

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

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| <b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>       | Friday, 18 June 2021 10:00 GMT +03:00   |
| <b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>      | Strengthening and Amplifying the Voices and Leadership of Women in Food Systems                       |
| <b>CONVENED BY</b>         | Ms. Judy Matu - Association of Women in Agriculture Kenya - AWAK, Mr. Charles Opiyo - GAIN Alliance   |
| <b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b> | <a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24972/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/24972/</a> |
| <b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>       | Independent   |
| <b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>  | Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania                                   |

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

80

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

23

19-30

52

31-50

5

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

18 Male

62 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

15 Agriculture/crops

5 Fish and aquaculture

5 Livestock

5 Agro-forestry

7 Environment and ecology

2 Trade and commerce

1 Education

2 Communication

5 Food processing

3 Food retail, markets

6 Food industry

5 Financial Services

4 Health care

3 Nutrition

5 National or local government

2 Utilities

2 Industrial

1 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

8 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

3 Large national business

3 Multi-national corporation

13 Small-scale farmer

7 Medium-scale farmer

1 Large-scale farmer

5 Local Non-Governmental Organization

5 International Non-Governmental Organization

3 Indigenous People

4 Science and academia

1 Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

3 Local authority

5 Government and national institution

2 Regional economic community

5 United Nations

2 International financial institution

3 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

3 Consumer group

3 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

1. By practicing what we preach. We invited speakers and panellists who are passionate and champions in the areas they were addressing, have a proven track record in the same. As a champion for women empowerment in Food Systems, it was important to on board respected, realistic, sustainable and progressive panellists. 2. Being respectful to all. Protecting diverse cultures and beliefs while promoting food production and consumption policies and best practices. We recognise and respect the diversity of our stakeholders and especially the dialogue participants. By respectfully addressing pertinent issues around food security, health, resilient livelihoods and good stewardship of natural resources, we invited men as well to speak and participate, religious and indigenous people through careful consideration of our patriarchal and diverse religious and cultural beliefs within Kenyan communities. 3. We applied multistakeholder approach in our invitations..both for speakers and pannelists and were lucky to get a diverse representation of participants. This was important to cover the complexity of food systems where the panel covered actions across the food systems including policy, infrastructure, Financial inclusion, partnerships, fiscal justice among other critical areas that provide potential synergies and trade offs. 4. Our dialogue was inclusive. We invited diverse voices from across the food systems and across the country. We even had a session for a rural woman farmer and a youth to give feedback after all the speakers had spoken.. to openly express their views on whether the topics were relational. The break out sessions allowed more voices to give feedback. The group sessions are where the participants come up with recommendations that provided local solutions. The group sessions allowed diverse voice to speak and every view captured as within the time limit. The dialogue embraced multistakeholder inclusivity. 5. The dialogue offered a safe space for stakeholders to engage openly, transparently and share feedback and recommendations confidently. Trust.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

1. Commit to the summit. Our dialogue was specific in topic and content to reflect on the summit's core objectives. Women play a key role in Food Systems thus, to transform the food systems, they must be brought to the fore, listened to and empowered to take action. The dialogue reflected the reality on the ground and the recommendations project the needed action in order to achieve the set goals. 2. Be respectful. Kenya is a patriarchal society with diverse cultures and beliefs. It was our core objective to respect this diversity as we promoted gender just policies and practices, resilient livelihoods and good stewardship of natural resources in our dialogue. The panel was as respectful in their delivery. Our registration form was designed to capture the diversity in order to inform us on delivery of the dialogue. 3. Recognise Complexity. This was the first dialogue of its kind in Kenya where we were specific on addressing women in Food Systems. It was therefore critical to capture the major gaps that hinder women from progress by bringing a diverse panel each addressing a major gap. Involving multiple stakeholders enriched our dialogue with possible actions across the food system with potential synergies to reduce existing gaps and achieve the desired transformation in food systems. The issue of fiscal policies had been a thorn in the flesh hindering growth and deepening vulnerabilities for small scale women in food systems. It was a very welcome topic and the policy makers were well represented to hear this views. 4. Embrace multistakeholder inclusivity. This was well captured in our choice for the panellists and speakers. They were diverse representing different areas of interest for women in Food Systems. The participants were also drawn from across the food systems giving the dialogue the diversity of voices and views across the different actors and communities. 5. Build Trust. It was critical to promote trust through allowing open conversations with no judgement. Everyone was allowed to share their feedback freely but respectfully.

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

It is important to embrace the principles of engagement as a convener. They guide your preparation all the way to the dialogue. The principles are fair and just, allowing inclusivity, respect and diversity. They help the convener pick our the panel much more carefully in order to capture the actions more elaborately as well as guide in the group discussions that came up with recommendations. The principles are well thought through, the participants feel part and parcel of the dialogue making them own the outcomes thereof. That makes partnerships much more easier when you involve them through out the dialogue. They identify areas of synergy and are happy to plug in. The outcomes are realistic and stakeholders own the process making it easier to implement.

# 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

Levers of Change - Gender.

Title: Strengthening and amplifying the voices and leadership of women in food systems.

The dialogue focused on the role that women play in food systems, the gender inequalities that women face in food systems, challenges in women contribution towards food systems, measures that can allow better inclusion, and solutions that are already in place to allow for better inclusion in policy process and gaps.

Five key topics guided the dialogue which are

- 1) Access to markets and infrastructure at scale
- 2) supporting women farmers and agri-entrepreneurs with technology, finance, capacity and legal rights
- 3) Fiscal justice and an enabling environment for policy, leadership and decision making, representation and budgeting
- 4) climate change and green financing and
- 5) youth and development in foods systems.

Key challenges explored

Women do not benefit from most resources available (land, financial products) yet they provide 42-65% of the agricultural work force.

Ownership of land for women is still a major hiccup leading to limited access to finance due to lack of collateral and consequently resulting in productivity gaps of up to 30% between men and women.

The triple burden of malnutrition affects women and their households more in African households and this has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gender inequality is one of the causes and results of unsustainable food systems.

Increased under-representation of women and youth in food systems

Women are inadequately involved in decision making and this has had an impact on:

- (1) health,
- (2) poverty levels and
- (3) general quality of life.

Women led micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are less likely to access formal finance loans and support.

Key issues raised.

Food system and Value chain development:

The complexity of food systems requires holistic and coordinated approach throughout the value chain. It also requires the integration of various actors from education, finance and gender equality. Tackling gender issues should ensure inclusion of both men and women and assurance that women and men participate and benefit equally from agriculture. This is because in most cases, women experience equitable constraint to agricultural resources compared to men. In addition, women have a crucial responsibility in the food systems as they provide food for their families, produce fruits and vegetables for nutrition and they also act as transporters and vendors. Therefore, to include and empower women, it was reported that FAO had put in place various strategies to lead a more resilient and sustainable food system.

Financing for Women:

Financing of the agricultural sector by the Kenyan banking industry is currently very low (below 5 percent). What makes the situation worse is that there is skewed access to the finance provided against women.

Three key solutions that were discussed that can be used to ensure women are included in financing include:

- a) Digitization
- b) Development of Women centred products
- c) Finance plus

On the issue of fiscal policies which is key in determining economic equalities and inequalities, it was highlighted that there are ways of ensuring equality and having gender specific policies on taxes. The highlighted points include:

- Revenue redistribution which investigates the different levels of incomes in the economy and ensures that those that earn less pay less and vice versa.
- Repricing of products, which affects people behaviour.
- Representations- this was noted as a key problem in tax policies and there was a need for representation of women to evade economic inequalities.

Partnerships and collaboration:

It was noted that strengthening of women's capacity can be done through policies that are gender inclusive and through government and multisectoral partnerships.

Policies and regulatory frameworks:

As most dev't partners and gov't are supporting women, it could be enhanced by putting in place enabling factors that sustain women participation in food systems.

Find more key issues and details on all above in the report attached.

### 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

### Findings and Recommendations.

#### Gender Integration in food systems.

Research has shown that empowering women leads to several positive outcomes along the food value chain and hence addressing the unique challenges faced by women is key. Moreover, research has shown that when women farmers have equal access to agricultural inputs (fertilizer and seed) as men, yield can increase by 19%. Considering all the challenges that women face, several strategies need to be put in place or those already in place should allow for better inclusivity.

Foremost, there is a need to factor in women when structuring policies and ensure that women also occupy positions of leadership. Subsequently, there is need for policies that ensure women have access to productive resources such as fertilizer and seed. This can be executed through subsidies for inputs that can be accessed through digital platforms i.e. the E-voucher system. Also, digitalization would help deal with the time constraint faced by women. Further, support for women led MSMEs to ensure they have equity in accessing markets and attain greater bargaining power is instrumental and increase for energy supply for running production and value addition processes carried out by women farmers, need to be factored. A clear focus should be made on women and youth farmers to strengthen their participation in agriculture.

There is therefore

- (1) need for redirecting policies to focus on gender inclusivity and financial inclusivity
- (2) need to follow policy implementation for successful outcomes on gender equality in food systems and
- (3) need for sustainable collaboration and establishment of partnerships, globally and locally, for increased women empowerment within the food system and gender equality.

#### Market and infrastructure.

Need for digitalization and ensuring women are aware of inclusion in digital market access

Developing strategies for women to be able to access funds especially in the case that loans require physical collateral and have high interest rates which women are not able to pay back

Need for partnerships that engage women in policy making on various food systems and agricultural activities

Support women businesses and allow them to be part of the partnerships

Bank customer segmentation to address the financial needs of women

#### Capacity building in terms of market access.

Establish data driven programs to enable women to grow profitable products

Finance- structure right finances to look at the cycles between payment of loans and farmers' harvest time

Digitalization- establish easy platforms such as USSD platforms that share information such as market information on pricing, consumer products demand and extension support.

#### Fiscal justice for women working in food systems

Promote exports to generate more income for the women and revenues for the government

Surplus- be resourceful about surpluses

Mandatory registration of women in cooperatives to ensure access to finance

Equitable access to resources (production, capital, extension services)

#### Partnerships support for women in agriculture

Improving partnership with financial institutions to enhance women access to funds

Extend capacity building to rural women (partner with the national, county governments, Financial Institutions and the grass root women)

Connect grass root women to multistakeholder platforms to share their experiences and challenges

Link research organizations and various ministries with grass root women to create awareness on new technologies

Nutrition- train and provide knowledge on preparation and consumption of nutritious foods to women

Partnership with national and county government to implement policies that are gender mainstreamed to support women in agriculture e.g. on issues of land rights, gender just climate solutions among others.

#### Climate action and inclusive financing- Access to green finance

Inspire confidence among ladies to tap into funds that can help them invest in agriculture. A member mentioned the climate action fund that has been initiated by the world-bank. One of the members also stated that there is a lack of awareness among women on such initiatives and there is therefore need for awareness creation one such programmes are started.

Kenya is largely arid and semi-arid (89%) and therefore innovative ways should be sought to shift reliance from rain-fed agriculture. These include: Irrigation machinery, irrigation pumps and drilling of water ponds, climate smart agriculture local innovations

Create financial products at the bank level that cater for women such as agricultural insurance products that support women.

Agro-forestry- This can be done through encouraging tree planting among farming households especially fruit trees that can help mitigate on the effects of climate change.

Soil health - support and promote soil rejuvenating through local solutions to enhance productivity and conserve biodiversity.

Promote urban farming and use of kitchen gardens among land constrained women and urban farmers.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Way forward.

Increased awareness on women inequalities and the need for gender integration in food systems and policy is required. This can be done via capacity building, mainstreaming gender in policies and supporting women to increase agricultural productivity. Moreover, complementing financial services with advisory services on how women can optimize their yields and revenues is important for this to be maximally productive and effective. Lastly, establishing sustainable partnership for all actors (at the bottom and on the top) is important in strengthening and amplifying the voice of women in food systems, for women empowerment in Kenya.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Communities of interest were grouped around the following areas during the dialogue: Each topic was discussed by a panellists and later explored during group discussions. Each topic was discussed openly and respectfully allowing all voices and views. There were divergent views within all groups meaning all topics, especially in ascertaining the severity of vulnerabilities, government action through policy and explaining what inclusion really looks like.

Here are the topics:

Religion Science and food systems nexus with a focus on women in food systems.

Supporting women in entrepreneurship  
Fiscal justice / enabling policy for women in food systems

Building partnerships for gender equality and food systems transformation in Kenya

Women access to equitable resources in agriculture  
Institutionalization of policies to benefit the grass root women who are not aware of the existing policies.

Digitalization in support for women in food production  
Support for women amid climate change in green financing

Building resilience to food systems shocks and stresses

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Report - Women in Food System Independent Dialogue Kenya**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Report-Women-in-food-systems-independent-dialogue-30th-June-2021-1.docx>
- **Dialogue E-Flyer**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/IMG-20210617-WA0019.jpg>

## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Zoom Meeting link**  
[https://gainhealth.zoom.us/rec/share/6jX8puUUSyztFSLvjQ4spxfhJ13Sq0PMXo2sWNIUNCJnRexB4pKVC\\_ZkfaowMzw.3RAdc08Gi0YeJ2aT](https://gainhealth.zoom.us/rec/share/6jX8puUUSyztFSLvjQ4spxfhJ13Sq0PMXo2sWNIUNCJnRexB4pKVC_ZkfaowMzw.3RAdc08Gi0YeJ2aT)