

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 21 January 2021
DIALOGUE TITLE	First National Dialogue for the preparation of UN Food Systems Summit 2021
CONVENED BY	Mr. Khaja Abdul Hannan, Convener
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2568/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	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.

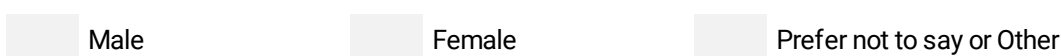
1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

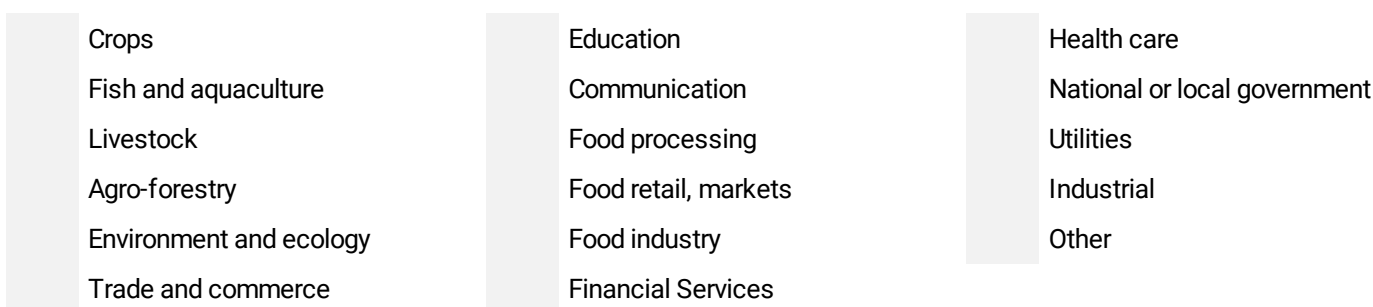
PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE



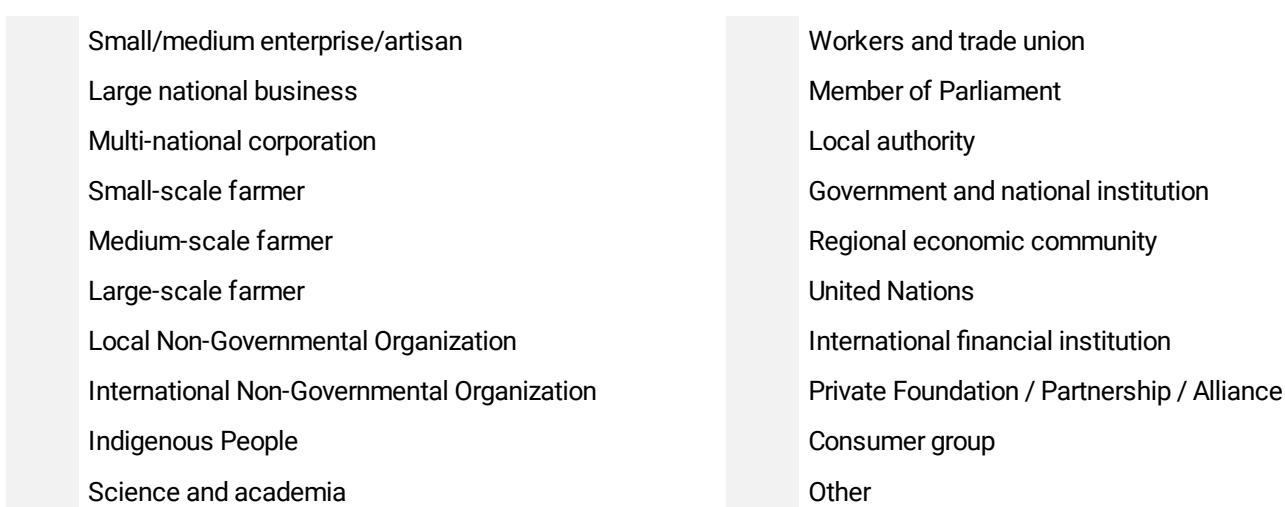
PARTICIPATION BY GENDER



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP



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 and to gain an understanding of ideas on pathways to food system transformation, along with challenges contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Dialogue brought a diversity of stakeholders from the Government, Private Sector, UN Agencies, Developments Partners (Donors, INGOs and NGOs), Civil Society and Academia – working across the food system from production to consumption. The Convenor and the team went through the training for convening the dialogues to reflect that the reflects were incorporated and enhanced during the 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, Embrace Multi-stakeholder Inclusivity. Bangladesh was the third country to host the National Dialogue on Action Track 1, followed by the USA and Cambodia which demonstrates the urgency and the commitment of the state. In terms of Being Respectful, the six working groups facilitated during the 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 during the working group facilitation. The Chair of the Action Track 5 emphasized on resilience and climate change at the National Dialogue. In Recognising Complexity and Embracing Multi-stakeholder Inclusivity, the policy makers, public sector, private sector, UN Agencies, INGOs, NGOs, Civil Society Organisations and Academic highlighted the significance of working in coordination. In addition, the importance of incorporating the voices of the youth and need to bring system changes to mitigate the challenges linked with food system and its complexities formed an important part of the discussions and deliberations. In one of the working groups, emphasis was placed on generating further evidence related to food safety. As the first national workshop was to familiarize with the UNFSS and Action Tracks, the Complementarity of the Work of Others among stakeholders will be addressed through the subnational dialogues to strengthen coordination and collaboration among different stakeholders to work collectively. As part of the process, after the subnational and individual dialogues, the second

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 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 feedback of second question.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

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

Yes

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The major focus of the dialogue is to 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 initially. 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 six thematic areas (discussion topics) were considered: i) Availability of diversified, safe and nutritious Food; ii) Transformation, delivery, access and role of private sector; iii) Vulnerability and inclusion (youth, gender, hard to reach areas, disability, social safety net); iv) Consumer behaviour; v) Nutrition and food safety (rules, regulations, compliance); vi) Governance and coordination. 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. Communities afflicted by food insecurity for a long period of time are very prone to suffer from depletion of their productive assets and health, disruption of education of children and youth, and diminished future productive capacity and income. A well-targeted nutrition sensitive social safety net program is needed to prevent food and nutrition insecurity along with re-building their productive assets. A well-designed target program can benefit the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups especially children, adolescents, lactating mothers, aged, disabled, minorities, those living in remote marginalized areas, urban slums, and displaced migrants. Besides, special training programs 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

Bangladesh has achieved the status of self-sufficiency in terms of food production. It is the high time that Bangladesh should go for food quality rather than quantity and move towards healthier nutritious food production and consumption. For this reason, it is important to focus on food system approach to ensure food and nutrition security and to achieve all 17 SDGs. Like most of the countries in the world, existing food system of Bangladesh is based on quantity, so it is essential to convert the quantity based food system to quality based food system. Food supply chain including production to consumption and all steps need to be considered and other components of food systems like food environment (including food availability, food accessibility, food quality), consumer behaviour and diet should be prioritized for better food system. The role of multisectoral and multi-stakeholders in national development is significant to ensure nutrition sensitive food system. Having effective coordination with private sectors including all players of food supply chain and involving civil society, scientists and academia are likely to bring more innovations to the existing system and add value to the important task of achieving food and nutrition security. Thus, creating an enabling platform for multi-stakeholder engagement is required to strengthen national food system and ensure safe and nutrition food.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

• Availability of diversified, safe and nutritious Food: Outcomes - Diversified, safe and nutritious food needs to be made available for vulnerable people through the proper nutrition sensitive food system. It is essential for nutrition and food safety to be incorporated in the interventions related to agricultural production including fisheries and livestock. - It is essential to establish adequate number of cold storage/warehouses for proper storage of perishable food items. It is also important to ensure diversified use of agricultural commodities which can be enabled by establishing location specific agro-processing industries. e.g., mango juice plant in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj and pineapple processing plant in Modhupur and Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). - It is vital to improve the transportation and logistical systems for agricultural product to minimise spoilage during transportation. - Expansion of the production of captured fish need to be ensured to get nutritious fish as the culture fish production is increasing rapidly which does not contain adequate micronutrient while captured fish are tastier and more natural. - Establishment of sanctuary for captured fish particularly in haor, baor areas is essential. During dry season some portion of haor, baor can be dug out for preserving and protecting mother fishes, which could increase production of captured fish. - Excess vegetables produced in haor (wetlands) and char (islands) areas can be processed and dried by using solar dryer which can be made available for the consumption of haor and char dwellers. Location specific awareness creation activities must be undertaken in these areas on consumption of dried vegetables. • Transformation, delivery, access and role of private sector - It is important to establish an enable environment so that the farmers can sell their product directly to the market. Steps should be taken to allow farmers to get fair price for their produces in the market. - Awareness building campaign for consumer should be undertaken to choose nutritious and safe food options. - In order to check food adulteration, monitoring process should be more vigilant and capacity of agencies charged with monitoring and vigilance needs to be strengthened further. - Modern food storage and processing institutions should be established, for which co-operation and a responsible attitude in enhancing food systems from private sector actors and business associations are central. • Vulnerability and inclusion (youth, gender, hard to reach areas, disability, social safety net) - Urgent action is required for vocational training and support programs for small-scale farmers to produce high-value nutritious crops, fruits, and vegetables with a special focus on the haor, baor, hills, and hard-to-reach areas. For these actions, the Ministry of Agriculture should take necessary actions and the progress could be measured by the production volume of high-value crops in those specific areas. The possible challenges include farmers' adoption of high-value crops and marketing facilities. - A well-targeted, nutrition-sensitive, and equitable social safety net program especially for the vulnerable groups including the women and adolescents need to be run. Reducing the mistargeting of social safety net programs and increasing the food-based support program were the proposed suggestions in the participants' discussion. An evaluation of the existing social safety nets programmes needs to be conducted. Government of Bangladesh has formulated the National Social Security

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

From the dialogue, it was identified that the post-harvest loss in horticultural product is one of the major challenges in the food system of Bangladesh. Agro-processing have a lot of potential in the country. However, small and medium industries cannot compete with large players with a lot of marketing budget. Besides, market instability and lack of efficient market management also pose challenges for food supply chain. Moreover, inclusion and investment of the private sector is also another key challenge to address in coming years. This has also been highlighted in the Food and Nutrition Security Policy 2020. The vulnerabilities related to adverse climatic shocks and economic shocks were discussed in the group discussion. In addition to the supporting program, vocational training focusing on high-value crop production should be organized for the farmers in disadvantaged areas. Social safety net programs targeting children, adolescents, and lactating mothers should be strengthened both in the rural, peri-urban, and urban areas. Some areas of divergence discussed in the dialogue includes the following: low reduction rate of stunting, lack of awareness on proper nutrition and inadequacy of funding in nutrition specific interventions. It is also important to strengthen implementation of the acts specially Food Safety Act/BMS Act, and give emphasis on the research on pure nutrition. It is also important to provide more incentives for the food producers/suppliers. The linkages with the nutrition outcomes with the food system have to be developed as a plan on action in all the relevant Ministries, since food system is inherently complex and more than 22 Ministries implement nutrition sensitive interventions.

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