

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 14 June 2021 11:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Food security, regulation, industry and cities: Pathways
CONVENED BY	Convenor: Prof. Noga Kronfeld-Schor; Co-Convenor: Dr. Dorit Adler and Dr. Sigal Tepper, The Israeli Forum for Sustainable Nutrition
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24207/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24207/</a>
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	8	19-30	18	31-50	20	51-65	4	66-80	2	80+
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### PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

22	Male	31	Female		Prefer not to say or Other
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### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

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

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

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

**Food security:** The Focus of this national dialogue was to discuss participant's solutions in light of the challenges and vision expressed in the previous two dialogs.

Participants were asked to present their solutions as answers to 5 questions:

1. What are Israel's strengths in this area, and how can they be leveraged to transform food systems in Israel and the world?
2. What can be done here and now to achieve SDG goals for 2030?
3. What are the knowledge and technology gaps?
4. What regulatory and legislative tools are needed?
5. Who must be recruited to realize the goals?

**Food waste:** The focus of this dialogue was to discuss possible solutions and opportunities in relation to the food waste challenge. Participants were invited to discuss their vision of the main the strengths of Israel in regard to food waste, measures to the near future, key stakeholder that need to be involved in the solution, technological and knowledge gaps, as well as regulatory guidelines that can promote best practices.

**Food industry:** The dialogue focused on the future of the food industry and the changes that need to take place to promote an industry that produces healthier and more sustainable food. The ways to improve products' quality on the one hand and the regulations required to make the sustainable and healthy foods more available and accessible than Ultra processed food on the other hand.

**Urban food systems:** The participants discussed the dilemma of choosing what should be done in an ideal world, as opposed to setting an achievable goal. It was decided that while we must be realistic and pragmatic, we must allow ourselves to keep our ideal within sight, even if it is not immediately achievable.

**Communication and social marketing:** The current dialogue focused on the challenges characterized in previous sessions:

1. Increasing wide-scope media coverage of healthy and sustainable nutrition issues.
2. Social marketing and communication in diverse populations
3. building an efficient strategy to promote the issue in a variety of communication platforms, social channels and information centers
4. Regulation

The following part belongs to the Main findings section:

**Communication and social marketing:**

The need to address the lack of knowledge in the general population about the tight relationship between nutrition and sustainability, the information gaps between groups, the barriers related to economic, cultural factors, availability, and accessibility together with lifestyle barriers need to be addressed in every strategy that aims to encouraging and adopting a healthy and sustainable diet in public discourse and raising it to the media focus.

The foundation of the different solutions presented in the outcomes section should include:

- Strengthen traditional foods from different cultures that are based on healthier food and the use of natural ingredients.
- Changing Consumer environment: Encourage supermarkets to display healthier products and make them more accessible; to display information on the content of unhealthy products in large font and languages of the consumer populations on the shelf of the product because reading the content on the product is often difficult; create opportunities for members of the public to experience the preparation of or taste healthier and more sustainable food.
- Regulation: Subsidize healthier food products; to label healthy products and what should be consumed instead of an emphasis on what should be avoided; in every official event the food served should only be healthy food, and avoid waste.

Finally, Adjusted and updated media communication (timing): each holiday/season/event provides an opportunity to focus on more sustainable food preparation and consumption, including special sales on food products, and create information campaigns that include tips regarding healthier food preparation, consumption, and avoiding food waste.

## 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

### Food security:

Israel's strengths in this area include

- A strong civil society in the area of food (in)security and a longstanding tradition promoting social welfare
- An excellent well developed public health care system
- Health and welfare promotion infrastructure in local government and municipalities
- Advanced agricultural R&D and willingness to implement innovative solutions to local conditions
- Strong cooperative institutions in the farming community

What can be done here and now to achieve SDG goals for 2030?

- Known and existing solutions such as the National Nutritional Security Council law (2011) and the national food security initiative must either be implemented effectively or reformed.
- Food assistance programs must be adequately appropriated in the state budget
- Existing government data in the national insurance institute, welfare ministry, education ministry, health ministry, municipalities, central bureau of statistics and other agencies should be aggregated and used to guide policy
- Economic policy to mitigate food security must explicitly address food process and agriculture to reduce food insecurity in addition to strategies to increase earning power and reduce poverty
- Health promotion, nutrition security and environmental sustainability must all be integral to reforming the food system. Existing legislation, programs and infrastructure in these areas can be directed to improving awareness and advancing food security.
- Resources must be allocated to closing disparities in food security within different sectors of Israeli society
- Political will should be harnessed, for example through the establishment of parliamentary interest groups.

What are the knowledge and technology gaps?

- Targeted research is needed to map out the extent of food insecurity and threats to food security involving both government agencies and data collection, and transparent data sharing and collection by NGOs.
- Research must consider and clarify salient differences between distinct sectors in Israeli society such as the Arab and Ultraorthodox communities

What regulatory and legislative tools are needed?

A national master plan for a fair, sustainable and health promoting food plan should be enacted by law. This should include a national nutrition security law and a national agriculture law.

A government agency should be tasked with overseeing national nutrition and food security, and integrating policy across ministries. The agency should be assigned responsibility, authority and a budget by law, and the law must define food security in its broad sense including food availability, access and food insecurity. Ideally the agency would be located in the Prime Ministers Office, similar to the national economic council, so that it would have the resources and authority to coordinate and manage inter-ministerial conflicts over policy priorities.

The state budget must explicitly appropriate funds for nutrition and food security including agriculture and food production and targeted food aid to mitigate food insecurity.

Food price controls and other economic policy must be enacted to regulate the price and ensure accessibility of a health food basket, against demonstrable market failures and centralization

Food waste:

- Knowledge gaps exists in several areas. First, Israel has no systematic measurement of food waste production, nor an understanding of the main hotspots. Second, it is not clear whether the current (voluntary) courses of action are indeed influential.
- There was a broad agreement that one of Israel main strengths is the sophisticated food waste rescue array which currently based on NGO's. Israel's food banks have a complex logistics system that connects hundreds of donors with food distribution associations.
- Participants have identified several regulatory gaps:
  - o Encouraging food donations among food producers and retail chains through positive incentive, such as tax relief and/or government funding of logistics and manpower
  - o A National Food Directorate that functions as an integrator that connects all stakeholders (food donors, food distribution associations, and beneficiaries), map and manage surpluses on a national level
  - o The current Item-Pricing Law needs to be changed and a smart two-dimensional barcode system needs to be adopted. The adoption of electronic price tags should also be promoted.
  - o An incentive to food waste source separation needs to be adopted

Food industry:

Israel is a small country, which allows for rapid product development and a rapid transition from development to production. Collaboration with academia and the agricultural sector is essential for developing circular solutions to improve the food system.

- To enable consumers' better food choices, food advertising on media and social networks should be restricted
- To enable healthier food, technological developments to improve processed and ultra-processed health food are needed.
- To enable the industry to develop better products, goals must be set (such as reducing the variety of harmful foods, reducing environmental footprints, time frames for reformulations, etc.)

Urban food systems:

The need for regulatory measures at all levels and in most of the areas discussed was seen as an obstacle, but one needing to be tackled. On the other hand, the group saw a tremendous opportunity if investment were to be made in in depth

education and social marketing for all age groups, in formal and informal frameworks alike.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

### Food security:

As in the previous dialog, the Topic Outcomes included the urgent need to:

- 1) Create a legislative and regulatory framework that will define food security broadly, and consider it a national government priority, for social resilience and domestic and national security. This must be reflected in adequate budgetary appropriations and legislation.
- 2) Enhance governance, by creating an overarching, integrated, inter-ministerial policy review to develop a food systems master plan to ensure food security in its broad definition.
- 3) Define outcome measures and targets, assign responsibility for monitoring, formative and evaluative research
- 4) Find independent academic research to enhance local evidence based evaluation of policy alternatives
- 5) Include health and sustainability in all food security policy objectives
- 6) Develop a master plan for Israeli agriculture taking into consideration sustainability, climate change threats, economic planning
- 7) Enhance the social safety net and create specific government programs for food aid with enhancement of local government involvement, a rebalancing of roles and responsibilities of government vs. third sector NGOs.

### food waste:

Measures to be promoted on the national level:

- A National Food Rescue Directorate that will institutionalize existing activities and create a national food surpluses information system
- Establishment of regional committees to deal with food insecurity and food rescue at the local level
- Allocation of budgets for food rescue - support for food banks, support for retail chains that donate food
- Transferring responsibility for food waste reduction and food waste management from the central government to local authorities. The Ministry of Environmental Protection should set the goals but not the measures to reach these goals.
- Local food waste prevention and healthy eating campaigns
- Funding field surveys and researches at the municipal level
- Promoting a joint move by the Ministry of Health and the food industry to facilitate the use of expired food items (that carry "Best Before" labels) that are less susceptible to microbial spoilage

### Food industry:

The regulatory actions that was recommended by the representatives of civil society and public health to take:

- Prohibition of harmful food advertising, unhealthy food taxation, and subsidies on healthy food.
- The new food approval process will also take into account the health value of the product
- Regulation for a circular economy - a comprehensive plan for an array of circular economy.

Actions that need to be promoted:

- Establishing consortiums for developing food production with high nutritional value and budgeting a national initiative to promote health, including goals for reducing obesity and promote public health. The consortiums will include industry, academia, government, and civil society.
- Establish an independent research center that will facilitate the development of products and adjusted nutrition recommendations specific to Israel, based on evidence.
- Promote health-oriented agriculture.
- Reducing waste- improving the collection and sorting of waste for recycling and providing technological tools for improving infrastructure.
- Reliable education for healthy and sustainable nutrition in schools and the development of an educational body for consumer awareness to balance the advertising and marketing burden of unhealthy food.
- Favoring food companies (by a government and public institutions) that promote health and thereby encourage the pursuit of health excellence.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

### Urban food systems:

- Our country must establish a “National Food and Nutrition Authority”, in order for food systems in Israel to play their much needed role in achieving the SDG’s. This government authority would enable all the food stakeholders to share challenges and find solutions.
- Technological solutions are needed to enable urban food-growing to become sufficiently productive. This will require national investment in research, and collaboration among all levels of government to overcome regulatory obstacles.
- In a future reality, we must strive to make healthy food choices cheaper, more accessible and more popular. To achieve this, a three-pronged national campaign will
  1. Target the food industry to make it an ally, instead of being the main source of the problem.
  2. Introduce food education from the baby clinics through all age-groups as a compulsory component.
  3. Each local authority will establish its own interdisciplinary food council, in order to coordinate and maximize its efforts to improve its food systems.

### Communication and social marketing:

#### Recommended solutions to increase communication of healthy and sustainable nutrition:

- News media: Establish a forum/organization/center, which will involve scientists and media professionals for the purpose of raising food systems sustainability issues in the news agenda. It will create and disseminate reliable content, provide communication training for scientists and training for journalists and media content writers from diverse groups on food systems sustainability.
- Provide information and skills training: To provide relevant information at consumption sites and offer “how-to buy healthy” training to members of diverse groups.
- Media channels and platforms: Promote, stimulate and also sponsor the inclusion/infusion of sustainability content in various entertainment and consumer programs, social media, and not only in programs dedicated to food or ecology.
- Information “Hotline”: Create an information “hotline” as a resource for professionals and the public.
- “The Israeli Kitchen”: Create a national campaign of a healthy “kitchen”, which combines traditional with contemporary cooking of diverse groups, emphasizing health and sustainability, community and national pride.
- Framing and positioning: Instead of emphasizing only health or sustainability to also emphasize positive rewards and interest, such as frugality, creativity, variety.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Food security:  
There was some divergence over the correct balance of government and civil society partnership in addressing food insecurity, with civil society representatives emphasizing the importance of maintaining centralized food banks and local pantries and kitchens, while calling for greater government funding of the NGOs, with government responsibility for establishing the local end-point agencies to help distribute the aid.  
This would require regulation of the content and criteria for providing aid, with NGOs being reluctant to limit their autonomy in return for public funding. Currently, the major philanthropic food banks compete for the same funders and are reluctant to be regulated, to prioritize health and nutrition vs. caloric sufficiency and are reluctant to share data transparently. So long as they are to be part of the solution NGOs will need to increase transparency to help design and provide evidence of efficiency and equity in publically funded solutions.  
Further questions arose as to the appropriate balance of direct cash transfers for food aid (whether restricted or unrestricted) as opposed to additional food aid provided as commodities.  
The appropriateness of food banks as a food waste reduction policy tool and whether they are scalable and truly win-win solutions for beneficiaries, farmers and others in the value chain, is also a matter for evidence-based deliberation.

Food industry:  
Representatives of the civil society and representatives of public health sectors presented great importance on regulation as described in the discussion outcomes section. In contrast, industry representatives presented the importance of setting goals for the industry and working with academia and government. That self-regulation of the industry is the right solution.

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