

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Wednesday, 16 June 2021 10:00 GMT +01:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Nigeria Women in Food, Agriculture and Nutrition Dialogue
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Mrs. Olusola Idowu, Permanent Secretary, Budget & National Planning/ Chair, National Committee on Food and Nutrition
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/26031/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/26031/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Nigeria

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

116

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

28

19-30

58

31-50

30

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

80 Male

33 Female

3 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

14 Agriculture/crops

10 Fish and aquaculture

12 Livestock

6 Agro-forestry

10 Environment and ecology

16 Trade and commerce

8 Education

6 Communication

14 Food processing

2 Food retail, markets

4 Food industry

6 Financial Services

2 Health care

Nutrition

5 National or local government

Utilities

1 Industrial

Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

28 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

2 Large national business

3 Multi-national corporation

19 Small-scale farmer

11 Medium-scale farmer

6 Large-scale farmer

13 Local Non-Governmental Organization

18 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

3 Science and academia

1 Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

7 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

4 United Nations

International financial institution

1 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The participants cut across the various facets of the food system, and the selection embraced multi-stakeholder inclusivity. Participants were mobilized to bring in diverse perspectives, including indigenous knowledge, cultural insights, and science-based evidence. None of the action tracks was given more importance than the other.

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

Build Trust/Be respectful: The participants were mobilised through the leaders they are used to; and in about 3 instances, the women participated in their groups and had questions and contributions translated into the languages they understand easily. The women are also able to make contributions the same way.

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

Holding the dialogue either physically or virtually, but not as a hybrid, makes the process seamless and easy to manage. Hybrid dialogues should be resorted to only if it is impossible to bring all participants together in one place either because of fund constraints or when a critical participant has conflicting assignments.

# 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 Exploratory dialogue by Women Groups in Food and Agriculture challenges in Nigeria is to identify challenges and opportunities for the participation of Women in the Food System and deliberate on what a food system that includes and empowers women would look like. The focus also includes the identification of what needs to be done for women's roles and contributions to be recognized and valued, for women to be able to exercise control over resources and assets for effective participation in the food systems and have a voice in key processes, and for institutions to be supportive of women. Because of the importance of women in the food systems, there was a felt need to galvanize inputs of women into Nigeria's submission to the Global Food System Summit.

Women are actively involved in food systems in a range of roles from production and processing to retailing and consumption. Women grow and manage crops, tend livestock, work in agribusinesses and food retailing, prepare food for their families, and much more. However, their socio-economic contributions and entrepreneurial potential often remain unrecognized and untapped. Prevailing socio-cultural norms commonly limit women's ability to exercise power and autonomous decision-making; women therefore often continue to be disadvantaged in access to productive resources, innovative technologies, market information, financial services, education, and training.

Other vulnerabilities such as ethnicity, age, and poverty further impact how women engage in food systems, e.g., married women may face additional challenges of caring for young children or other family members, or lack the resources required to do business in the food system.

Addressing these inequalities in food systems means that women and men participate equally in and benefit equally from agricultural markets and rural economies to better sustain and improve their livelihoods, while preserving the natural resource base and adapting to climate change. Other vulnerabilities including ethnicity, age, and poverty further impact how women engage in food systems. For instance, young women seeking to become entrepreneurs can face multiple constraints based on gender, age, and the nature of work in the informal sector. If they are married, they may face additional challenges of caring for young children or other family members, or lack the resources required to do business in the food system.

### 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

- Addressing the barriers faced by Women within the food systems will not only increase women participation in the Food system but will also address issues of unemployment of women, improve food security, and enhance sustainability.
- Improving/facilitating women involvement in the food system has the potential to reduce the endemic rural poverty among women as well as reducing rural -urban migration.
- Poor handling of relationships within the food system can result in socio-economic crisis that threatens education, health, human rights, as well as peace and security.
- Food insecurity is likely to increase if challenges faced by women within the food system are not identified and addressed.
- Women are not a homogenous group; it is therefore very important to look at the needs of women from diverse angles – producers, consumers, and entrepreneurs
- Coordination of interventions aimed at improving the participation of women in the food system is very important – MDAs, other stakeholders to the community level.
- It is important to bring forward many 'he for she'; men that have been converted to support women.
- Some strategic and immediate steps to be taken suggested during the dialogue include:
  - Integrating women in decision making at all levels – very important so that well intended policies may not achieve their aim.
  - Promoting household food production among both rural and urban women
  - Providing strong support for land clearing and promoting mechanisation of agriculture by Government and private sector players.
  - Strengthening the Agricultural Extension Services for knowledge transfer, guidance, and support through the entire food system.
  - Promoting women's groups as aggregators to guarantee stability of food prices.
  - Encouraging crop diversification, including production of bio-fortified foods.
  - Facilitating access of women to improved packaging materials for preservation; and to solar technology for drying.
  - Promoting small-scale animal husbandry for household access to animal source foods and for income generation
  - Promoting the rational use of fertilizers and agrochemicals by farmers and food traders and promoting organic farming.
  - Encouraging local production of agricultural implements and processing machines.
  - Facilitating access of women to improved seeds and other production inputs
  - Addressing gender stereotypes and cultural practices that put women at a disadvantage.
  - Facilitating the formation of women cooperative societies for easy access to cheap credit and inputs, as well as equipment for processing
  - Building relevant infrastructure, and road networks to improve transportation to markets, and prevent spoilage and wastage.
  - Designing nutrition education targeted at communities and schools, empowering community members and school children to make healthy food choices and highlight the dangers of unhealthy diet.
  - Revisiting traditional foods, which are healthy and locally available and affordable but have been abandoned due to globalization and changing food patterns and raising their profile.
  - Regulating advertisement and marketing of unhealthy foods.
  - Raising children as change ambassadors through nutrition education embedded in school curriculum for safe, healthy, and sustainable food consumption.
  - Identifying and scaling up evidence-based interventions that target reduction of food wastage e.g., the promotion of micro-agro processing enterprises focused on women participation.
  - Promoting proper water conservation and water harvesting techniques and recycling
  - Formulating 'Safe seeds' Policies, promote cultivation of crops that are resistant to drought and are early maturing.
  - Creating awareness on the importance of equal opportunities for all including the women in the food system.
  - Setting up a system to fast-track registration of food products and eliminate barriers and frustration in registering products with the regulatory agencies - NAFDAC, SON
  - Facilitating the inclusion of women in decision making positions in associations.
  - Facilitating market access for women, including access to market information, direct and strong linkages with transporters, and creating fixed physical market spaces and schedules so women do not resort to mobile markets that are unsustainable and offer poor prices
  - Identifying locally appropriate/sustainable storage and packaging solutions to extend shelf-life of agricultural products
  - Establishing micro-processing hubs to facilitate processing of highly perishable foods and reduce seasonal price shocks
  - Diversifying livelihood sources for women along the food system
  - Facilitating increased availability of insurance products, farmer subscriptions for insurance, and regulation of insurance practice so that claims are addressed promptly.
  - Improving security of communities and women, and of transportation systems for food, e.g., strengthening of local vigilante groups so that they provide first-line defence; assigning farmlands to women in easy to reach, central locations; early warning systems and peace building skills for all communities
  - Developing and expanding platforms for reaching women with information, including market and weather information, and information about how to register processed products and expand business.

## ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

Group 1: Women Groups and reduction of hunger and inequality, increasing availability and affordability of nutritious foods and ensuring food safety

Actions urgently needed

Strand 1: Reducing hunger and inequality

- Provision of rural infrastructure, including access roads, power and facilities for storage and processing.
- Implementation of massive irrigation programme to enable year-round farm production.
- Facilitation of access to farmland for women.
- Promotion of food production among both rural and urban women across the agricultural value chain.
- Strong support by government and private sector players to land clearing and promotion of farm mechanisation.
- Strengthening of Agricultural Extension Services, for knowledge transfer, guidance, and support through the entire agriculture value chains.
- Encouragement of small-holder farmers to form cooperatives, for better access to financing and inputs, as well as equipment for processing.
- Promotion of women groups as aggregators to guarantee affordability and stability of food prices. They can also better negotiate prices for the produce with agro-allied industry.

Strand 2: Increasing availability and affordability of nutritious foods

- Expansion of the variety of farmed crops, including bio-fortified foods.
- Promotion of processing to enable product development, including blending of various foods as means of fortification.
- Promotion of urban farming.
- Promotion of small-scale animal husbandry, for supplementary feeding and income enhancement.

Strand 3: Ensuring safe food

- Adoption of Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) to assure good food safety standards, and increased marketability and exportability of the produce and products.
- Promotion of organic farming.
- Availability of improved packaging materials for preservation.
- Massive adoption of solar technology for drying produce for preservation.
- Sustained awareness campaign against abuse of fertilizers and agrochemicals by farmers and food traders, and inappropriate application of pesticides to stored products such as maize and beans, dried yam etc.
- Campaign against food adulteration as well as inappropriate application of harmful chemicals, including calcium carbide to force ripen fruits.

Cross-cutting

- Massive local production of agricultural implements and processing machines by facilitating local development and assisting fabricators.
- Vigorous enhancement of security in rural areas and farming communities.
- Promotion of household food production

Who should take the actions?

- Linkage of outcomes of research projects in tertiary institutions to the private sector, for greater efficiency and productivity in the food system, as well as for food products development.
- Robust relationship with development partners and multilateral organizations, particularly in the provision of technology and market development, for global competitiveness and agricultural value chain expansion.

Ways in which progress could be assessed

- Implementation of Monitoring and Evaluation system.
- Feedback mechanism, particularly through NGOs.

### ACTION TRACKS

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### KEYWORDS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

### Group 2: Shift to Healthy and Sustainable Consumption Patterns

#### Actions urgently needed

- Make policies that empower women and give them access to landholding for farming to improve food production.
- Address gender stereotypes and cultural practices that put women in the food value chain at a disadvantage through high-level advocacies and community sensitization.
- Give women agency and decision-making power at all levels of the food value chain.
- Improve the women's economic capacity for food production, processing, distribution, and consumption by providing them with access to loans without collaterals and forming them into groups e.g., cooperative societies to give them a stronger voice.
- Provide access to production knowledge, technology, and resources to upscale their contribution to the food system
- Build relevant infrastructures, road networks to shorten supply distance in order to aid food logistics management and avoid spoilage and wastage.
- Address insecurity which threatens women involved in farming
- Design nutrition education targeted at communities and schools, empowering community members and school children to make health food choices and highlight the dangers of unhealthy diet.
- Raise the profile of locally available healthy food in packaging and marketing to make them more desirable choices for children.
- Regulate advertisement and marketing of unhealthy food (sugary beverages, ultra-processed food) through increasing tax/tariffs.
- Address food preservation and storage challenges encountered by women who have no access to adequate knowledge of the right chemical to use and space for storage.
- Introduce women to mixed cropping
- Design strategic behavior change communication targeted at addressing barriers to healthy food consumption, attitudinal barriers, cultural barriers, etc.
- Raise children as change ambassadors through nutrition education embedded in school curriculum for sustainable food consumption.
- Use windows of opportunities to address consumer behavior – healthy food choices for pregnant women, breast feeding for children 0 – 6month children, complementary feeding for 6-23month children, children under-five, school-aged children, and adolescents.
- Address malnutrition in children by encouraging early introduction of children to locally available and affordable healthy meals.
- Return to traditional foods, which are healthy and locally available and affordable but have been abandoned due to globalization and changing food patterns.
- Identify and scale up evidence-based interventions that are targeting reduction of food wastage e.g., the promotion of micro-agro processing enterprises focused on women participation in Adamawa and Borno states under the Feed the Future Nigeria integrated agricultural activities.

#### Who should take the actions?

- Continue to mobilize women and empower women at the grassroots level to participate in the food system.

#### Ways in which progress could be assessed

- Improving access to landholding by women
- Increasing decision-making power seeded to women
- Increasing and stronger contribution of women in food production, storage, processing, distribution, and consumption.
- Increasing capacity of women and children to make healthy food choices

### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

### Group 3: Boosting nature-positive food system

#### Actions urgently needed

- Soil Testing and the use of improved seeds, improved processing especially on fruit and vegetables that is available and affordable.
- Use of improved seeds to boost vertical agriculture could be adopted where access to land is an issue.
- Plant tree and use of organic manure, Avoid the use of harmful chemicals
- Improving our farming system and acquiring more knowledge on agriculture and extending to the rural women
- Reducing overuse of land through crop rotation, less use of chemical fertilizers
- Use of organic manure, total stoppage of bush burning
- Avoiding the use of growth promoters and antibiotics on plants animals and birds (poultry)
- Planting leguminous crops to the soil, proper water conservation and water harvesting techniques and recycling
- Education and awareness and training of farmers on modern agriculture.
- Reduce the energy use.
- Safe seeds Policies, cultivating crops that is resistance to drought and planting early maturing seeds.

#### Who should take the actions?

- Encouraging of waste residue to transform into cooking energy (Charcoal) instead of cutting down trees for cooking energy.
- one of the reforms can be processing machines
- Community Farmer forums sessions to encourage shared learning through women and youth farmers initiative consultative meetings
- Access for women and youth to modern technology.
- Collaborating with INGOs NGOs Government, ADPs on farmer's pre- season capacity building in states involvement all stakeholders.

#### Ways in which progress could be assessed

- Deliberate monitoring
- Data collection, analysis and well-documented.
- Glaring Sustainable programs demonstrated in the communities.
- When value can be seen in the use of organic and inorganic fertilizer for improved food yield
- Natural ecosystem and Biodiversity restored with less pollution of land and water in our communities.
- More and improved food production despite climate change.

### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

### Group 4: Advance equitable livelihoods and value distribution

#### Actions urgently needed

- Identify women in the food system with their various strength, diversity, areas of indulgence, areas of needs, limitations etc and group them into different sectors or sections
- Produce a desegregated data of women in different sections of the food system chain
- Outline achievable, short, medium, and sectional objectives to improving the impact of women in the food system
- Oriantate these women and their male counterpart using the community-based approach on the important of all inclusive and equal opportunities for all including the women in the food system.
- Ensure that all women trained, and their capacity and skills developed be supported with a starter (which could be financial or giving farm or processing equipment)
- Create synergy among stakeholders in the food system and boost coordination to align their interventions to the community needs in agriculture with special attention to the vulnerable such as the women
- Fast-track registration and standardization of Agro- processing products and eliminate most of the barriers and frustration in registering in the regulatory agencies e.g., NAFDAC, SON
- Strengthen the women in agricultural societies, cooperation, associations, and communities to give them a voice and resources needed to run the association.
- Ensure women are allotted certain positions in decision making bodies, such as the formation of community structures, marketing boards, processing, transportation etc
- Ensure that all interventions in agricultural related programs, women are effectively involved and consulted before, during and after implementation.
- Increase women registration in association, societies or cooperative bodies in the food system

#### Who should take the actions?

- To collaborating with higher institution like college science and technology to produce cost effective simple improved farm tools and Agro processing tools for more output in agriculture. These tools are given to women through loans or at subsidized price.
- To create more access to loans for women with flexible payment plans
- To strengthen already existing financial scheme such as village savings scheme, rural farmers savings scheme through accountability. Financial appropriations
- To ensure functional market information system which indigenously localized to the include all women including those with language barriers
- NGO's should implement women tailored interventions

#### Ways in which progress could be assessed

- Through appropriate disaggregated data for women in various section of the food system chain
- Through continuous monitoring of the data base by tracking the number of women being identified in the food system
- Tracking the number of women that register in association, societies or cooperatives in the food system chain
- Through using set objectives evaluating if the objectives are met
- Regular meetings of women in various sector of the food chain are held in a year

### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

5: Economic, social, and ecological resilience is built for women, as participators in the food system and consumers from the food system

Actions urgently needed for:

Economic resilience:

- Support for small ruminant production, including creating access to vaccinations
- Facilitate increased market access for women, including access to market information, direct and strong linkages with transporters, and creating fixed physical market spaces and schedules so women do not resort to mobile markets that are unsustainable and offer poor prices
- Establish micro-processing hubs to facilitate processing of highly perishable foods and reduce seasonal price shocks
- Improve food production, including expanded access to land and other assets, green and sustainable mechanization, and other production inputs
- Identify locally appropriate/sustainable storage and packaging solutions to increase shelf-life
- Establishment of contractual agreements that facilitate access to commodities for local industry. Large companies often go to rural areas to offer higher prices and mop-up supply
- Increase access to commercial loans, including by reducing interest rates to lower single digits
- Increased organization of women into groups/cooperatives and facilitate access to services and assets, including establishment of savings and loans schemes
- Diversify livelihood sources along food value chains, as opposed to primary production livelihoods only

Social resilience:

- Strengthen women groups/cooperatives and increase group absorptive capacity

Ecological resilience:

- Expanded sharing of information about weather patterns which is collated by Nigerian Meteorological Agency and facilitating access to varieties suited to weather patterns per time. Weather information can be disseminated through National Youth Service Corps
- Rainwater harvesting in parts of the country where such systems are underutilized, to reduce flooding in rainy season and increase availability of water for dry season irrigation
- Increasing production diversity to strengthen environment (and economic resilience)
- Increased availability of insurance products, farmer subscriptions for insurance, and regulation of insurance company practices (so that claims are responsibly addressed)

Cross-cutting:

- Critically and urgently improve physical security of communities and women, and security of transportation systems for food. Actions should include strengthening (training and arming) of local vigilante groups so that they provide first-line defense; assigning farmlands to women in easy to reach, central locations; early warning systems and peace building skills for all communities
- Develop and expand platforms for reaching women with information, including market and weather information, but also information about how to register processed products and expand business, information about available groups/cooperatives and how to join

Who should take the actions?

- Local agricultural and other research institutions to develop contextually appropriate solutions to challenges women face as participants (producers and processors) in the food system

Ways in which progress could be assessed

- Increased women's assets and access to inputs
- Existence of platforms for early warning

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

D) Areas of divergence Please share the areas of divergence that emerged during your Dialogue. An area of divergence is an issue where participants held diverse views, different opinions and/or opposing positions. For example, this might be related to a) strengths and vulnerabilities within food systems, b) areas that need further exploration, c) practices that are needed for food system sustainability, d) stakeholders whose interests should be prioritized. Please describe all of the areas of divergence in under 800 words. Note: Please do not attribute any views to named individuals

1. Some believed that women should be organized into groups, e.g., cooperatives for stronger participation while others felt that most women in farming are already formed into producer groups, cooperatives, and associations in many communities, the challenge is in most cases is access to production knowledge, technology, and resources.
2. Apparent differing perspectives about actions to prioritize. Participants reached consensus that improving security should be paramount. Fear for safety and/or life has a debilitating influence on any other action to improve resilience.
3. Review of Government policies on improved yield
4. Use of Agrochemicals and its implication on human health
5. Price regulatory system should not only be favourable to women but should include all; The regulatory board should be constituted with equal representatives of all persons in the food system chain.
6. The dialogue should not only focus on the food system but other sector that adds value to the food system such as education, health; there should be effective collaboration of the food system chain with other sectors this will improve the overall wellbeing of the actors and players in the food system chain.

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