

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 14 June 2021 04:30 GMT +05:30
DIALOGUE TITLE	Voices of Small Farmers on Agroecology, Organic Agriculture, and Food Sovereignty In North America... Inclusion and Capacity Building
CONVENED BY	Ms Shamika Mone
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/25890/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

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

8

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

8 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
8 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
0 Consumer group
Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

These are truly important days that we are living in. Days of the corona virus pandemic and crisis and the continuing surviving aftermaths, days of the Black Lives Matter Social Movement and their combined critical impacts on how we see each other, and engage with each other. These times have seemed to shape our hope for a better today, and better future- to build back better. In all this, our hope has not been taken away. As the nation experienced system breakdowns, farmers were deemed essential service providers. Small farmers were able to provide their provide their good nutritious produce to the communities. Small farmers and their produce provided an essential service to their local communities and to the nations. The 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit Dialogues should bring together a diversity of viewpoints and healthy nutritious food system pathways, inclusive of a diversity of local grassroots vulnerable stakeholder groups - small farmers, women, youth, indigenous peoples, and migrants. Using a participatory capacity building approach, INOFO North America worked together to provide dialogues that laid pathways for systems change through engagements, building relationships, and inclusion of local stakeholders and local change agents - the voices and participations of underserved small farm populations, agroecology and organic Black Indigenous farmers and farmers of color-communities (referred to in North America as BIPOC or socially disadvantaged farmers) and their farmer organizations. The Principles of Engagement were integrated into the INOFO North America participatory approach.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The INOFO North America Dialogue was created as a participatory learning capacity building session. Small farmer participants represented socially disadvantaged farmers, Black Indigenous farmers and farmers of color (BIPOC) and their farmer organizations who farm using agroecology farming practices and organic agriculture systems that support wellbeing of soils and environments, and promote nutritious food systems and healthy communities. Using a participatory capacity building approach, BIPOC small farmer- speakers gave their insights in pathways for supporting food systems change that is inclusive of BIPOC small farms, small farmers and their communities. The Principles of Engagement were integrated into the INOFO North America participatory approach. Our methods supported continuous engagements, enabling relationships and inclusion of local stakeholders and local change agents voices - the voices of underserved small farm populations, agroecology and organic Black Indigenous farmers and farmers of color and their farmer organizations. The outcomes of the INOFO North America Independent Dialogue will inform the Summit process and help to guide individual and collective action towards a future of healthy nutritious food that is responsibly grown by small farmers and their organizations to promote agroecology farm practices and organic agriculture, and their benefits – supporting food that is safe, nutritious, accessible, sustainable, equitable and resilient for all.

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

Yes, the Principles of Engagement encouraged a participatory process and space for dialogues, listening and learning and co-leading the session's discussions. It encouraged participatory capacity building, inclusiveness in the synthesis of essential food provider-stakeholder recommendations and deliberate actions - from small farmers, Black Indigenous farms and farmers of color and their communities - that promoted their voices, benefits, impacts, solutions to bring about positive wholistic pathways that support transformation to nutritious food systems that are accessible to all.

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

There are many many reasons and cause for concern about the UN Food system summit, many have chosen not to take up any formal role in the Summit, meaning champions, action track leaders, or members of any formal body, in the formal architecture. Our INOFO North America Dialogue-United Nations Food Systems Summit Dialogues received enormous pressure from organizations not to participate in the our session. Small farmer groups participated representing BIPOC farmers and their farmer organizations.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

During the COVID-19 pandemic and crisis, when the United States experienced the shock of system breakdowns, people sought out healthy produce, pesticide free, and fresh local produce for their families. We also experienced the role of small farmers in our communities – as essential service providers. Using alternative marketing strategies and armed with the COVID-19 protocols farmers provided their local fresh nutritious food to the communities. Agroecology-regenerative, and small organic Black Indigenous farmers and farmers of color were successful in continuing to provide their local grown fresh produce and value added products to communities and urban areas, effectively serving in their role as essential service providers to the nation.

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

We appreciate the main findings that emerged from the UNFSS Dialogue that follow:

BIPOC small farmers/underserved small farmers and their communities recognize the need to build infrastructure and capacity for safe nutritious food systems: increase access to land and capital, connect younger farmers to the land, address heir property issues making sure that land is deeded to someone, build strong partnerships with 1890 Land grant Institutions and community NGO organizations.

BIPOC small farmers/underserved small farmers and their communities and their farmer organizations realize that it is important to build local farmer markets, provide alternative food access to our communities, and develop and maintain diverse alternative distribution strategies to avoid system breakdown and outbreaks.

It is critical to address our community's food deserts and work to increase access to affordable fresh local nutritious food for our communities; and address our community health issues and lack of access to healthy fresh nutritious foods.

BIPOC small farmers/underserved small farmers and their communities realize that it is important to increase production, small farm sustainability, access to fresh local nutritious foods, and a build resilient nutritious food systems.

Livelihood trainings on alternative marketing strategies including cooperatives, community supported agriculture (CSAs) strategies; high tunnels and innovative systems, agroecology- regenerative agriculture; and sustainable organic farming skills/farmer knowledges; entrepreneur training, are important to empower BIPOC small farmers and their communities and support resilient agroecology-organic livelihoods and wellbeing.

BIPOC small farmers/underserved small farmers and their communities and farmer organizations recognize that seed saving and the work of seed keepers provides a critical food systems pathway that promotes a value added product (the seed) while promoting relationships with farmers and future generations of farming and supporting food security and sustainable resilient food systems.

Seed saving livelihoods strengthens and enables the sustainability of small farm populations/BIPOC farmers and farmers of color and limited resource farmers and their communities - and empowers the whole nutritious food system. Good nutritious food should be for everyone, not just the great and famous.

Liberty is key: It is important to experience our liberty and freedom in a manner to operate a regenerative agroecology-organic small farms and demonstrate the benefits to our communities and nation.

Deliberate actions towards these challenges and hindrances would enable resilient small farms and BIPOC small farm livelihoods, increase food security to all communities, ensure and strengthen local healthy food systems, grow wellbeing among BIPOC communities. . . Extending the benefits of agroecology and organic agriculture, resilient organic-regenerative agriculture and these nutritious food systems to all environments and all communities - for all human beings.

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

What is the greatest barriers, hindrances and issues to Black Indigenous farmers and farmers of color success?

Despite historical barriers and inequities, Black indigenous farmers and farmers of color and their communities have not lost hope.

BIPOC small farmers have the ability to increase and be successful in our environments, communities, on our small farms enterprises, and to work together to grow diverse nutritious food systems.

Black Indigenous small farmers and farmers of color (BIPOC) and their farmer organizations recognize that it is important to listen, learn, and share information with each other and other communities.

Black Indigenous farmers and farmers of color - small farms and their food systems would benefit from additional:

- Resources and infrastructure; equipment access and availability; capital; entrepreneurship opportunities that add value to their products;
- Mentors and sustainable models that demonstrate small farm-good stewardship; land ownership models and seed saving models;
- Business credit and knowledge about Business credit; Understanding alternative cooperative models, development and management for small farms;
- Innovative agroecology farming practices, regenerative-organic agriculture small farm models;
- Continual learning and mentorships/and youth mentorships and trainings in agroecology, organic regenerative farming, and organic farming;
- Access to skill and knowledge on relationships and wellbeing to land, water, and the earth; and
- Knowledge on regenerative mind, land and food ways that grow sustainable conscientious life, agroecology and organic agriculture, and that support viable healthy nutritious food systems and quality of life.

Holistic deliberate inclusive capacity building actions would enable wellbeing, positive change, and healthy local nutritious food systems in BIPOC communities and all communities.

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

What do you envision that the United Nations could do to help BIPOC farmers and their communities and underserved small farmers and their communities?

As small farmers we have the same challenges, we have a need for the same successful models - we want to work together.

Black Indigenous small farmers and farmers of color and their farmer organizations hope that the United Nations would help with the following innovations:

- Removing barriers to access appropriately scaled small farm equipment for small acreage, for example small farm combines. The United Nations could help in trading these small farm equipment, tools and items instead of guns;
- Promoting active virtual learning opportunities between small farmers around the world.
- There is a need to share insights and learn about indigenous treaty rights to ensure that indigenous people have land for their children;
- Taking eminent domain off the table in our communities and nations;
- Promoting active learning between small farmers on research and quantifying agroecology and organic farming systems farming strategies and their benefits to farm, farm family, farmworkers, surrounding environments, supporting food securities and healthy nutritious food systems;
- Promoting active learning between BIPOC small farmers and all small farmers (global) on successful cooperative models from small farms around the world. We could work together.
- Developing incentives for markets and grocery stores to help small farmers through developing alternative strategies that support BIPOC small farmers by purchasing directly from BIPOC small farmers or BIPOC small farm organizations;
- Increasing investments in BIPOC small farmer's production, Increase incentive programs that promote building relationships with local Black Indigenous farmers and farmers of color, and local Black Indigenous people and people of color that ensures inclusive access to safe and nutritious food for all.

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

What is your final word on the INOFO North America Dialogue event and the impact that you hope it will have with the United Nations, and the UN Food Systems Summit.

- We want our words to be impactful. We work hard and we hope our words will be taken at value and seriously.
- Black Indigenous small farmers and farmers of color are endangered. We need your support. Our young farmers need even greater support.
- Black Indigenous small farmers and farmers of color need to know how to develop strategies to be recognized and to speak across borders and issues - to empower the ability of BIPOC small farmers/socially disadvantage farmers to exist beyond this generation.
- Our participation in this (UNFSS) effort will help amplify the voice of our cause. Small farms, Black Indigenous small farmers and farmers of color are important for local diverse food production, enabling local nutritious food security and the capacity for local nutritious food systems that reach everyone.
- Increasing agroecology, organic-regenerative, and organic BIPOC small farms increases food security no matter the catastrophe, we cannot control catastrophes. But we can work to ensure healthy ongoing resilient agriculture, robust sustainable farming communities, with increased food security, increased ability to feed our children and communities
- Enabling the benefits of resilient healthy food production, healthy environments and healthy communities for all human beings.

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

Summary of the INOFO North America Dialogue – 2021 United Nations Food System Summit Dialogues

Access to food, healthy nutritious food, is a human right. Agroecology and organic BIPOC small farmers are important for local healthy food production, nutritious food security and growing the next generation of resilient small farmers and their communities; and to extending the benefits of agroecology farming practices and organic farming systems to all environments, all communities, and inclusive of all human beings.

The INOFO North America Dialogue added the voices of small farmers, agroecology and organic Black Indigenous farmers and farmers of color and farmer organizations from North America to the 2021 UN Food System Summit Dialogues and Summit Process, and enabled a platform of as we shared our history, our great resiliencies, deliberate actions, and hopes. Hope for a better today, hope for a better inclusive tomorrow, to build back better - together.

The outcomes of the INOFO North America Independent Dialogue will inform the Summit process and help to guide individual and collective action towards a future of healthy nutritious food that is responsibly grown by small farmers and their organizations to promote agroecology farm practices and organic agriculture, and their benefits – supporting food that is safe, nutritious, accessible, sustainable, equitable and resilient for all.

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

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 type="checkbox"/> Governance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade-offs |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate |