

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 14 June 2021 11:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Plant food systems: Pathways
CONVENED BY	Convenor: Prof. Noga Kronfeld-Schor; Co-Convenor: Dr. Yael Kachel and Tsipi Sabag-Freidkin Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24202/
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	19-30	20	31-50	15	51-65	2	66-80	80+
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PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

26	Male	11	Female		Prefer not to say or Other
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

7	Agriculture/crops Fish and aquaculture Livestock Agro-forestry	8	Education Communication Food processing Food retail, markets Food industry Financial Services		Health care Nutrition
2	Environment and ecology Trade and commerce			18	National or local government Utilities
				1	Industrial Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

1	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	4	Workers and trade union Member of Parliament
1	Large national business Multi-national corporation Small-scale farmer	1	Local authority
1	Medium-scale farmer Large-scale farmer	20	Government and national institution Regional economic community United Nations International financial institution Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance Consumer group Other
2	Local Non-Governmental Organization International Non-Governmental Organization Indigenous People		
7	Science and academia		

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

Our dialogue's focus was a comprehensive exploration of sustainable plant food systems. The FAO defines a sustainable food system as a "food system that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised". A food system incorporates many aspects, hence the dialogue included five different topics: 1) Sustainable agriculture; 2) Local production; 3) Means of production; 4) Productivity; and 5) Production profitability. Each topic was discussed separately in a round table format. The emphasis of the third dialogue was to point out weaknesses and strengths in the local plant food systems, with a focus on the agricultural sector, to identify gaps in knowledge and regulation, and propose actions towards sustainable plant food production and marketing.

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

1. Israeli agriculture is advanced and reaches high levels of productivity under difficult conditions. Israeli agricultural sector is based on an advanced R&D system, government-supported research and innovative start-ups, educated farmers open to innovation and an extension service connecting between farmers and research and facilitating the adoption of innovations. The wide variety of crops and different growing conditions in a small geographical area facilitate the testing new technologies. These advantages can enable an increase in the development and export of agricultural knowledge and technologies. This can make a real contribution to raising productivity and tackling climate change in other countries, in addition to contributing to national food security worldwide.
2. Despite these advantages, we observe a decline in productivity in recent years. Agricultural production is stagnating, few young farmers take up agricultural production, and risk of production is increasing because of climate change, changing market conditions and frequent policy changes. To provide regulatory stability and ensure the future of the Israeli agricultural sector it is necessary to develop and adopt a strategic plan for the agricultural sector, to set clear medium and long-term targets for domestic food production, and provide the incentives and means to reach these targets through sustainable intensification of agricultural production (especially plants).
3. A unanimous agreement about the importance of Israel's agriculture. There is a need for statutory acknowledging the importance of agriculture ("Law of Agriculture"), to ensure the means of production for the future of the agricultural sector, and enable the development of a sustainable domestic agricultural sector, which will continue to provide most fresh agricultural produce for a growing population.
4. Ensure the availability of production factors necessary to increase plant production (land, water, labor). The value of land for agricultural production has to be taken into account in decisions of building and infrastructure development. Investment in infrastructure to increase the availability of water for irrigation. Decrease the dependence of foreign labor through mechanization.
5. Ensure production profitability for farmers. This entails a variety of measures, which are detailed in the following points:
6. Increase productivity in crop growing by encouraging and investing in the research and development of new technologies. Facilitate and encourage the use of 'big data' in decision making.
7. Increase investment subsidies to farmers, to facilitate the adoption of new technology but also encourage investing in existing proven technologies, which can improve productivity, decrease risk, decrease the dependence on foreign workers and reduce negative environmental impacts.
8. Strengthen the safety net provided to farmers by increasing the government support to insurance and by providing new instruments of insurance. This is especially important in light of the climate crisis. Risk management also entails the growing of a wide variety of crops and the investment in infrastructure to minimize risks (e.g. drainage).
9. Strengthen competition and the position of farmers in marketing by encouraging cooperation of farmers, and by developing alternative market channels (e.g. digital platforms, direct marketing, a modern wholesale market)
10. Consider encouraging people to change their consumption habits towards nutrition mainly based on plants by a variety of means (education, labeling schemes, incentives).
11. Encourage and strengthen cooperation of farmers, especially family farms, to enable knowledge sharing and economies of scale in production and marketing, strengthen the bargaining position of farmers and enable sustainable agricultural projects on a regional scale (e.g. integrated pest management).
12. Collaborations with the local industry regarding the treatment of agricultural waste.
13. Encourage a young generation to enter agricultural production. Decrease entry barriers for people who would like to take up agricultural production but are not from a farming family. Decrease barriers for the development of urban agriculture.
14. Minimize the regulatory burden, which is encountered by many farmers (e.g. joint production, precision agriculture). Minimize barriers and regulatory burden for farmers who want to take up activities related to agriculture or complementing their agricultural production and enabling them to increase earnings and the viability of their farm.
15. Increase subsidies for agriculture. It is necessary to combine a variety of instruments, and adapt them to agricultural sectors and regions, based on concrete targets (strategic plan for agriculture – see point 2), and an impact assessment (cost-benefit analysis) of the different policy instruments. Because of the uncertainty involving policy changes pilot programs and gradual changes are essential.
16. Actions to improve the environmental sustainability of agricultural plant production and to adapt the agricultural sector to climate change and decrease emissions. The Ministry of Agriculture is developing measures to decrease the environmental impact of agricultural production and to tackle climate change impacts. Knowledge gaps have to be closed. Many concrete actions with regard to improving the environmental impact of agriculture were suggested (e.g. increase cooperation and policy coherence between the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, increase cooperation).

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The third dialogue tried to provide answers to the following questions:

1. What actions are necessary in order to reach the goals by 2030?
2. What are Israel's strengths regarding plant food systems? How can they be leveraged and used to enhance our food systems?
3. Which regulatory tools should be used?

The answers and outcomes of each question in provided in Main Findings.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

No areas of divergence emerged during the third dialogue.

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KEYWORDS

Finance

Innovation

Human rights

Women & Youth Empowerment

Policy

Data & Evidence

Governance

Trade-offs

Environment and Climate

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Plant food system - third discussion round - Pathways**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Plant-food-systems-Pathways.docx>