

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 18 May 2021 09:00 GMT +08:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	National Food Security Summit 2021
CONVENED BY	Hon. Secretary William D. Dar
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/23800/
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.

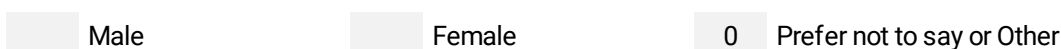
1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

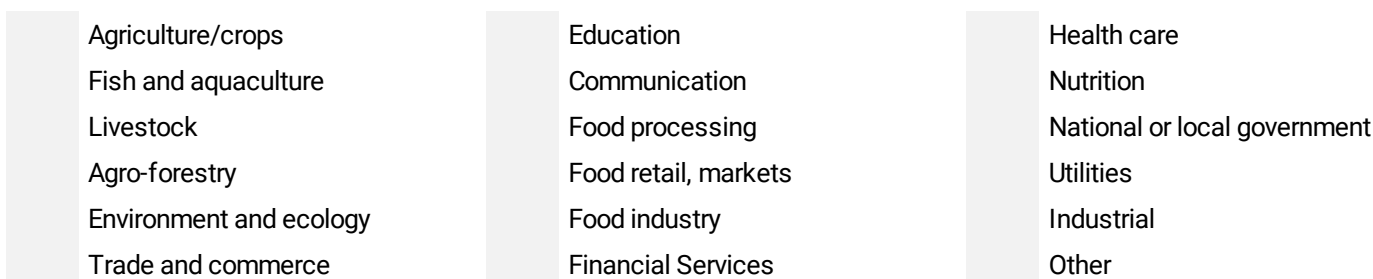
PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE



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?

To ensure inclusivity, we simplified the process in conducting the National Food Security Summit (NFSS). The NFSS was structured on a bottom-up participatory approach which constitutes a more rational means of evaluating alternatives and policies to be adopted for implementation. Discussions on agriculture and fisheries and on food security involved the cooperation, coordination and collaboration of the local government units (LGUs), the private sector and other stakeholders at the local and regional levels where the main contribution of the sector comes from. These activities constituted the Regional Food Security Summits, which were undertaken a month prior to the NFSS. Furthermore, to temper the possibility of an overly parochial orientation of regional summit outputs and ensure integrated and complementary perspectives, national level activities were conducted simultaneously. The results of which are being consolidated and integrated with the Regional Food Security Summit outputs. These include thematic consultations such as the conduct of commodity-specific National Banner Program Roundtable Discussions. The NFSS proper was undertaken through a two-day event with plenary sessions on the Philippine food security agenda and launched activities aligned with the forthcoming UN Food Systems Summit. The NFSS aimed to lay down the ground work and kick start rural development programs, especially those that target to ensure long-term food security through the crafting of a food security plan, which will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

For the NFSS proper, close to 2,000 participants attended the plenary sessions, and about 4,000 joined the discussions in the different sectoral breakout sessions that tackled the major banner program food commodities. The NFSS pre-summit activities were private sector-led multi-stakeholder processes that encompassed real, broad-based consultations with stakeholders. These totaled to 16 regional summits, garnering close to 4,000 participants representing local and regional level farmers and fisherfolk organizations; and approximately 400 national pre-summit participants from the agri-fishery industry, the academe, government agencies, the civil society groups, and other stakeholders. The expected output was designed to go beyond generalities. The policy/program recommendations suggest reasonable, attainable, and quantified targets and timelines, as well as accountable agencies, that promote food production and consumption policies and practices that strive to protect and improve the health and well-being of individuals, enhance resilient livelihoods and communities and promote good stewardship of natural resources, while respecting local cultures and contexts. Likewise, activities on ways forward following the NFSS were identified, to be cascaded to all the stakeholders to ensure transparency, promote trust and increase motivation for them to participate through evidence-based, accountable and accessible governance, decision-making, planning, engagement and implementation.

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

Dialogue Convenors should ensure that the food systems dialogues truly engage all stakeholders in the food systems, including those who are not usually included in the discussions. Direct alignment with the principles and methodologies of engagement is of paramount importance. Observing the said principles will enable stakeholders to explore ideas together, encourage their creativity, and empower them to emerge as one but more powerfully through network connections that may be built in the process. Furthermore, a fully curated dialogue on food systems that take into consideration the said principles can come up with comprehensive actions, intentions and commitments of stakeholders working together and shaping national pathways that lead to sustainable food systems in line with the common aspirations towards achieving the SDGs.

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 National Food Security Summit directly focused on major agriculture and fisheries commodities and relevant cross-cutting issues and concerns, e.g. trade, credit, extension services and others, by looking at recent as well as decades-old and persistent agricultural problems, from a different framework.

Using key strategies under the “One DA Reform Agenda” of the Philippine Department of Agriculture as operational frameworks, key challenges, gaps and areas of improvement were analyzed to identify, formulate and recommend strategic critical interventions.

The “One DA Reform Agenda” has 18 key strategies that aim to steer agri-fishery growth and transformation toward a modern and industrialized Philippine agriculture.

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

The following were the findings and conclusions of the 2021 Philippine National Food Security Summit:

1. While the agriculture and fisheries sector has remained resilient during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Philippines remains a laggard among its ASEAN neighbors in terms of achieving food security for its population, based on the Global Food Security Index. The government has been working towards raising the productivity and income of farmers (through the Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita mantra) but there is still a long way to go when it comes to attaining food security for the people.

2. In terms of measures, there are many accessible and available opportunities in the agriculture and fishery sector in which farm productivity can immediately be raised, farmers' incomes are improved, and competitiveness is attained. However, the sector remains grossly underfunded, hence, stakeholders must come together to make a convincing case for the contribution of the sector to the economy and simultaneously develop commodity roadmaps that will attract investments from other sources.

3. The devolution of agriculture and fisheries development to the local government units distributes the accountability for rural agri-fishery development to the rest of government, instead of solely resting it on the hands of the Department of Agriculture.

4. The modern subsector of progressive farmers and corporate farms can lead the way toward achievable goals. If those involved in the development of the sector act cohesively, the Philippines may be able to keep up, if not surpass, the food security level of its ASEAN neighbors. The efforts of the government and the farmers, however, need to go hand in hand with significant investments from the private sector to modernize and move the sector forward.

5. The private sector must realize that upholding national interest and inclusive business models are sustainable pathways to increased profitability. They must be encouraged to include the protection of small farmers and fisherfolk and the supply chains in their corporate social responsibility portfolios.

6. Lastly, this summit envisions farmers and fisherfolk to ultimately seek their prosperity through cohesiveness and ability to be players in the evolving value chains for various commodities, where most margins are generated. Civil society and government should also strive to deliberately support inclusion of small farmers and fisherfolk in the value chains as we go beyond simply increasing yield but more towards value-adding.

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KEYWORDS

✓	Finance	✓	Policy
	Innovation		Data & Evidence
	Human rights	✓	Governance
	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
			Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/10

Rice
It was agreed that a diverse set of strategies should be developed, such as soil nutrient management to increase productivity, marketing policies like the imposition of suggested farmgate price, tapping water for irrigation through hydrogeological profiling of possible sources, promoting more active private sector participation in the hybrid rice program to ensure sustainability and seed availability, and the adoption of proven technologies for a more sustainable rice production, among others.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/10

Livestock and Corn

Top priority were strategies that will revive the livestock industry from the onslaught of African Swine Fever (ASF) were through repopulation and ASF control and prevention programs. Other strategies include increasing productivity through local AI technologies, easy access to production data and market information to be made available online, the establishment of biosecurity facilities like Agriculture Commodity Examination Area as first border inspection facility; and the passage of the long overdue Land Use Act to provide basis for balanced approach in land use planning, management and implementation of livestock farms and facilities.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/10

Dairy
Apart from genetic improvement and related technologies, top priority includes expansion of the implementation of the National Dairy Authority Buyback Program to procure upgraded animals, and the development of the National Animal Nutrition Program with focus on corn silage production to enhance dairy animal productivity thru the provision of affordable feeds.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/10

Poultry

Strategies similar to that of the livestock sector were noted identified, such as the harmonization of production and marketing data. The passage of a national law on land use was also recognized as a priority area, as well as genetic improvement through the setting up of local breeding stations. Other recommended strategies were focused on ensuring additional funding for poultry and corn, and provision of incentives for the duck industry.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/10

Vegetable

Priorities were evenly distributed within the entire value chain from production to consumption. The identified priority interventions were: providing post-harvest facilities; conducting farmer training programs especially on pest and disease management; good agricultural practices certification; building of more trading centers; and running advocacy campaigns to increase vegetable consumption.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/10

Fruits

The fruits subsector -- composed of banana, mango and pineapple -- has recommended functional strategies. For banana, focus was on enhancing propagation techniques towards having quality planting materials, provision of post-harvest and processing facilities all the way to increased supply, improved quality and export volume. For mango, access to credit, rejuvenation of existing mango trees through farm clustering for easy access to subsidies and other government support like mechanization and other new technologies were identified. Finally, for pineapple, priorities identified include the establishment of nurseries in research stations and SUCs with enhanced technologies for the production of quality planting materials. Improved cultural management practices and capacity building especially on integrated pest management were also identified. These can be enhanced by leveraging the expertise of private companies, SUCs and private extension workers.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 7/10

Cacao and Coffee

The development of a Program that will assist processors to develop quality local coffee and cacao products, which can compete with international brands, was on top of the agenda.

Coconut

Top recommendations encompassed the whole value chain: strengthening extension services; developing integrated coconut-based farming systems; establishing shared processing facilities; and marketing assistance to boost demand for coconut products.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 8/10

Sugar

Top priorities for the sector revolved around strategies to improve productivity and income through block farming, or farm consolidation and clustering. These strategies, however, should be complemented with financial support to address agronomic concerns through specific programs as well as costs of farm operations through mechanization.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 9/10

Fisheries and Aquaculture

For capture fisheries, strategies -- provision of alternative livelihood opportunities -- related to addressing temporary income loss of fishermen during off fishing season topped the list. The rest were governance- and technology-related strategies. The aquaculture group also recommended the creation of a governance structure to steer the country towards becoming a true maritime nation. This needs to be complemented with the establishment of a national program for aquaculture, which can hopefully provide funds for the rehabilitation and establishment of hatcheries, development of standards or regulations and capacity building activities.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 10/10

Apart from the commodity-based recommendations that emanated from the NFSS breakout sessions, recommendations on various crosscutting concerns were also identified based on the pre-summit thematic consultations and the papers presented by experts during the plenary sessions.

1. The need to operationalize the concept of food security vis-à-vis self-sufficiency. The path to food security policy is not via protection by insulation, but via nurturing and strengthening of farmers with well-conceived and non-distortive assistance that will, among others, improve their capabilities as farm entrepreneurs, not as mere tillers.
2. Agricultural trade policy. Related to food security, this is an area where lines of communication still have to be kept open. The sector needs to increase public investments for productivity enhancement of local producers, in exchange of protecting the rights of consumers to available, affordable and nutritious food.
3. Credit or lending for small farmers and fisherfolk. Two basic recommendations stood out: 1) the creation of a wholly-owned LBP subsidiary dedicated to small farmers and fishers; and 2) the need to facilitate bank compliance with Agri-Agra law to ensure readily available credit portfolios in the banking sector.
4. Immediate rollout of the Province-led agriculture and fisheries extension system or PAFES, to ensure shared accountability for agri-fishery development between national and local governments.
5. Push for farm consolidation and clustering. To ensure that this happens, there is a recommendation to make organizing and sustaining farmer associations as KRAs for the DA and its agencies, as well as the LGUs.
6. Strategic shift from traditional farming into agribusiness. As an adjunct to farm consolidation and clustering, there is a need to ensure that the majority of small farmers and fisherfolk get to be formal players in the value chains.
7. Diversification and promotion of exports. There is a need to diversify into other higher value products. The agriculture and fisheries sector has put much attention on rice, corn, sugarcane and coconut which provide relatively lower income per hectare. It is high time that we diversify and promote exports of high value products to really increase farmers' income.
8. Promoting innovations, modern technologies and R&D, and human resources development. There is a need to include these in the value chains to really be able to compete especially with other ASEAN countries;
9. Youth and women engagement. We cannot talk about sustainable and resilient food systems if that huge bulge of demographics is not engaged across food systems from production to consumption. We have to ensure that they are empowered, employed and can employ other people so that we achieve together food security, so that we can achieve national security.
10. Call out for the fisheries and aquatic resources sector to beef up its ranks to push for the ultimate ambition of making the Philippines a truly maritime nation. This can be achieved through the creation of an entity dedicated to the attainment of the said objective.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Although not explicitly discussed in the main dialogues as these are being addressed within the halls of Congress, the areas of divergence involve agricultural trade policies that balance supply and prices of commodities vis-à-vis interests of food producers and clamor of consumers.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Adding-the-Farmers-Viewpoint-on-Food-Security-w-CFH-Comments.docx.pdf>

RELEVANT LINKS

- **2021 National Food Security Summit**
<https://sites.google.com/da.gov.ph/da-icts/home?authuser=0>
- <https://www.da.gov.ph/announcements/2021-national-food-security-summit/>
- **Secretary William Dar's Way Forward during the National Food Security Summit 2021**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0s00_Yxpuw