

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 11 August 2021 09:00 GMT +07:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Cambodia's Roadmap for Food Systems for Sustainable Development by 2030
CONVENED BY	HE Veng Sakhon, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Vice-Chairman of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2551/
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

90

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

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

This was a stage 3 event to finalise the draft roadmap and take feedback from stakeholders after circulation of the draft. The meeting was chaired by the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and attended by many officials and representatives of donors, UN, civil society and business. The event was run according to formal procedures. The endorsement of the draft is a formal process in itself and there were opportunities to submit comments in writing or during the meeting. Many ministry representatives used this opportunity to express their views.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The format of the dialogue reflected the formalities required for comment by ministries and institutions and development partners and for endorsement. After the presentation of the Roadmap there was opportunity for comment and prior to the event the document was circulated to collect any comments in writing. By these mechanisms there were final opportunities for stakeholders to contribute to the draft Roadmap.

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

Anticipate the processes required to obtain endorsements for the Roadmap and consider how to build a consensus and agreement on the national directions without curtailing opportunities to discuss issues remaining and trade-off situations in the future. Assure participants that the dialogue does not end with the Summit and set up the architecture for this dialogue to continue.

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

This was the final meeting of the broad stakeholder group to consider the draft Roadmap and the formal process involved did not allow for small group discussion and reporting back to a plenary.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The focus of this dialogue was on gaining consensus around the vision and the four main themes for the Roadmap and the commitments supporting the recommended actions. The collective vision proposed was:
By 2030, all Cambodians will have access to healthy diets and safe food, with an initial focus on women and children to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition and attention to the nutrition transition. Food systems will nourish Cambodia's population, strengthen local production and distribution, offer equitable livelihoods especially for youth, be resilient to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses, steward the environment, and help mitigate the effects of climate change by shifting the system towards green growth.

This vision will be achieved by 2030, by expanding access to health and nutrition services, providing social assistance and education, and ensuring that agriculture and food value chains are productive, sustainable, support healthy diets and provide job opportunities for the poor and vulnerable. A major driver of advancing agricultural production and food systems in Cambodia lies in innovation, and investments for digitization and modern technologies across the food systems.

The four main themes were:

- **Healthy diets for all:** Cambodia will work across key sectors to ensure that healthy diets and safe foods are accessible to all, especially for women and children, to address all forms of malnutrition. Achieving this objective requires multi-sectoral actions including the provision of food security, expansion of access to health and nutrition services, consumer awareness and education, diverse, inclusive and competitive food value chains; healthy food environments, and food safety; clean water, sanitation and good hygiene through awareness raising and enhancement of quality systems; and the provision of social assistance.
- **Youth and Women's empowerment in Cambodia's food systems:** Cambodia will work towards the elimination of child labor, promotion of gender equality, decent employment, enterprise development and the creation of job opportunities for youth and women in the food system. Cambodia will continue to engage youth, promote their understanding of food systems and the importance of healthy diets, equipping them to become agents of change.
- **Resilient livelihoods and resilient food systems:** Cambodia will address chronic and compounding vulnerabilities to strengthen the resilience of individuals, households, and communities, and for producers, SMEs, industry and food system infrastructure to human and climate related shocks and stresses. In addition, it will improve the potential of food systems to adapt to and mitigate climate change, natural disasters or extreme events.
- **Governance for a more inclusive food system:** Based on the successful facilitation of the national food systems dialogues, Cambodia will continue to open the door for multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral dialogue, coordination, and collaboration to make planning and implementation processes more inclusive and participatory. These processes will be promoted at both national and sub-national level, and include collaboration between academia, the private sector, civil society, development partners and government.

To succeed, we must work together, across sectors and stakeholders at national and sub-national level, to create multiplier effects for poverty reduction, ending malnutrition and hunger, and protecting our environment. Most importantly, we will engage and include voices of the youth, consumers and producers, women, ethnic minorities, and the most vulnerable to shape the food system of tomorrow, for a healthier population, planet, and equitable economy and prosperity.

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

The main findings or outcomes of this event were in the form of endorsement of the draft Roadmap by the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. He made recommendations for all stakeholders to adhere to the approach and advised that the directions and commitments for the MAFF will soon be released in the Agricultural Sector Master Plan 2030. He asked that stakeholders speed up implementation of the changes required in the next 2 to 3 years and that more research should be directed into identifying priority measures for sustainability, and for medium and longer term measures to strengthen the resilience of food systems and to promote innovation, both during and post-COVID-19. The Minister for the MAFF suggested a comprehensive review to identify options and solutions to problems, by thinking strategically about food security and nutrition and economic growth, to support the nation as it progresses to upper middle income status so as to fruitfully implement the Roadmap. The Roadmap is intended to be consistent with existing legal instruments such as the 2nd National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition 2019-2023 and designed to achieve food and nutrition security for a growing population as well as a foundation for economic growth.

The Secretary of State representing the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Supreme National Economic Council highly commended the Roadmap and also made a number of suggestions. He felt that the focus on food systems and agriculture reflected the key role of agricultural production and the priorities of the Royal Government of Cambodia. He suggested that the vision should reflect both domestic and export interests for rice and other products and emphasise not only the national importance of the food system but to highlight the growing importance of regional and international trade. He suggested that food systems are not just for vulnerable households and that more emphasis should be given to consumers broadly and to the generation of income. He also stressed the importance of diversification of food systems in the Roadmap and the need to incorporate consideration of investments in the development of infrastructure for improved food systems. Finally he pointed to the need to take into account environment so that increased production did not come at the expense of greater chemical use with accompanying dangers to the environment and to human health. He urged that the roadmap must pay more attention to environmental protection. His comments were backed by another representative of SNEC who asked that the narrow emphasis on nutrition and food quality should not dominate the importance of a sufficiency of food and the creation of emergency reserves of food. He also suggested more attention to the potential for digitalisation for supply chain management and investment purposes within food systems.

The Secretary of State representing the Ministry of Innovation, Science, Technology and Industry also expressed full support for the draft. He asked that the sources for the data concerning levels of malnutrition be reviewed, asked that the terms social transformation and social change not be used since these have undesirable connotations for Khmer people. He also requested that the call to eliminate child labour should be removed since this implies that there is child labour,

The Youth representative asked that youth be recognised for the commitment to mobilise awareness about food security and nutrition.

The National Committee for Sub-national Democratic Development recommended that there must be more consensus nationally to avoid confusion at the sub-national level, to ensure that national policies aligned with D&D frameworks and to ensure that there is capacity for sub-national level to implement the policies. There should be a clearer division of labour between the national and sub-national level.

The Ministry of Planning commented that Cambodia was lagging behind other countries in fortification despite the potential benefits. He called on agencies concerned and the MEF and MAFF to support further fortification efforts. The Ministry of Women's Affairs asked that Priority 2 be reworded to add women and vulnerable groups into the title and associated activities.

Other speakers asked that there be good follow-up to the Summit to ensure the necessary laws and regulations and guidelines are in place for food systems improvement so as to ensure fruitful implementation. More attention is needed to consider the pre-conditions to achieve the goal and to educate all parents, youth and consumers about the importance of healthy diets and safe food. In addition, an NGO representative asked that a policy incentive be considered to operationalise the objectives relating to more resilient livelihoods and resilient food systems by offering the private sector incentives to deliver on the green growth and to promote opportunities for women in agri-food value chains because they tend to be hit hardest by climate change.

The UNICEF Representative endorsed the Roadmap, including the four priorities and made the commitment of UNICEF for ongoing actions and especially asked that attention be given to sustainable financing for nutrition and for support to the National Roadmap for the Global Plan of Action for the prevention and treatment of wasting.

Responsibilities for incorporating the changes were allocated and the participants were asked to further consider the requirement for M&E for implementation of the roadmap.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There was some evidence of differences in the weighting that should be given to different perspectives, including in the emphasis given to nutrition and food quality as opposed to production quantities; the emphasis on the vulnerable as opposed to economic growth, enterprise; and trade; on the need to consider physical infrastructure to support food system improvements; and on existence or otherwise of child labour.

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KEYWORDS

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