

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 18 January 2021 09:00 GMT +07:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Strengthening Food Systems for Sustainable Development in Cambodia
CONVENED BY	HE Dr Sok Silo, Secretary General, Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2549/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Cambodia

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

48

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

4

19-30

27

31-50

16

51-65

1

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

33 Male

14 Female

1 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

1 Agriculture/crops

1 Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

3 Education

Communication

1 Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

2 Health care

Nutrition

18 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

22 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

5 Local Non-Governmental Organization

13 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

26 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

4 United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The SUN Networks provided the main means for ensuring diversity in this preliminary exercise. During the training and selection of Facilitators and recorders we encouraged women to participate and will continue to do this. The Involvement of civil society representatives and business network representatives will open the doorway for wider inclusivity. Participation of government staff from a range of ministries was intended to capture their interest and to show the relevance of food systems across a range of ministries. 'I would like to deeply thank you for your training session for the Cambodia Food Systems Dialogues held via Zoom on Monday 18 Jan 2021. This session is very important for current Cambodia society and the first time for me.' Mr. Pen Norakvuth, Deputy General Director of the National Social Security Fund

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Urgency: We moved as quickly as possible towards commencing dialogue activities so as to give maximum time for us to make progress with the dialogues. The need to move quickly is understood by our core team and this reflects the urgency for actions to improve understanding and strengthen food systems. Commitment: by moving forward with this process, explaining the dialogue and giving opportunities to participate we are securing commitment. The activation of government representatives by CARD and the harnessing of the SUN Movement in Cambodia has been critical for this initial commitment. Respect: our dialogue reflects some hierarchical procedures that are consistent with social norms for respect in Cambodia. This norms are very important to communication and especially for multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder processes. The team is skilled in dealing with formal protocols. In addition, the breakout rooms provided for less formal interactions and the Facilitators were responsible for respecting and encouraging the opinions of all involved in these smaller groups. Inclusivity at this stage was limited and more emphasis will be placed on inclusivity as the process unrolls. Nonetheless, the preliminary dialogue brought in representatives from government, donors, UN, civil society and business. Building Trust: this principle was very important for the event, with the trust of the core team growing in the process and in each other and for the participants to trust that the multi-sectoral process does not threaten their sectoral direction and control.

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

It is important to think about these principles in planning the events and setting the agenda. One of the strongest ways for embedding these principles is for the teams involved in the presentation of dialogue events to embody those principles in their own actions. we can do this by encouraging participants to speak freely and by showing we value their inputs and offer opportunities to make their opinions heard. The trust created in the small group setting is the real opportunities for these principles to be brought to life. Be sure to invest time in training and practicing your facilitators in facilitation skills.

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 event was primarily to practice our team in all the process of the dialogue and to discover our limitations and capabilities. This was our first experience in conducting a zoom meeting with separate breakout rooms and plenary sessions.

The dialogue itself sought participants feedback on a draft vision for sustainable food systems in Cambodia in 2030. The participants were given complete freedom to comment on what sort of elements should be in the vision, using the draft simply as a reference point if they needed ideas to react to. The second and more detailed part of the dialogue was to suggest ways that we can move forward towards that vision. These ideas will continue to be developed over the whole course of the national dialogue in readiness for the summit.

The draft vision presented was:

By 2030, Cambodian food systems will ensure access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for all Cambodians, enabling sustainable production and consumption patterns, a balance between long term productivity and the conservation of natural resources, promoting equitable livelihoods and inclusiveness and resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses.

Several amendments to the vision or points of clarification were suggested. These included a long standing difficulty in understanding the meaning of access; whether affordability is included in the concept of access to food and whether information about food is considered under access. Other points raised were for more emphasis to be placed on healthy diets and consumer information, that the trade-offs implicit in increasing productivity and conserving resources and between food crops and agro-industry should be more explicit and that we need more detail on how the poor and vulnerable are to be included.

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

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> | Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Innovation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Data & Evidence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Human rights | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Governance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trade-offs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | Environment and Climate |

MAIN FINDINGS

Whilst no specific commitments were made in the course of this dialogue, by moving forwards with the event, there has been specific request to join in the dialogue process, including from branches of government, UN agencies, civil society representatives and other individuals. The event has help spark a new list of participants and topics of interest for ongoing dialogue.

The participants recognised that it will be useful to increase understanding and awareness of the food systems and how we relate to it. The discussion heightened issues for some parties who felt that food systems are not relevant to their interests and revealed the depth of the divisions between some sectors and interests. The challenge for engaging the many parts of the food system and highlighting interconnectedness was clear. For some areas, involvement with systems discussion is not appealing because they prefer to remain within limited mandates and specialised areas of interest. This is an ongoing challenge and reflects a history of sectoral thinking in education, governance and management.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

What can we do to reach our vision for sustainable food systems for Cambodia 2030?

Keep a focus on healthy diets and healthy diet should be a part of the national curriculum. Providing information to consumers on how to make sustainable and healthy choices on the food they buy and consume is important.

The political will to change is a prerequisite. We must also ensure that all parties, including the private sector work in unity.

Increased investments in education and research and innovation are critical for shaping the future of the food system.

A food systems approach is important for achieving the vision. When we talk about sustainable food systems it is an opportunity to talk about everything that has to do with the food we want to eat, from supply chain, to consumer environment, to how food is prepared etc. Cross-cutting issues are very important. Waste is another very important issue. Consider economic, environmental, social and cultural dimensions of the food system.

Cambodia was quite resilient during COVID-19 in terms of food supply, and we can learn lessons from that regarding sustainable consumption patterns. More work required to build resilience for dealing with climate change and disaster management

More opportunities required to disseminate information to people at different levels, like the market side. We have National Nutrition Day every year, but that targets specific people. We can make that event more open to the public and make it more enjoyable and reach down to sub-national level.

Quality Assurance and Quality Control mechanisms required for food, through each point of the food system (including the production and use of ingredients, growing, processing, packaging, production, selling and consumption).

One element missing is the responsibility in terms of the market to provide information, for increased market monitoring and information sharing. Market regulations should be enforced..

Social assistance is very interesting. School feeding schemes and cash transfers for the poor during COVID-19 improve food access. We could discuss further the social protection/social assistance on offer in Cambodia and how this affects the food system. This could be critical for resilience? While there was no food shortage during the pandemic, studies show that people are more in debt and this can affect nutrition. It is important to take a life cycle approach (include elderly, young children, disability, and youth etc.) and design programmes for those special groups.

The private sector and the SMEs are very important partners for moving towards sustainable food systems, especially in the development of food processing and packaging.

The sub-national platforms should be scaled up to provide a platform for different sectors to come together regarding nutrition. Food systems is a relatively new idea for everyone, and it is important to bring different departments into action. While the dialogue is driven at the national level, including stakeholders from all departments is key and the next step is to bring this to the sub-national level. All levels to be involved in information dissemination to reach to the community. Cross-sectoral coordination is vital for creating access to nutritious food and to alleviate poverty. The road map should include cross-sectoral working systems at the local level? It is difficult for people's voice to be heard, so this is important to create equal access. Especially when it comes to infrastructure, such as water systems, necessary for allowing good nutrition.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

A vision for sustainable food systems for Cambodia 2030

Draft Vision

By 2030, Cambodian food systems will ensure access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for all Cambodians, enabling sustainable production and consumption patterns, a balance between long term productivity and the conservation of natural resources, promoting equitable livelihoods and inclusiveness and resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses.

Comments:

The demand for healthy food from the consumer's perspective should be pointed out more. Rather than just looking into supply, we should also look into demands for healthy diets and how that could be included. The concept of food sovereignty should be included in the vision. This means that people can access and consume healthy and culturally appropriate food that is produced without harm to the environment. the vision should be that people can consume a healthy diet and have choice.

The word 'access' is vague – does it refer to affordability, availability to materials if one wants a home garden, etc. It should be elaborated what 'access' means as it could mean different things to different people. For access, information is also very important. People can have the food but without access to information there is still a problem. When we think about access to food, we must include consideration of the poor, minorities and migrants.

We want to see more of a focus on healthy diets and the consumer information side of things. People often don't have enough education/information on the topic and this should be expressed somewhere. Sharing knowledge of agriculture is important, including food safety.

Conservation of natural resources (perspective from working in Preah Vihear) could be conflicting with livelihoods, as many people depend on natural resources for their livelihoods.

There should be a balance of agro-industrial production for export and local production for local demand

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

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