

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 14 June 2021 11:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Animal Food Systems: Pathways
CONVENED BY	Convenor: Prof. Noga Kronfeld-Schor; Co-Convenor: Dr. Gal Zagron, The Ministry of Environmental Protection
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24189/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Israel

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	4	19-30	41	31-50	25	51-65	3	66-80	80+
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PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

30	Male	43	Female	Prefer not to say or Other
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

5	Agriculture/crops	2	Education	7	Health care
5	Fish and aquaculture	2	Communication	7	Nutrition
4	Livestock	2	Food processing	23	National or local government
4	Agro-forestry	2	Food retail, markets	2	Utilities
6	Environment and ecology	13	Food industry	2	Industrial
1	Trade and commerce	2	Financial Services	2	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

2	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	2	Workers and trade union
6	Large national business	2	Member of Parliament
1	Multi-national corporation	2	Local authority
1	Small-scale farmer	29	Government and national institution
3	Medium-scale farmer	29	Regional economic community
3	Large-scale farmer	29	United Nations
14	Local Non-Governmental Organization	29	International financial institution
1	International Non-Governmental Organization	29	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
13	Indigenous People	2	Consumer group
13	Science and academia	2	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

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

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

This dialogue was dedicated to exploring ways to implement the 2030 SDGs in the Israeli food system. In particular, it addressed the following topics:

1. Israel's strong points in animal-based food systems and ways to leverage them in order to improve food system health in Israel and globally;
2. Actions that need to be taken immediately in order to reach the SDGs;
3. Which actors need to be brought on board in order to reach the SDGs;
4. Which knowledge and technological gaps exist that need to be addressed;
5. Where are regulatory tools needed, and which tools are necessary?

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

Israel has many crucial strong points in the field of animal-based food systems. These can be applied internally – some branches of production have unique strong points that can be transferred and applied to the benefit of other sectors – and externally, to contribute to our neighbors and to global food systems.

- A. A main strong point raised in nearly all discussion groups was Israel's technological prowess and R&D abilities, which can be leveraged to solve many of the problems raised and even to foster necessary regulation. Specifically, regarding alternative proteins, Israel is a production and development hub.
- B. An additional strong point is Israel's wealth of excellent and extremely capable health care professionals.
- C. Israeli agricultural producers are generally educated, which allows for meaningful dialogue and cooperation.
- D. Israel is a vegan "superpower" and public awareness of animal welfare issues is high.
- E. Israeli dairy production is very efficient, which means that less livestock is required and the production impact can be significantly mitigated.
- F. Many advanced technological solutions implemented in Israel have produced outstanding results, especially in the fields of aquaculture and dairy production.

The actions that need to be taken immediately mostly pertain to the following topics:

1. Urgent collection of reliable information on all aspects and stages of animal-based food production (housing conditions, livestock origin, use of antimicrobials, zoonotic diseases, etc.), and transparency of this information;
2. Facilitating cooperation and information-sharing between the relevant ministries (Agriculture and Rural Development, Health, and Environmental Protection) regarding food safety, food security, sustainability, and animal welfare. These ministries must pass on their findings and professional recommendations to the Ministries of Finance and the Economy;
3. Education and health promotion – educating the public to become knowledgeable consumers in aspects of sustainability, animal welfare, food safety, and food security. Educating professionals and stakeholders on these topics as well.
4. Dismantling conflicts of interest and reducing the concentration of power in certain interest groups – for example, in the bovine intensive farming industry, most intensive farms are affiliated exclusively with two major companies, which are the major importers as well as owners of the largest slaughterhouses, creating a duopoly market structure. Another example is from the poultry industry, which has the Poultry Industry Council, a statutory body created by law which has an inherent conflict of interest in its roles. It is supposed to plan the extent of production, to monitor production, and to regulate it. However, one of its main stated goals is to increase production and consumption - leading it to expand production as much as possible at the expense of animal welfare, sustainability, and even food safety. A similar conflict of interest exists in the Israel Dairy Council
5. Stopping or significantly reducing the live imports of livestock.
6. Changing the growing conditions for laying hens and the marketing conditions of eggs. The conditions in which laying hens are raised in Israel are very inadequate, compared to other countries, and the eggs that reach the market generally are not adequate for sale due to poor sanitation, storage, and shipping conditions.

The main actors that need to be brought on board are the three Ministries (Agriculture and Rural Development, Health, and Environmental Protection) and professionals from those areas; the decision-makers in the fields of economy and finance, the producers, the industry, and the agricultural cooperatives. Besides these obvious actors, it is also crucial, in Israel's unique situation, to include the decision-makers in the fields of religious dietary restrictions and the Arab sector.

The most urgent information gaps are detailed under article 1 above. Evidence-based information gaps that require further research exist mainly regarding animal welfare and sustainability. There is a specific need for such information regarding the environmental footprint of animal-based food production and how it compares to alternatives, and on food waste and its solutions.

Israel is a start-up nation with great technological developments and innovations. Hence, the main technological gap is the lack of information-sharing databases and other IT issues.

Regulatory deficits were raised in all discussion groups. In some sectors, the necessary regulation does not exist, in others it is not implemented, and in others the regulation that exists is detrimental to the goals set.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

1. General findings:

- ☐ It is necessary to develop and implement the relevant regulations.
- ☐ Cooperation between ministries and between stakeholders from industry, academia, and the government must be encouraged and fosters.
- ☐ Research and development must be encouraged and supported financially. This is in order to accumulate relevant information on the different sectors, especially on their hazards and sustainability.
- ☐ It is necessary to receive and document relevant information regarding livestock diseases from the farm level and antimicrobial use, and to create relevant centralized databases.
- ☐ Circular economy – It is important to responsibly reuse resources (such as cattle manure) while maintaining biosecurity.
- ☐ Labeling products with relevant information regarding animal welfare, sustainability, origin, and production methods.
- ☐ Animal welfare must be improved through regulation, supervision, incentivization and transparency (by including such information on labels as listed above). It was also widely raised (although not unanimously agreed) that the responsibility for animal welfare should be transferred to the Ministry of Environmental Protection.
- ☐ It is important to implement education and training, for the public and for the relevant professionals and farmers, regarding healthy consumption, sustainability, antimicrobial use, and more.

2. Zoonotic Diseases

- ☐ There is a need to establish an advisory committee and an inter-ministerial coordination factor.
- ☐ Need to set threshold values for all factors in order to make operational decisions. Recommendation for the establishment of a uniform and nationwide monitoring program for all parties dealing with the issue of supervision. (Health, Agriculture, Environmental Protection, Nature and Parks Authority and Laboratories in the public health)
- ☐ There is a need to update reporting diseases (especially parasites and eukaryotes)
- ☐ Building a uniform and orderly training program for investigators.
- ☐ Adding uniform legislation to all morbidity factors. (Sampling and threshold values)
- ☐ Recruiting opinion leaders to promote the importance of making information accessible to citizens.

3. Antimicrobials (AM)

- ☐ It is necessary to create large databases, accessible to all with standardized information (an agreed upon list of AM resistant microbes and standard directives for treating the different types of livestock and animals). It may also be useful to create a computer application to document the use of medicine at the farm level and integrate the information to a central database.
- ☐ It is crucial to raise public awareness to educated use of AM and to influence the market, using campaigns and advertisements. The influence of the Covid-19 campaigns and advertisements can provide an example. In addition, awareness should be raised among producers, caretakers, physicians, instructors, etc.
- ☐ A uniform standard for raising livestock without AM for the consumer should be implemented.
- ☐ Biosecurity should be fostered in order to prevent preventative AM use – for example, by cultivating mixed breeds.
- ☐ It is crucial to develop a list of critical AM to be used only on humans, and to institute regulations that make reporting and documenting their use mandatory.
- ☐ The use of AM for treating livestock and AM should be minimized. It should be noted that the environmental impact resolves itself, however, there have been cases in which AM resistant microbes have remained in the environment despite the discontinuation of use.
- ☐ Measures to monitor and enforce educated AM use should be implemented at the farm level and at the veterinary level, with appropriate regulations.
- ☐ Parties that need to be brought on board – political figures, the public, physicians, veterinarians, One Health environmental professionals, the kashrut branch of the Chief Rabbinate, the Ministry of the Economy, and the veterinary services.

ACTION TRACKS

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|---|--|
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| ☐ | Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress |

KEYWORDS

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| ✓ | Finance | ✓ | Policy |
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| ☐ | | ✓ | Environment and Climate |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

4. Livestock

- ☐ Optimizing the local production – elevating the weaning rate of calves from 60 to 70-75 percent in current pasture land, through better veterinary coverage; reestablishing institutional laboratories for diagnosing diseases; improved distribution of vaccinations and cooperation with international veterinary services.
- ☐ Planning and zoning – limiting the scope of cattle in intensive farming, based on space and distance requirements from residential areas. Shifting the major use of cattle farms for local production.
- ☐ Supporting alternatives - improving vegetarian options in institutional kitchens, workplaces etc.; adopting one or two meatless days a week (before and after the weekend); educating the public on healthy nutrition, advantages of legumes, improving accessibility and nudges; support R&D for alternative protein.
- ☐ advertising and packaging – apply similar measures as tobacco, such as limiting advertising aimed at minors; plain packaging.
- ☐ Daycare menus- amending regulation to reduce red meat consumption.
- ☐ Food loss prevention by charging only production costs towards the end of the day.
- ☐ Economic measures – it was suggested to apply environmental regulation on the cattle industry as any other industry, including polluter pays principle; carbon tax; redistribution of subsidies to sustainable practices and plant protein; VAT exemption on legumes; creating a “healthy food basket” (change in price-controlled products).
- ☐ Importation of kosher meat - eliminating the mandatory requirement for strictly kosher meat importation should reduce prices (thus could also balance other methods) and improve sustainability. To the least it should be accommodated to the part of the population that consumes kosher meat.
- ☐ Illegal slaughter- establishing small/community slaughter facilities in the Arab society to mitigate risks and challenges. Amending regulation that harms small producers and generates inequalities.

5. Alternative proteins

- ☐ It is important to provide the regulators with the necessary tools to "catch up" with technological advances.

6. Poultry and eggs

- ☐ Cages should be prohibited for fattened poultry and pullets.
- ☐ Forced molting should be ceased.
- ☐ The food industry should be encouraged to switch from broilers to less-intensively reared birds.

7. Dairy

- ☐ The sector should be made more inclusive by bringing in farmers from the Arab sector.

8. Aquaculture

- ☐ Offshore fish farming is a main growth potential promise for local and sustainable production of healthy food. Limiting factors of service ports and improved insurance conditions should be provided by the governments, as well as profound investment support.
- ☐ RAS projects must be of large production scales of several thousand tons per year to ensure economic efficiency.
- ☐ Increasing production capacity as a path for improving the sector's capability to cope with high level environmental regulation should be considered upon the local environmental carrying capacity. This parameter as well – must be based on quantitative methods, models, and most of all – balanced approach considering all stakeholders.
- ☐ Balancing public health, environmental and social requirements in countries exchanging products is important for fair competition and for improving global food production sustainability.

9. Animal welfare

- ☐ The planned reform in the egg industry must be stopped.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The main areas of divergence, by topic, were:

1. Dairy

- ☐ Can dairy be produced without causing an environmental burden compared to the alternative?
- ☐ Dairy consumption benefits vs. harm. Some participants claimed that dairy products are rich in sugar, saturated fat, and sodium and therefore should be consumed to a minimum, while others pointed to their nutritional benefits as a source of calcium, protein, and more.
- ☐ Who should supervise animal welfare?

2. Livestock

- ☐ Importation of livestock - it was debated whether this practice should be gradually prohibited by legislation or whether by introducing market mechanisms to affect its scope and balance supply and demand. Such measures include:
 - meat importation - deregulation and tariff exemption (also simplifying the importation licensing process by the Ministry of Economics).
 - livestock importation- reintroducing tariffs on livestock importation, reducing the quota for tariff exempted importation of livestock.
- ☐ It was also debated whether livestock importation should be replaced with meat or plant-based/alternative protein, and to what extent.
- ☐ Characterization of supply and demand- it was argued by several participants that the scope of livestock importation and red meat production were affected by the extremely consolidated market conditions. A reservation was made claiming that production and supply rates were essentially a measure to meet demand.

3. Poultry and eggs

- ☐ Production quotas – some participants supported maintaining the quotas, while others claimed that they harm the egg production sector's efficiency, professionalism, and quality, and lead to high prices. Those who opposed supported direct subsidies to farmers.
- ☐ Should a transfer from animal consumption to alternatives be encouraged?
- ☐ Should the responsibilities for preventing animal cruelty under the relevant law be transferred from the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development to the Ministry of Environmental Protection?

4. Aquaculture

- ☐ High trophic fish farming has a drawback of using higher level feed and represent less ecological efficient solutions. However, maximizing the benefits of high nutrition content of these species might compensate.
- ☐ Disagreement was raised concerning the enforcement of animal welfare regulation in fish farming. Also, the potential conflict of interests of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development was raised, since this Ministry is in charge of food production on one side, but also on welfare regulations on the other side.

5. Animal welfare

- ☐ Is regulation the right tool to end the live imports of livestock? Should more stringent import welfare standards be implemented, or should the shipments be discontinued altogether? It was stated that studies abroad have proved that the suffering in live imports is inherent and cannot be prevented through measures such as expanded enforcement.

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