

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Sunday, 6 June 2021 10:30 GMT +06:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Second National Dialogue for the preparation of UN Food Systems Summit 2021
CONVENED BY	Mr. Khaja Abdul Hannan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/23711/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
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

180

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

129 Male

51 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 first stage national level inception dialogue was convened by the National Dialogue Committee (NDC) in Bangladesh in January. In the second stage, six sub-national dialogues were held between February to May 2021, to understand regional issues and challenges around sustainable food systems. In parallel, a number of independent dialogues have been held on a diverse range of issues impacting the food system, ranging from Agriculture, Aquaculture, Environment and Climate Change & Resilience, to Urban Food Systems, Women in Food Systems, Youth, and Private Sector engagement. As a culmination of this process, the Stage 2 National Dialogue was convened by the NDC on Sunday, 6 June 2021. The event was organized by the Food Planning & Monitoring Unit (FPMU), Ministry of Food (MoF), Government of Bangladesh, with support from the Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the UN and Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). It endeavored to bring to the table the outputs from the six sub-national dialogues, the numerous independent dialogues conducted and suggestions from a diverse group of stakeholders from different government institutions and ministries, development partners, academia, civil society organizations, private sector, and media. Given the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation, the dialogue had to be conducted in virtual mode. As a next step after the dialogue, all the stakeholders (government ministries, sector experts) who took part in it will be engaged with further, through small multilateral dialogues or another comprehensive dialogue.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Recognizing the complexity of food systems, embracing multistakeholder inclusivity and respect for others, the Dialogue brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss the issues emerging from subnational dialogues and independent dialogues, as well as recognize fresh perspectives, if any. There was an inaugural plenary session, followed by discussion in breakout groups, and a concluding plenary session. Key issues discussed in the breakout groups were presented back at the concluding plenary session for the benefit of all participants. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Mosammat Nazmanara Khanum, Secretary, MoFood and graced by the Minister of Food, Mr. Sadhan Chandra Majumder, MP, as the chief guest. Mr. Md. Shahiduzzaman Faruki, Director General, FPMU, MoFood, welcomed the gathering. This was followed by a presentation on activities in Bangladesh in the run-up to the UNFSS and the next steps. Dr. Rudaba Khondaker, Country Director, GAIN and Mr. Robert Simpson, FAO-R in Bangladesh made opening remarks. Professor Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director, ICCCAD and Global Chair, UNFSS AT- 5, Mr. Zakir Hossain Akanda, Secretary (PRL), Planning Commission, Mr. Md. Toufiqul Arif, Additional Secretary, MoFL and Mr. Md. Mesbahul Islam, Senior Secretary, MoA, participated as special guests and spoke on the occasion. This was followed by discussion in five breakout groups on the thematic areas of: i) Availability of diversified, safe and nutritious food; ii) Transformation, delivery, access and role of private sector; iii) Governance, nutrition and food safety; iv) Inclusion, livelihood and social protection and v) Climate, vulnerability and resilience. Each group had an identified facilitator and a speaker. The latter presented a summary of the discussion in their group, in the concluding plenary session. Dr. Saleemul Haq summarized the presentations. Mr. Sheikh Muzibar Rahman, DG, Directorate of Food, made closing remarks. Mr. Khaja Abdul Hannan, Additional. Secretary, MoFood and National Dialogue Convener gave the vote of thanks.

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

It is important to bring diverse voices together on a common platform in order to address the issues and challenges facing us. These cut across Action Tracks. Participation of different government ministries engaged with the Food System is also important as addressing the many issues requires working together in a synergistic manner.

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 focus and expectations from the Dialogue were outlined in the speeches of the chief guests and key speakers in the inaugural session of the dialogue. The DG, FPMU, Ministry of Food in his welcome remarks said that Bangladesh had been focusing on Action Track1- Access to Safe and nutritious food, and an important objective to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and agenda 2030. The Ministry of Food was coordinating the dialogue process to find out game changing solutions to overcome the existing challenges of food systems in Bangladesh. Dr. Rudaba Khondaker, Country Director, GAIN in her introductory remarks said that we had to come up with a pathway that will set the stage for H.E Honourable Prime Minister to showcase Bangladesh at the UN Food Systems Summit, how we can work hand-in-hand with public-private sector, civil society, academia and other stakeholders including the youth and cutting all 5 action tracks. Mr. Robert Simpson, FAO Representative in Bangladesh, traced the evolution in the country from focus on production and food security to improving nutrition and food security and value chain approaches including production, processing, distribution, packaging, transportation etc. We have to work across the entire food system with an inclusive approach, addressing all 5 action tracks, with multi-ministerial and multi-sectoral approaches.

Dr. Saleemul Huq, Chair of Action track 5 expressed that addressing climate change is one of the major priorities for Bangladesh. The country had recently developed the draft 'Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan' under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, which will serve as a guiding document for food system resilience related to climate change. He expressed that, opportunities are open for all ministries to make contributions to the draft of the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan. Mr. Zakir Hossain Akanda, Secretary (PRL), Planning Commission, expressed that it was important to focus on solutions based on our food systems context linked to our culture, diets, nutrition and economic development. Mr. Md. Mesbahul Islam, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture expressed that the country's vision is to provide eco-friendly, safe, climate resilient, sustainable productive good agricultural practices and sustaining natural resources to ensure food security as well as commercial agriculture, and our mission to provide efficient, effective, decentralized, location specific, demand responsive and integrated extension services to all categories of farmers in accessing and utilizing better knowhow to increase sustainable and profitable crop production.

The Honorable Minister, Ministry of Food and Member of Parliament, Mr. Sadhan Chandra Majumder, in his address as Chief Guest declared that ensuring food security for all is a basic human right in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The country had achieved food security under the leadership of the Honourable Prime Minister and the government was working towards ensuring nutrition security. Many aid-based, constructive and development focused initiatives had been undertaken by the government to ensure food and nutrition security.

The chair of the session, Dr. Mosammat Nazmanara Khanum, Secretary, Ministry of Food, expressed that when the 1st national dialogue was organised in January, the objective was to use the dialogue process to shape our actions for sustainable food systems by 2030, involving both government, donor community, I/NGO, and private sector. Area focused findings had emerged from the recommendations of the sub-national dialogues highlighting the existing challenges and effective way forward to address them and ensure sustainable and safe food system.

Mr. Sheikh Muzibar Rahman, DG, Directorate of Food, stated that the Summit will provide a strong platform for all to analyze our food systems, policies, priorities and drawbacks with other countries.

Mr. Khaja Abdul Hannan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food appreciated the fact that stakeholders from all relevant fields participated in the dialogues and came up with recommendations to overcome the challenges prevailing in 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 | ✓ Policy |
| Innovation | ✓ Data & Evidence |
| ✓ Human rights | ✓ Governance |
| ✓ Women & Youth Empowerment | Trade-offs |
| | ✓ Environment and Climate |

MAIN FINDINGS

Agriculture Policy Support: Farmers often do not get fair price for their produce. Access to quality inputs is also a challenge. Agricultural land is getting converted for non-agricultural purposes. There is need for policy support to protect farmers' interests and ensure fair price for them; buyback guarantee for produce that meets quality standards; cheap food imports should not be allowed to flood the market. Identification as farmers in the National Identity System will facilitate access to necessary inputs. There should be regulation to prevent conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural use. Policies should also promote fair and ethical business practices by middlemen and private sector.

Capacity Development: Lack of awareness on safe production practices and use of technology are challenges; capacity strengthening through training and awareness programmes on good practices to enable safe and sustainable production.

Effective Extension: Although Agricultural Extension services is being done very well in Bangladesh, there are still some lacunae (unidentified gaps) in the extension system delaying access to knowledge. There is need for effective implementation of existing policies on Agriculture Extension, Agriculture Mechanisation, Good Agriculture Practices; need for special attention to women and youth.

Infrastructure Support: Although government is focusing on mechanization of farming activities (which has been started in the recent years), it needs to be strengthened and scaled up. It reveals that lack of mechanisation is one of the reasons for low productivity and high cost of cultivation; lack of processing and storage facilities leads to food loss. Integrated infrastructure development under the Water Development Board including durable flood and erosion control embankments, efficient management of natural water bodies to balance the supply of water for agriculture between rainy and dry seasons, international collaboration to modulate water flows of the transboundary rivers are required.

Finance: Credit for production purposes and insurance to safeguard against risks are necessary requirements; there should be easy access to credit for agriculture and allied activities from commercial banks; both crop and animal insurance have to be promoted.

Effective Use of Technology and Data Management: The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need for e-commerce and online market platforms. Development of integrated e-commerce platform and online markets will help better manage the food supply chain in the face of pandemics like COVID-19; models for consumers to source directly from producers.

Greater Role of Private Sector to Empower Smallholders: There are hindrances to the private sector in playing an active role in investment and enterprise development. Public private partnership models may be promoted and enabling environment created for ease of doing business by private sector in all stages of the food chain from seed production to processing and marketing; tax holiday of 5-10 years for private sector can spur more investments in cold chain, food processing and focus on nutritious and safe food.

Institutional Strengthening: GoB has given most priority to ensure the safe food for all the citizens. In this regard, the government enacted Food Safety Act 2013 and established Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) in early 2015. To implement Food Safety Act, GoB is giving efforts on massive awareness and surveillance activities on food safety standards and related issues along with the production and supply chain of food. Important rules and regulations have been prepared in the recent years. Now more focus should be given to expedite the implement process of those rules, regulations, standards aligned with Food Safety Act.

Social Protection: Although government is giving more efforts to strengthen the social safety net activities, still there are some areas for improvement in delivery of social safety net programmes; effective delivery of social protection programmes has to be ensured with full coverage of ultra-poor, including those rendered poor by the COVID-19 pandemic; there is need for combination of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive approaches together with SBCC in social safety net programmes.

Dietary Diversification: Strategies for promotion of production diversity, nutrition gardens of fruits and vegetables, and consumption diversity through focused social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) across the lifecycle addressing different population groups and engaging in a whole-of society approach on integrated nutrition issues to increase awareness of the importance of healthy diets and good nutrition practices are needed.

Attention to Urban Food Systems: Growing urbanisation calls for attention to urban food systems. There is need to strengthen the food supply chain and promote safe food markets; increase awareness about nutritious food, to address problems of obesity and increasing incidence of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD)

Climate Resilient Food Systems: Climate change poses a major challenge to our food systems, affecting lives and livelihoods especially of smallholder farmers. We need to promote climate resilient crop varieties, put in place early warning systems and increase capacity of smallholder farmers to cope with challenge of climate change; building on the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, a group may be formed from this dialogue to examine effective response to threats to food systems posed by climate change.

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✓	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

1. Availability of diversified, safe and nutritious food:

Challenges: ensuring safe and sustainable food production is a challenge, Climate change is making our farmers more vulnerable. The indiscriminate use of fertilizers affects soil health.

Way Forward:

-Agriculture policy: Need for an enabling and inclusive agricultural policy that pulls farmers out of income and resource poverty and makes them efficient producers; Identification of farmers in the National Identity (NID) system; Mechanization of agriculture, Promotion of smart agriculture technologies

-Effective extension system: for instance, a lot of stress tolerant and nutrient rich crop varieties are available with the agricultural research system - need effective dissemination through extension; ensure availability of quality seeds; effective land use planning; promote different models of poultry and dairy farming according to space availability..

2. Transformation, delivery, access and role of private sector:

Challenges:

-COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the fragile supply chain in all over the world which is also revealed to some extent in Bangladesh. Although Govt. has given massive efforts to overcome those challenges through ensuring uninterrupted transport mobility for food items.

Way Forward:

-For the next three years efforts should be undertaken to develop risk/ shock sensitive supply chain that protects the produce and ensure proper price for crops produce by smallholders.

-Tri-party partnership like farmer-private sector-government can be an effective solution for facilitating access to finance to young entrepreneurs; financing terms should be eased up for small farmers, ease of access to finance will enable farmers to diversify to other crops, dairy, poultry, fishery.

-online marketplace like Uber for agricultural products can be developed

-Food processing: supply of raw materials should be ensured all around the year through storage facility, proper transportation, and infrastructure.

3. Governance, nutrition and food safety:

Challenges:

-Lack of dietary diversity; rising double burden of malnutrition: while chronic and acute undernutrition persist, overnutrition leading to obesity and cardiovascular diseases is rising. High salt content as well as trans-fat in diets; Arsenic, heavy metal and faecal contamination and salinity are issues relating to unsafe water. Poor sanitation, hygiene practices and waste management remain challenges for improving WASH.

Way Forward:

-considering two crucial windows of opportunity during the 1st 1000 days from conception, and adolescence; Enhance nutrition and food safety knowledge and awareness among consumers especially adolescents and youth; Accelerate actions which contribute directly to the reduction of wasting. Promotion of national dietary guidelines; Focus on coordinated governance to implement national nutrition policies and strategies at national and sub-national level; ensure safe food, safe drinking water and improve sanitation and hygiene practices in both rural and urban areas;

4. Inclusion, Vulnerability and Social Protection:

Challenges:

-Not all poor and vulnerable people are covered by social safety nets. COVID-19 pandemic has increased number of poor and vulnerable people; urban poor – not adequately addressed.

Way Forward:

Expedite the implementation coverage of existing food based social safety net programs in a better functional and inclusive manner, increasing coverage. Focus on food diversification.

5. Climate, vulnerability and resilience:

Challenges:

- Conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural use; Flash flood, river erosion and increasing salinity of water levels are key detrimental impacts of climate change on food production.

Way Forward:

-The importance of soil health should be recognized; Effective river management through construction of embankments, dams, etc. can be undertaken to reduce the impact of erosion; Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, is a plan formulated by the government to counter the threats of climate change on multiple aspects including food systems, agriculture, and the wider economy; focus on climate-resilient food systems.

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✓	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There were no major areas of divergence among the participants.

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