers (10 minutes each) - 5 topics aligned to the 5 tracks of the UNFSS • Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress - India • Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all - Indonesia • Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns - Sri Lanka • Boosting nature-positive production - Philippines • Advancing equitable livelihoods - Vietnam III. Plenary session (50 minutes) - discussion and recommendations were compiled, including that from the speakers IV. Closing In the end, the point of divergence and convergence were clearly identified. The points of divergence are mostly about the priorities of each organization in the operation of their programs, however, the point of convergence were clearly about the issues that farmers are experiencing in Asia, from land rights issues, priorities in policies and programs of the government, climate change, biodiversity collapse in diverse rich countries of Asia and farmers rights as a whole.

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

INOFO is a network that facilitates relationship between organic farmers unions through the autonomous, self-organised infrastructure within which farmer organizations consult & cooperate on matters of common concern and speak in any forum with legitimate professional voice. With its mission to unite organic farmers and support their voices at all levels of food systems development, towards producing healthy, nutritious food and preserve mother earth, INOFO Asia is conducting the independent dialogue to discuss the issues and challenges of the present food system, from seed to table and propose just, equitable, sustainable and healthy solutions with the farmers at the core and forefront. The objectives are of the dialogue are to: discuss and draw up solutions to the challenges and issues of the current food systems, covering the five Action Tracks of the UNFSS, based on the realities and on-ground situation of the farmers and their communities in Asia; and make use of the Independent Dialogue to put the voices of the small farmers and the marginalized in setting the agenda and proposing pro-farmer, pro-people and pro-planet solutions to the Food Systems Summit.

### 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

### A. Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all

- a) There is increased initiatives from the community and consumer participation is important, especially during the pandemic, where production became in harmony with nature.
- b) There is also exploring the potential and documenting local food and food ingredients, especially non- timber forest products, and maintain the continuity of native local varieties in organic agriculture.
- c) There should be trainer of the trainer for small organic – agroecology farmers and training on market access. Small organic farmers can also have collaboration with university, local NGO, CSR program as well as farmers exchange education.
- d) There should be support in Participatory Guarantee System, conduct training on this aspect and marketing of product.
- e) Seed bank for family farming which is important in the preservation of local variety.
- f) Collaboration with local government to make center of local food production at specific area specially product from small farmers and indigenous people, farmers should work hand in hand with local government.
- g) Food product-based innovation in local varieties is related to local wisdom of the community based on geographical uniqueness. There are training for women community and educate consumers about the nutritional value and goodness to return to the forgotten local and how to process local materials and food.

### B. Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns

- a) Sustainable use of resources can only be possible with a good working knowledge of those resources.
- b) Organic farmers work in range of ecosystems -there is a maximum sustainable yield of each ecosystem from any landscape and what's happening today is from forests to farms that are managed organically but as we move towards urbanization, you will find that the impervious surfaces - a tremendous amount of capacity to produce ecosystem services is lost.
- c) The price is that fossil led development is creating climate change.
- d) In the future, monoculture, corporate farming will not work. It will be too hot for it. Therefore, we should stop thinking monoculture small farm and think of farms that are surrounded by trees and tree crops, landscapes that are diverse and developed, this has to be landscape to survive climate change and as small farmers, this is our strength.

### C. Boosting nature-positive production

- a) The world has shrink into a small world and that whatever happens to it, affects everyone so that the call is to deglobalize and relocalize food systems. We have to argue as well that global Free Trade under WTO is not favorable to small farmers.
- b) Environmental components of nature-boosting production: Regenerate and conserve soil/reduce soil degradation; Efficient water harvesting /uses renewable energy; Seeds/planting materials; Conservation of agrobiodiversity, genetic and species diversity: intercropping / polyculture; Agro-forestry; Crop-livestock integration; Functional biodiversity (biological mgt of pests/disease/weeds); Holistic landscape management
- c) Local/farmers market (short food mileage and a mitigation to climate change) and to enhance food security of the local systems. Farmers should determine market price of products, enhance fair, distribution webs that are interconnected locally so that this is more sustainable and has more contribution to local food security and sovereignty. Farmers need to have a sustainable livelihood and steady income, without it, there will be no more farmers and the so called "farming without farmers" and ultimately moving into corporate agribusiness farming which will create more socio-economic and political problems of feeding the hungry.
- d) Grow the food that you eat, eat the food that you grow!
- e) Organized/Strengthened farmers organization is needed. We need stronger participation of farmers/consumers in decision-making about food and agriculture. Lobby for public policies in support of farmers/ IP; decentralized, collective participatory governance of farming and food systems and farmers control of seeds, land, market price set by producers.
- f) Develop a new food system that is for small scale farmers, for sustainability, for the earth and for the coming generation.

### D. Advancing equitable livelihoods

- a) Improved access to organic markets through a guarantee system for small scale producers as costs are mostly in the form of voluntary which is very important and useful for small scale farmers.
- b) Promote short supply chains and local market development because farmers already have quite a lot of access to internet , mobile phones so short supply chains will be very good.
- c) Strengthen international cooperation to exchange experiences, study and improving human resources
- d) More local enterprises, including local processors and retailers should be invited and benefit from organic projects. These are the powerful engines of small organic producers. Farmers should learn how to do business so they could control their own enterprise and do not depend on traders anymore.

e)

### E. Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

- a) Farmers used to grow different varieties for different purposes.
- b) Farmers not only check the production, but they also check the cultural use and diet.
- c) Varieties are being used for medicinal purposes and we shou

## 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

1. increased awareness on the UNFSS, its objectives and tracks - the discussion on improving our food systems that revolves around recognition of farmers rights to resources and other support, will not end after this dialogue but will become the basis for more discussion, lobbying, practice and campaign for a world of Regenerative and Sustainable Food Systems for All .
2. Stronger cooperation between members of INOFO in the promotion of agroecology and organic agriculture and for exchange of experiences, study and improving human resources.
3. Stronger conviction on the importance of existence as individual and as a farmer. Participants were in the dialogue for no reason. People have been exposed to systemic apathy, the whole education system (and that includes the education in agriculture) has been dominated by West and the industrialised way of farming. That chain of empathy should be broken.
4. Stronger call for rights recognition. Food is right for all. Moving the food management fully by corporation without farmer's role is something impossible. Right pricing and market recognition of small scale producers. Farming and agriculture is about culture, life of nature, life in Asia. We must push our gov't to recognize the rights before agriculture is culture and heritage.
5. Reiterating calls to UN-FAO: UN should make a program with concrete actions to promote family farming. Can guide small farmers especially in highland/ mountainous area where available conditions for organic/agroecology and link their products to markets. To make it happen, think about road transportations those for connecting people, knowledge and markets.
6. Proposal to create a hub to promote business , selling not only locally, in a country but doing business without borders in this group. Thus, the larger the market, the greater the market demand. We need a really good logistics team to solve the paperwork problems for farmers who lack business skills.
7. Highlighting small farmers in all aspects of production, processing and marketing: Food system by corporate won't be beneficial for the small farmers, because all the capital and source will be controlled by the big corporate. Farmers have their indigenous knowledges about farming and live in the unique cultures that different each village. So points are :
  - a) Farmers must have an organization or cooperative
  - b) Farmers must have a fair price in the market that tolerate to their production cost
  - c) An alternatif market for farmers, so would be easy for farmers to deliver their harvest
  - d) Farmers must feel free to do their technical when doing farming that comes from their own knowledges not from corporate guidelines that only consider about the market.

### 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 is not much divergence in term of principles and what are the participants are trying to convey to attain a better food systems. They are united that there should be strong implementation of biodiversity conservation policies nationally and internationally, better support structure for small scale producers - from production to marketing, including infrastructure, implemmentation of climate change policies nationally and internationally and stop the corporatization of agriculture.

The divergence is mainly in the priorities at the national level since many countries in Asia are not getting enough support, specially vaccine, to be able to continue producing more food. In the Philippines, farmers have produced more during the pandemic however, the challenge was the transportation of the food to the urban centers that caused overproduction and wastage in the rural area and insufficient supply of food in the urban communities. With this, the priority now is to bring the harvest to the urban centers but not in supporting farmers have better marketing skills and improve the production and processing capacities so that food do not go into waste.

The same is happening in many countries in Asia, priorities of the governments are misplaced, which are pushing small scale and marginalized farmers further in the periphery. The proposed solution are all in the agroecology framework of FAO, but as part of the output of the dialogue, there is a strong recommendation to include the political dimension, specially farmers right recognition, to bring the back the resources (land, biodiversity, knowledge, technology, market) into the hands of the farmers, as this is basic requirement to have a better food systems.

### 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