

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 15 June 2021 09:30 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Transforming Kigali and Rulindo's Food Systems through Robust Inter-regional Linkages and Natural Resources Management
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	City of Kigali, Rulindo District, UNHabitat, FAO, ICLEI Africa
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24623/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24623/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Rwanda

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

45

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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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

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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 dialogue explored possibilities and opportunities for improving the resilience and sustainability of the food systems of Kigali and Rulindo district. Discussions moved beyond the short-term responses to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Kigali and Rulindo's food systems, to more long-term approaches for ensuring continued access to nutritious and safe food in the face of climatic shocks and stresses and other disruptions. It considered policy interventions that are necessary for promoting healthy diets, food and nutrition security in Kigali city and Rulindo district. It unpacked ways in which we might better link urban, peri-urban and rural food systems to ensure sustainability of these systems.

### 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
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## MAIN FINDINGS

The session highlighted key food system challenges both the City of Kigali and Rulindo district are contending with. These included price fluctuations and food losses (estimated to be about 30 to 40 percent) both of which significantly affect farmers. Transportation networks and infrastructure to facilitate food flows between both cities are also deficient. Environmental issues such as soil erosion, flooding, droughts as well as pests and diseases also constrain food production.

Despite these challenges, the potential to achieve food system sustainability in both the City of Kigali and Rulindo districts is immense in the light of the opportunities inherent within the cities' food systems. These opportunities include the relatively high production of some crops particularly vegetables, fruits and cassava, as well as the availability of marshland and irrigation water for increased production.

The session emphasised the fact that there are enough policies in the country (albeit some can be improved). However, implementation needs to be improved. Some of the challenges in implementation relates to the lack of awareness of these policies and the fact that some of the policies are not translated to understandable language for some food system actors to be informed and to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the policies. In a similar vein, there is limited access to market information which negatively affects farmers. As a result, there is the need for awareness campaigns which must cut across all the food system actors.

Participants also noted the need to invest in infrastructure development. Infrastructure which needs to be put in place or strengthened include among others, irrigation systems, storm water drainage systems, markets, transport infrastructure in order to better link the cities together and to reduce food waste, drying shelters and mobile dryers, as well as storage facilities.

To mitigate against food loss and food waste, discussants suggested that there is the need to invest in storage infrastructure and to install cooling and refrigeration centres. Participants noted the importance of strengthening the linkages between urban areas and rural areas as well as between peri-urban areas and urban areas. Participants noted that symbiotic relations must be emphasised such that food systems relations are beneficial for both cities. Efficient food waste management strategies were also suggested including the conversion of food waste into organic compost and the valorisation of food waste. An integrated approach to food waste management needs to be put in place and this must cut across the entire food value chain. To enable the implementation foregoing, supportive legal and regulatory framework needs to be put in place. It is important also, according to the discussants, that the Action Plan for Food Waste Prevention and Management in the City of Kigali which has been developed in collaboration with FAO needs to be successfully implemented.

Urban agriculture should also be seen as a source of food security and employment generation for people. Urban Agriculture has been officially incorporated into the Kigali conceptual master plan while the Kigali city government has also accepted the recommendation of the FAO to focus on urban agriculture. Nevertheless, a critical need to define and formally recognise urban agriculture in land use plans of urban areas. With poor people living in Kigali and Rulindo, there will be need to further support and strengthen urban agriculture programmes in order to achieve food security in both cities.

Participants highlighted the need to focus on indigenous knowledge. In other words, in terms of planning for, and education about the food systems, it is important not to lose value of those knowledge and practices that are handed down culturally and historically.

Investment in data management systems must also be prioritised, according to the participants. They noted that the ability to constantly evaluate progress towards achievement of food-related policies and programmes hinges on the collection, storage and synthesis of good data.

The importance of collaborative food system governance also came to the fore during the discussion. Participants noted that governing the cities' food systems should involve every food system actor who should collaborate to look at solutions to food system issues. Given that awareness about food system challenges and opportunities is a big constraint to food system resilience, the need for awareness and sensitization campaigns, not only for farmers, but also all other actors across the food value chain and within the food system was emphasised. It is important that actors are aware of policies and regulatory environment and also incentives and opportunities that they can take advantage of.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

Participants responded to two major questions. These are summarised below:

Question 1: What policies and incentive mechanisms are available or can be implemented to spur food system sustainability, resilience and symbiotic food system relations in Kigali city and Rulindo district?

Rwanda's key policies that are already in place:

- Rwanda Vision 2050: Green Growth and Climate Resilience economy: targets transforming Rwanda from a middle-income into a high-income status country
- National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) (2017-2024): focusing on social, economic and good governance transformation
- The Updated National Agricultural Policy (2018)
- Rwanda Biodiversity Policy (2011)
- The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan (NBSAP II) (2016)
- The Food safety Policy
- Agro-forestry Policy and Forestry Policy 2018

Incentives and mechanisms already in place:

- The African Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cold Chain is a facility that can be used to store food coming from Rulindo in order to have a more sustainable food system
- Inclusive markets and off-farm opportunities can improve. This incentive is within MINAGRI and intended to improve sustainable food systems.

Policies, incentives and mechanisms that can be implemented:

- Policies that promote food system, climate resilience, water and energy efficiency, as well as biodiversity conservation
- Food Safety and nutrition policy which is under development should address postharvest handling
- Policy on sustainable food production which would prioritise irrigation systems, valorisation of marshlands, agroecology and address barriers that have affected production levels such as soil fertility, integrated pest management, increase storage in the district to match production needs.
- Policies and programmes focusing on market linkages and improved access to market
- Policies, programmes and incentives to catalyse value addition, food packaging and processing in Rulindo district
- Increased investment in water management systems in Rulindo to manage drought and floods cycles
- Policies and incentives that promote access to inputs and finance especially for small-scale farmers
- Capacity building, skills development and knowledge sharing among food system actors (sometimes in the local languages)
- Farmer training to improve farmers' knowledge of sustainable food production and markets. This can be done through farmer field schools
- Agro-forestry should be promoted as a way of farming on hillsides to manage soil erosion. There is an initiative to do this using avocado trees instead of using non-food trees like Eucalyptus
- Partnerships between different farmers: for example between piggery farmers and maize producers
- Collaborative food governance: Catalyse action between different stakeholders to promote correct policies on the sectors



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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

Question 2: What solutions are feasible in responding to the challenge of environmental change, degradation and food waste in Kigali and Rulindo's food system?

- Environment protection policies and tools (which already exist) need to be mainstreamed at all level.
- There is a need to develop a comprehensive approach to assess the impact of soil degradation based on production and to identify natural and human-induced causes of degradation.
- Sustainable agriculture including agroecology and organic farming.
- Explore hydroponics in Kigali for fruits and veggies in order to reduce the reliance on soil for ecosystem degradation.
- It is important that a policy that preserve agricultural land is put in place in order to reduce environmental impact and to ensure that farmers have the land necessary for expansion and to continue food production.
- Identify appropriate sustainable land management interventions in the current continuing soil degradation threat.
- As there is low investment in waste management, public-private partnerships in food waste management should be explored. There should be support for businesses (incentives) which already has incorporated some food waste practices. Invest in food recycling industry for food waste in Kigali
- Strong partnerships and coordination among key actors in urban agriculture, construction and urban food systems
- Encourage the use of renewable and sustainable materials and products.
- Put in place small processing units to absorb fresh produce. Put in place driers to absorb produce like maize and reduce humidity and the challenge of aflatoxins.
- Marshland reclamation for increased agricultural production
- Research to inform policies and programs. Without research it will be difficult to inform decision making at policy level.
- Investment in transport and storage infrastructure as well as new innovations in preservation of crops should be given consideration
- Farmer capacity building oriented towards achievement of all the above suggested solutions.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

N/A

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Kigali and Rulindo Feedback Form**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Kigali-and-Rulindo-Food-Dialogue-Feedback-Form.19072021.-IC-LEI\\_FAO-1.docx](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Kigali-and-Rulindo-Food-Dialogue-Feedback-Form.19072021.-IC-LEI_FAO-1.docx)