

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Thursday, 25 February 2021 10:00 GMT +06:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	First Sub-National Dialogue in Satkhira
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Khaja Abdul Hannan
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/25539/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/25539/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Bangladesh

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

56

## 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?

The Dialogue was organized to solicit inputs and insights for the Food Systems Summit through gaining an understanding about the district itself and how its several aspects are affecting the pathways to food system transformation, along with challenges that are contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Dialogue brought a diversity of stakeholders from the Government Departments, Semi-autonomous and Autonomous Organisations, Private Sector Organisations, Business networks, Civil Society Organisations, and Grass Root level Representatives– working across the food system from production to consumption. The Convenor and the team went through detail preparation for convening the dialogues to reflect that the outcomes were incorporated and enhanced during the Sub-National Dialogue.

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

The dialogue reflected most aspects of the Principles, which particularly includes Act with Urgency, Commit to the Summit, Be Respectful, Recognize Complexity and innovation to solution, Embrace Multi-stakeholder Inclusivity. Bangladesh was the first country to host the Sub-National Dialogue on Action Track 1 demonstrates the urgency and the commitment of the state. In terms of Being Respectful, the four working groups facilitated during the Sub-National Dialogue focused on nutritious and safe food, with a broad lens ranging from production to consumption (seed to stomach) as well as vulnerabilities and inclusion. As a result, the linkages with other tracks were also discussed and covered during the working group facilitation. The respected guests of the Sub-national Dialogue addressed mass awareness and accountability of all level to be key area for improvement in terms of ensuring safe and nutritious food. In Recognising Complexity and Embracing Multi-stakeholder Inclusivity, Government Departments, Semi-autonomous and Autonomous Organisations, Private Sector Organisations, Business networks, Civil Society Organisations, and Grass Root level Representatives highlighted the significance of working coordination as well as make people aware of what they consume and how the food can be safe. In addition, imperfect Supply chain, gradually decreasing agricultural land and at mass level, habit of fast-food intake, climate change effects were some other areas highlighted as few of the challenges in the way of ensuring safe food consumption. Participants emphasized the importance of mass level awareness range from duty bearers to consumers as the prime measure to reduce food unsafety. Alongside, being accountable and responsible from own side as a citizen would be highly appreciated and should be in practice, promoting climate resilient agriculture, developing more inter-departmental coordination, controlled use of fertilizer, pesticides, poultry feed etc should be active to ensure safe food and value chain cycle.

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

Firstly, the National Convenor of Bangladesh focusing on Action Track 1, recognises that it is crucial to organize dialogues with participation from multisector and multi-stakeholder agencies, considering the complexity of food system. In addition, it is critical to develop a small working group with multiple stakeholders, including private sector, duty bearers, government departments, grass root level representatives and youth to show the interconnections between the different action tracks. It will create the options to facilitate dialogues on different issues around food system, beyond merely focusing on one action track. The principles of engagement for learning is highlighted in the previous question.

# 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 major focus of the dialogue is to identify the major challenges and solution to those considering the geographical, economic and social perspective of Satkhira with a broader objective to complement the target- improve food and nutrition security through food system approach. In the discussion of the dialogue, Action Track-1 i.e. 'Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all' was considered with a prime importance. However, connections with the other Action Tracks were also considered for the improvement of food and nutrition security situation in Bangladesh. In the group discussion session of the dialogue, the following four thematic areas (discussion topics) were considered: i) Availability of diversified, safe and nutritious Food; ii) Transformation, delivery, access and role of private sector; iii) Consumer behaviours, nutrition and food safety; iv) Climate vulnerability, inclusion and governance.

For ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all, it is important to include all vulnerable population in the social protection programme. Government of Bangladesh has given emphasis to support people affected by the flood, drought, natural disaster, other adverse climatic events. In addition, it is also important to support people residing in the marginalized and geographically hard-to-reach areas, and families which are economically and socially vulnerable to food and nutrition security. Besides, special training programs for private sector, mass awareness and knowledge building on safe food and food supply chain and agricultural sector rehabilitation and mitigation measures could benefit these vulnerable and excluded people.

### 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

Despite having act and law enforcement, percentage of people's practice of consuming safe food is not satisfactory. Lack of knowledge, clear concept about safe food and ignorance are the reason behind this. At the same time, mass people are not accountable and responsible to ensure safe food. Though Safe Food Authority has been working on creating awareness among people and make them develop practice of safe food intake, due to lack of adequate human resource, it becomes challenging to cover entire population. Food intake, transportation, and process- in all these areas, people are quite unaware and negligent. From food production to consumption-, the process is huge. the food chain from production to consumption is not perfect.in this entire process foods get contaminated in 3 ways- physical (low), biological (man-made) and chemical (Man-Made). Too much consumption of fast food is leading to idleness among people. This is the area that can be noticed and given priority by Food Safety Authority for a solution. Agricultural lands are being occupied for infrastructural development and lands for crop cultivation are decreasing every day. This leads of lack of organic crop and creates dependency on processed food which is not a healthy food option. chances of stunting as well as ill health and brain development remain significant in our country.

Everyone should be aware and acquire relevant knowledge and turn this to a practice from their position. Mass awareness will be created through organizing meeting. Seminar, symposium across the country under the leadership of Food Safety Authority Chairman. Capacity building and awareness training to the food sector's business community as well as hotel business cooperatives can be provided. Lack of nutrition has a long terms and permanent effect on public health. Though the country is food-secured, still it is high time to shift the focus on the nutritional aspect f the food that has been consumed regularly.

Unplanned use of pesticides and uncertainty in using good quality seeds. Poultry sellers insist famers to buy and apply antibiotics. This causes harms to the poultry because, unless and until a specific amount of time passes, poultry with these antibiotics applied, cannot be used as meat, but this time gap in most of the cases are not being followed and this creates risk for human health. Use of poultry bone and meat in fish food is hazardous for human health as well. But use of these has not been stopped yet. Left out leathers from tannery are often being used in fish feed.

Good agriculture practices, Good aquaculture practices, Good livestock practices, Good industrial practices will help to ensure nutritious safe and quality food products. Among these, draft on good aquaculture practices has been developed and undergoing the review process before finalization. Use of antibiotics outside existing rule must be restricted. Poultry and fish feed producers are requested to review these structures once again to ensure the restriction. To avoid diseases like mad cow and all, use of meat and bone must be stopped. An advocacy is going on from BFSA's side with BSCIC and ministry of Industries to stop the use of leather in poultry feed immediately. People in official responsibility and duty, their vigilance should be increased. Issue-based TVCs are broadcasting in a regular basis and are visible on billboard. Mobile Laboratory van for poultry and fish quality testing is active in Dhaka level. Soon in all divisional cities more vans will be launched to ensure these tests at grassroot level. Farmers should be aware before using the pesticides and chemical fertilizer. Each fertilizer has different validity time. If farmers do not follow this that then residue can be left with the crops after harvesting. This is another hazardous deed that risks human health. Upon the instruction of Honorable Prime Minister, age focused nutritious and balanced diet chart is under process. Once this is done. This too will be disseminated through proper campaign. Hotels will be labeled based on the quality and category. Initiatives have already been taken to motivate and train hotel employees to ensure quality service for achieving food safety.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

•Availability of diversified, safe and nutritious Food: Outcomes:

Challenges:

Water logging, Salinity, Crop land decreasing, Indiscriminate use of pesticides, Natural disasters, Poor marketing facilities/ supply chain system, Lack of capital for farm operation, Insufficient quality seed supply, Poor irrigation facility, Less/ no veterinarian/ skilled human resource, Lack of feed and fodder as Satkhira is a disaster-prone area, Inadequate lab facility, Lack of sufficient training,

Lack of waste management system, Lack of awareness among people.

Way Forward:

Re-excavation of canal river and water bodies in a planned way; Saline tolerant variety cultivation; Land zoning (proper implementation of land use), Possible best use of pesticide (environment friendly pest management; Embankment management; Organized supply chain; Shortening the supply chain timing will be helpful here; Low interest and hassle-free credit facilities, Demand forecasting and timely supply of seeds; Appointment of sufficient veterinary officials in field level, Laboratory setup at regional level; Waste recycling and management; Sufficient water supply, Good quality seed and feed; Establishment of disease control lab; Short supply chain.

• Transformation, delivery, access and role of private sector:

Challenges:

Excessive degree of milling in rice mills; Mixing unsafe ingredients in shrimp; Collecting shrimp spawn is expensive (distance and location); Challenges in mango preservation and processing; Challenges in vegetable preservation.

Way forward:

Prevention of rice over milling and increase awareness on this; Awareness increase, monitoring and law enforcement to solve shrimp problems/ challenges in export-import cycle and how the farmers and middle man deal with the entire process of product marketing; Necessary measure for mango preservation; Necessary measure such as cold storage and drying etc. need to be taken to preserve vegetables; Establishment of direct communication and networking foreign investors.

• Consumer behaviors, nutrition and food safety:

Challenges:

Lack of awareness in taking nutritious food; Lack of affordability in taking nutritious food due to poverty; Challenge in ensuring safe food in production and marketing level; Lack of positivity and awareness regarding safe food; Gap in proper implementation of safe food act; Health problems caused from unhealthy and junk food consumption.

Way forward:

Aware people for nutritious food consumption; To take initiative to increase people's purchasing capability; Initiate campaign to enlighten people at farmers, seller and consumer's level; Mass campaign, meeting, symposium and courtyard session regarding food safety; Ensure active role of local administration, legal aid organizations and relevant committees for proper implementation of safe food act; Disseminate correct message regarding excessive nutrition and lack of nutrition.

• Climate vulnerability, inclusion and governance:

Increased health hazards, especially for women; Destruction of natural resources due to non-diversified livelihood; Destruction of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity.

-Destruction of cultivation land due to dry season, repeated natural disaster, salinity, water level rise etc; Extinction of sweet water fish species; Excessive use of saline water accelerate aging process; Degradation of soil quality; Degraded law and order situation; Tidal surge creates permanent water logging; Cyclone destroys critical infrastructure and livelihoods; Jeopardize the bio diversity of sundarban; It will lead to the rise of sea level which will ultimately result in sub-merging most of this area under the water; Poor condition of the forest reservation; During and after Cyclones Sidr and Aila, a lot of people have become homeless; A big portion of this homeless people have migrated to other places outside this area for livelihood purpose; Due to migration, hazards like occupational hazards, health hazards, absence of good governance.

Way Forward:

Building dams and sluice gates; Applying alternative cultivation system; Strengthening evacuation process; Steps to be taken to get the proper share of Ganga's water.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

All the identified areas were highly interlinked and have fallen in a clear structure of the emerging challenges and possible way forward to those challenges. Rather the team has identified few areas in organizing the dialogue that should be addressed more carefully in future dialogues and should not be repeated. Considering this dialogue is the 1st among the 6 regional dialogues of UN Food Systems Summit, it is really appreciating the way stakeholders participated and were involved to find out solutions to the existing challenges of Satkhira in terms of establishing safe and nutritious food system. This report records important recommendation from the dialogue and along with that focuses on few areas that needs attention and needs to be avoided in coming dialogues:

- Guest participation was not up to the expectation. This needs to be fixed in next 5 dialogues. If support from GAIN is required, GIAN would be happy to being a part of guest follow up and confirmation. Relevant and specific stakeholders are highly required for these dialogues, particularly representative from local business communities..
- Challenges and recommendation need to be more specific. Satkhira dialogue has a series of challenges identified and way forward to solve those, but most of those are generic. Considering the GAME CHANGING IDEA, these dialogues need to be more issue focused with a clear break down of both the challenge and solution.

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