

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 17 June 2021 12:00 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Addressing the Food System Dynamics: Nigerian Youths as Frontline Actors
CONVENED BY	Impact Nutrition Africa Initiative (INAI)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/26055/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	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

49

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18

40 19-30

9 31-50

0 51-65

0 66-80

0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

18 Male

31 Female

0 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

6 Agriculture/crops

3 Fish and aquaculture

1 Livestock

0 Agro-forestry

0 Environment and ecology

0 Trade and commerce

3 Education

0 Communication

1 Food processing

0 Food retail, markets

0 Food industry

2 Financial Services

3 Health care

31 Nutrition

1 National or local government

0 Utilities

0 Industrial

0 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

6 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

1 Large national business

0 Multi-national corporation

0 Small-scale farmer

2 Medium-scale farmer

3 Large-scale farmer

10 Local Non-Governmental Organization

6 International Non-Governmental Organization

1 Indigenous People

13 Science and academia

0 Workers and trade union

1 Member of Parliament

0 Local authority

2 Government and national institution

0 Regional economic community

0 United Nations

1 International financial institution

1 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

0 Consumer group

1 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Impact Nutrition Africa Initiative as one of the active players in the building of a sustainable food system organized an independent food system dialogue that focused on an important target group, the youths. This in itself incorporated two of the principles of engagement of the summit dialogue by committing to the summit to contribute to the vision and also bringing about way forward to the problems of the food system. INAI also recognizes the need to act with urgency in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals by fostering conversation and igniting actions from the largest percentage of human population; the youths, which is reflected in the theme of the independent dialogue. INAI is fully aware of the complexity that surrounds the food system, this informed the choice of having the different topic of discussion to be in strata and divided along 5 lines of discussion and all fitted back to get a central picture and also draw patterns and how they link back to each other. In the line of discussion, the team went through careful selection of stakeholders to reflect diversity and have a unified inclusion of all stakeholders in the teeming discussion of the problem and to proffer solution to the identified issues. The diversity of the stakeholders in this independent dialogue allowed the spanning of discussion to far reaching lengths from the perspective of different experts and professionals. The broad discussion also gave more insight into the topic and gave room for more innovative solutions to be proffered. The dialogue was not carried out in isolation, most of the conversation were based on the recent happenings and local context of what has already been done in this regard by various sectors. This was done to avoid having to duplicate things already done or proposing solutions that are not smart or realistic. The participatory structure given to the dialogue allowed all participants to trust the process of discussion and be willing to participate with mutual respect for opinions.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

One of the foremost principles of engagement that was wholesomely reflected throughout the independent dialogue is the multi-stakeholder inclusivity. Youths were brought from different sectors to give a full representative voice, stakeholders came from the private sector, government, international non-governmental organization, academics and finance. Local operatives like animal scientists, crop breeders and farmers were also brought on board to give a leaning support and report of situations as they are in reality. The entire dialogue is centered around youths in a bid to find smart ways and mediums by which they contribute to the effort of building a sustainable food system. The participants were divided across five breakout rooms during the dialogue with the task of passing around discussion around the sub-divided themes, the ideas and proposed solutions from these breakout rooms were all compiled to commit to the summation of dialogues across the entire country. Participants also shared a similar concern with the reality of the issues raised for discussion bordering along the food system and this served as a medium of building trust among everyone attending the independent dialogue and this motivated better engagement. The general ambience of the dialogue gave off a medium for youths attending to lend their opinions, fears and concerns regarding the issue of food insecurity and consequently nutrition security among the entire population of the country.

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

Yes, the principles of engagement are guiding principles that have been clearly outlined to ease the process of the organizing the dialogue. Its impact can be felt from the inception of the dialogue, in choosing target group to ensuring things are done right in order to build trust. It is indeed the road map to organizing a successful dialogue. We strongly appreciate these principles and recommend that subsequent conveners harness it in planning their dialogues.

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

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Despite Africa's endowment with abundant arable land and vast water resources, its agricultural sector is unable to supply enough food to the continent. With a rapidly growing youth population expected to double to over 830 million by 2050, youths remain Africa's greatest asset for its Food System Transformation. Nigeria, the most population African country with over 43% of its population as youths ranks 98th of 107 countries on the 2020 Global Hunger Index. With less youths involved in the food and agricultural sector, the need for youth inclusion in transforming the broken food system is imperative. The dialogue was tagged, "Addressing the Food System Dynamics: Nigerian Youths as Frontline Actors" and focused on five (5) sub-themes all tailored towards the five action tracks. The sub-themes ranked from food and nutrition security, consumer education, climate-smart agriculture, food trade and globalization and finally to fin-tech for resilience. Being an independent dialogue centered on youth inclusion, it served as an invitation to the Nigerian youths to be engaged, to be innovative and to propose solutions while recognizing that one size does not fit all. It emphasized the complexity of the food system and further stresses the need for a holistic approach in tackling the broken food system. The dialogue also served as a learning platform to the youths as it featured panel sessions anchored by adept youths from all spheres across the food system who talked on various innovative approaches, possible challenges and solutions in their respective fields. The overall objective of the independent dialogue is to engage Nigerian youths in unraveling critical issues militating our food system and proffering realistic and workable ways of tackling them.

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 recommendations from Impact Nutrition Africa Initiative Food System Summit Dialogue are as follows;

1. The Government should address the insecurity challenges of the country
2. Provision of infrastructures to foster physical and economic access to food
3. Investing in Data to foster decision making
4. Improving extension services among both public and private sector
5. Advocacy on food loss and wastage
6. Reviving regulatory and monitoring agencies
7. Investing in research and technological innovations
8. Encourage youth involvement in Agriculture and food supply chain
9. Reducing greenhouse gases emissions by modifying ruminant diet and embracing ranching system
10. Public-Private Partnership in rendering Agricultural services
11. Development of a national dietary guideline

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

REPORT FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

In ensuring physical and economic access to safe and nutritious food, a holistic approach involving stakeholders from all spheres across the food system is required. The priority actions needed to achieve this course include;

- ☐ Ensuring safety of lives and properties of all Nigerians
- ☐ Provision of modern equipment for farmer at subsidized costs to boost large scale production
- ☐ Equipping farmers with the technical skills required to operate such equipment
- ☐ Development of improved and climate-sensitive seeds
- ☐ Data management to enhance informed decision
- ☐ Provision of infrastructures like modern storage facilities and good transport network
- ☐ Regulatory agencies to oversee pricing system

Who are the stakeholders needed for the actions

- ☐ The Government: Tackling the insecurity problem in the country, price regulation, subsidizing farm inputs and equipment
- ☐ Research Institutes and Academia: Carrying out scientific researches on modern ways of increasing production of nutritious food and man power capacity building
- ☐ Extension Services: Transforming the research findings and innovative methods from the researches to the farmers and
- ☐ Non-Government Organizations and Private Sector: Assist in research, funding, training
- ☐ Nigerian Youths: The task of involvement in the food and agricultural sector falls on the youths

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

REPORT ON CONSUMER EDUCATION

The priority actions needed in empowering consumers to make informed and healthy food choices include;

- Revision of the national food based dietary guideline
- Investing in research
- Regulations on product advertisement
- Consumer education on food wastage
- Use of Front pack labeling system on food products
- Adopting behavioral change communication in advocacy
- Leveraging on the mass media as a means of education
- Incorporating Community Supported Agriculture by consumers as a means of providing food independently
- Eliminating misinformation through strong regulations and monitoring of food companies as regard food product labeling

Who are the stakeholders needed for this action

- Communication Experts: Employ Behavior change communication in educating consumers
- Consumers: the will and power to change lies on the consumer
- Government: Regulation of food labels and unhealthy products advertisement as well as advocacy through National Orientation Agency
- Food Companies: Produce healthy foods and build trust with correct information on labels
- Private Sector/NGOs: Help in advocacy, research and training

How to measure impact

- Employing baseline and post-implementation data on consumer knowledge, attitude and practices

Possible Challenges

- Adherence to policies and regulation by the food companies
- Corruption on the part of the regulatory bodies
- Consumer rigidity and unwillingness to accept change

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

REPORT ON CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

The priority actions needed to improve climate-smart initiatives while ensure production include;

- ☐ Employing smart initiatives that require lesser natural resources and produces more food such as hydroponic, aeroponics, etc.
- ☐ Training and Orientation of farmers on smart and modern initiatives
- ☐ Harnessing technological innovations like drone system and precision farming
- ☐ Reducing greenhouse gases emissions by modifying ruminant diet and embracing ranching system
- ☐ Improved researches on development of climate sensitive inputs
- ☐ Provision of funding to farmers majorly in form of subsidies

Who are the key stakeholders?

- ☐ Government: Subsidizing the cost of modern tools and improved inputs
- ☐ Extension Agents: Training and orientation of farmers on modern practices
- ☐ Private Sector/NGOs: Complement the work of the government

Possible Challenges

- ☐ Illiteracy of most small scale farmers
- ☐ Unwillingness to accept new methods

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

REPORT ON FOOD TRADE

The priority actions needed to improve food trade in the food system context include;

- Addressing the insecurity in the country in a bid to reduce food inflation
- Policy Formulation
- Leveraging on Agriculture as a tool for combating youth unemployment
- Advocacy for change of unfavourable policies
- Provision of funding and support for small-medium scale enterprise
- Prioritization of Nutrition and Agriculture

Who are the key Actors?

- Government: There is need for support, policies and enabling environment that will encourage youth participation in agriculture
- Youths: involvement in the food value chain and call for policy change from the government
- Private Sector/NGOs: Capacity building and Advocacy

Possible Challenges

- Unwillingness of youths to go into agriculture

Indicator for Success

- Increased youth involvement in Agriculture
- Reduced unemployment indices
- Reduction in Food prices and inflation
- Increased in food production

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

REPORT ON FIN-TECH FOR RESILIENCE

In Nigeria, small holder farmers contribute more than 80% of Nigeria's domestic input. However, farmers still make use of age long techniques in the agricultural processes. Because of this, optimal production is not guaranteed with challenges such as; climate conditions, insecurity, poor funding and the likes. The introduction of technology such as precision soil sampling, drone technology, nitrogen sensors, data science among others will help improve production and profit for farmers which in turn have an effect on the food system supply chain.

However, in Nigeria, for most farmers, this is not the case and this is because of the following challenges:

- Poor farm planning
- Little/lack of education of farmers leading to inability to make use of some of these technologies
- Lack of funding as some of the technology require capital
- Lack of technical know-how

The priority actions needed for improving resilience to shocks and stress include;

- ☐ Policy formulation
- ☐ Provision of funding especially in subsidizing the premium on insurance for farmers in a bid to ensure they are well equipped to tackle risks and future shocks
- ☐ Public private partnership
- ☐ Equipping farmers with the technical skills required to handle innovations
- ☐ Investment in Data Analytics to foresee oncoming stress
- ☐ Education of farmers on how to access funding, best ways to avoid risks and how to maximize the market for profit
- ☐ Education of non-farmers on the need to pay attention and get involved in agriculture through investment.

The stakeholders needed for the implementation of these actions are;

- ☐ Government:
- ☐ Private Sector/NGOs: Partnership with the government in providing technical serv
- ☐ Extension Officers: There is need for training and education of farmers on modern methods of farming and use of modern equipment
- ☐ Insurance

Likely challenges to be faced during implementation

- ☐ Illiteracy of most small holder farmers
- ☐ Lack of will to change from conventional methods
- ☐ Fear of past experiences

ACTION TRACKS

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✓	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

✓	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
	Human rights	✓	Governance
✓	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

- Most stakeholders agreed that tackling the security challenges of our country should be prioritized
- Adopting behavioural change communication is imminent for sustainability
- Employing climate-smart agriculture to mitigate the effect of climate change is a field that needs further exploration

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KEYWORDS

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