

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 15 June 2021 14:00 GMT +08:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Dynamic Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agro-Biodiversity in Traditional Ecosystems: Empowering IPs Towards Sustainable Food Production Systems
CONVENED BY	Hon. Secretary William D. Dar
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/23795/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Philippines

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

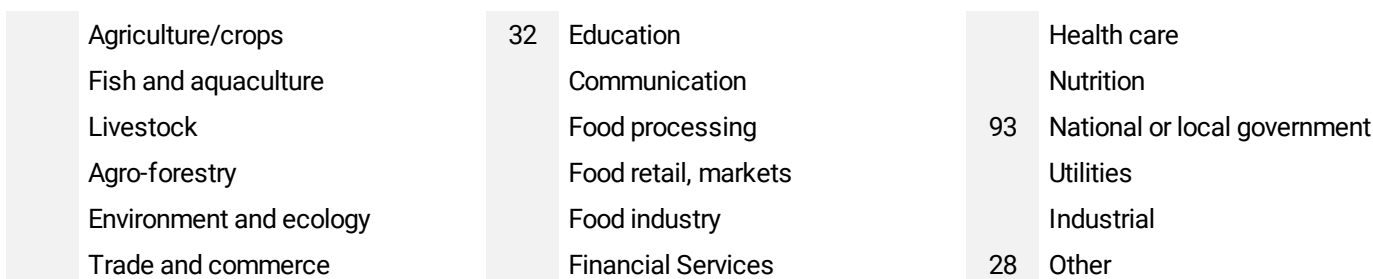
PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE



PARTICIPATION BY GENDER



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP



2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Online Symposium on Dynamic Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agrobiodiversity in Traditional Agroecosystems: Empowering Indigenous Peoples (IPs) towards Sustainable Food Production Systems was designed to showcase the IPs in preserving the traditional ecosystems and their contribution to food production systems. The following Department of Agriculture (DA)-Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)-Global Environment Facility (GEF) project components and outputs were discussed to create awareness and promote strategies that can be adopted by other stakeholders: 1. Mainstreaming agrobiodiversity considerations into policy and legal frameworks, development strategies, and institutional structures; 2. Piloting activities to enhance and expand dynamic conservation practices for agrobiodiversity in 17 pilot communities; and 3. Dissemination of information, awareness-raising, and preparations for scaling up Participants of the symposium were composed of representatives from the State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Local Government Units (LGUs), National Government Agencies, the private sector, and women's groups and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs).

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The symposium presented the collaboration of different agencies to capacitate the IPs in boosting agricultural production as a source of livelihood with respect to local cultures. Also, the agencies/groups/institutions involved developed and enhanced different existing policies to create a favorable enabling policy and legal environment, both at the local and national levels. The project's contribution to the development of three policy instruments wherein IP's rights and Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices in conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity, were taken into account. The diverse perspectives from different groups/stakeholders towards conservation and sustainable use of our genetic resources and traditional species of plants and animals were considered, and ensured their participation in decision making, planning, engagement, and implementation of the project. The interrelatedness of conserving and promoting good stewardship of natural resources, livelihood, and resilience to risk and disasters were also reflected in the whole process of the entire value chain (input, production, postharvest, processing, marketing) towards the attainment of food availability contributing in attaining Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger.

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

None.

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 symposium presented the direct relationship of the DA-FAO-GEF's project's output and outcomes to the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) area of focus for Action Track 3: Nature Positive Production, and Action Track 4: Livelihoods and Equity. The specific policy-related activities initiated in the project were the following:

1. Amendment to RA 7308 or the Seed Industry Development Act of 1992 wherein the specific provision added in the draft measure pertains to the strengthening of the informal seed system by taking into account the IPs right act and other relevant legislations;
2. Draft DA-Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCCA)-National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC)- Rules and Regulations Governing the Joint Confirmation and Recognition of Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (NIAHS) and Providing Appropriate Mechanisms for their Dynamic Conservation and Sustainable Use; and
3. Draft DA-Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)-DENR-Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Joint Memorandum Order (JMO)-Institutionalization of Agro-Biodiversity (ABD) Management within the National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD) Framework

Multi-stakeholder processes and approaches within governments and communities, in terms of enhancing and expanding the dynamic conservation practices for ABD, were also presented:

1. Capacity building exercises at the pilot sites to capacitate local government units and local stakeholders in the development of ABD management measures and integration of these measures into the local plans and policies;
2. Establishment and maintenance of Community Seed Banks (CSBs) through partnership/collaboration with concerned agencies such as the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and the establishment of demo plots to generate seeds and source of planting materials during typhoons and in times of calamities;
3. Mapping, characterization, and documentation of ABD crops including relevant Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSPs) on rice farming system in partnership with the academe and concerned government agencies;
4. Knowledge-sharing on the ABD practices and conservation practices for farmers in pilot and neighboring communities and provision of agricultural input and farm tools;
5. Development of contextualized lesson plan packages and workbook with IKSPs and agrobiodiversity;
6. Distribution of appropriate small farm tools and equipment, and construction of processing centers adding value to the ABD crops with potential for enterprise development; and
7. Market study and value chain analysis of the ABD crops and capacity building activities to enhance entrepreneurial skills and strengthened organization conducted for the IP producer group, and development of ABD products

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

Showcasing of the DA-FAO-GEF project creates awareness of the contribution and importance of agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the country's pursuit of a sustainable food system. To shape pathways to sustainable food systems, policy-making on food business shall not be left to indigenous communities. The Philippines' agrobiodiversity is the basis for resilient agroecosystems. It provides crucial ecosystem services to make food available, nutrition, water and soil regulation, and agricultural heritage.

Similar projects have to be implemented with actions, interventions, and involvement contributory in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Participants of the symposium gave their support in adapting strategies in biodiversity conservation and empowering the vulnerable and marginalized sector towards food production systems such as the provision of community seed banks in the local communities. Support of the LGUs in legislations and policy making is necessary to regulate the use of natural resources as source of livelihoods and recognizing the importance of agricultural heritage sites.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There is not much divergence observed during the symposium proper, as well as during the discussions in the open forum. The activities done by the DA-FAO-GEF Project in the pilot sites can be duplicated in other local communities for sustainable food production within their respective capacities and circumstances. The SUCs and other educational institutions/agencies shall provide science-based knowledge in preserving traditional knowledge and practices in capacitating the vulnerable and marginalized like the IPs. The trade-off, on the other hand, can include the possibility of low-yielding varieties, presence of pest and disease management, etc.

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