

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Saturday, 19 June 2021 09:00 GMT +07:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Youth's Vital Role in Sustainable Food Systems in Cambodia
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	His Excellency Sok Silo, Secretary General, Council for Agricultural and Rural Development
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/26150/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/26150/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Cambodia

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

45

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

1 0-18      23 19-30      16 31-50      5 51-65      66-80      80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

21 Male      24 Female      Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

2	Agriculture/crops	4	Education	4	Health care
	Fish and aquaculture	1	Communication	11	Nutrition
	Livestock	4	Food processing	7	National or local government
	Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets	1	Utilities
	Environment and ecology	1	Food industry		Industrial
	Trade and commerce	2	Financial Services	8	Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

3	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
	Large national business		Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation	3	Local authority
1	Small-scale farmer		Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer	1	Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer	33	United Nations
2	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
8	International Non-Governmental Organization		Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People	3	Consumer group
1	Science and academia	13	Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Designed to give youth participants space to discuss and ask questions by restricting attendance of others. Limited circulation of the invitations. This was important to build trust and allowed them to talk freely in their breakout group discussion.

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

By limiting the number of older participants we tried to create space for building the trust of youth. The organization of the event also complemented the successful work of the Youth Nutrition Champions supported by Ms Bormey Chhun and Helen Keller International. Senior members of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development and the Ministry of Planning joined staff from Helen Keller International and FAO at the event, demonstrating a clear commitment and leadership on the part of government listen to youth and to encourage youth to be actively engaged in the governance of the food system.

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

For a youth dialogue it is important to provide them space to interact and to enjoy their event. Make a strong effort to listen to views of all and then to address feedback directly to youth. Avoid general discussion and keep answers short and direct. Maximize opportunities for youth to speak to build youth confidence and for them to know that they are being listened to. Make sure that a youth representative is moderating and facilitating the discussion to keep a youth focus on the discussion. Ask all others to focus on listening youth – not telling them what to do. From this dialogue, we learned that time should be adequately allocated for youth to ask questions to the older generation. After telling us their future roles, challenges and solutions, youth intended to ask older generations to support them to realize the fulfillment of those roles.

# 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 focus of the dialogue was on the Vital Role of Youth for Sustainable Food Systems in Cambodia. The dialogue was directed at youth and attendance was mainly reserved for youth to ensure that their viewpoint remained the focus. Older participants were separated for the small group discussion. The dialogue was focused around three key questions for youth and a similar set of questions for the older participants to address in a separate breakout room. The questions posed to the youth for discussion were:

1. What are the key roles of youth in contributing to achieving sustainable food systems in Cambodia?
2. What challenges will youth face in performing those roles?
3. What are the possible solutions to those challenges?

The many diverse roles that youth can play in food systems were discussed ranging from agricultural producers to young entrepreneurs. They can be involved in many ways that contribute to sustainability, including organic farming, encouraging recycling, reducing waste and in efficient use of natural resources. Youth can bring new insights on accessing markets. They can also help by training other youth in communities because of their understanding of media, especially social media for spreading ideas. They can serve as opinion leaders, role models, influencers and educators by extending knowledge to the general community.

Despite many challenges that youth face, there are many things that can be done to address these challenges. Those solutions need to start from within ourselves. Individuals need to pursue a healthy diet and then this translates into consumer interest in the food system. Every individual can contribute to driving the food system towards sustainability through their purchase decisions, provided they are educated and informed. We need to eliminate agricultural stereotypes for Cambodia that reflect an association with poverty and hardship. A short video or animated story on food systems could help to promote new thinking about the importance of food systems and the opportunities of young people within the food system. Youth networks should provide information and healthy diets should be incorporated in the school curriculum.

In turn, the youth prepared questions for the older generation present, including asking:

1. What is the vision for the youth engagement?
2. How should youth prepare themselves to be leaders in future?
3. Is there a roadmap for sustainable food systems for 2030? How can we access these documents?
4. Are there any organizations making progress in exploring food systems? How can we find out about these?

The time to discuss the questions from youth was very limited. Nonetheless, the senior representatives of government present made recommendations to youth to make a commitment to improving the food system and to combine the knowledge they get from school with the practical know-how that comes from experience. It was acknowledged that this is not an easy matter for young people in the community. They were encouraged to recognize that the food system offer many opportunities for livelihood and for the improvement of our lives. These opportunities extend well beyond agriculture and youth are encouraged to see how the whole system operates and the opportunities that exist within the 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

The introduction to the event provided a short explanation for the rationale for taking a food systems perspective, as opposed to the siloed approaches which have tended to break down issues into areas of sectoral interest. The systems approach incorporates the three main spheres concerning the value chain, the food environment and the consumer interests and looks into the situations, relationships and transformations occurring as food is produced, processed, packaged, distributed, sold and consumed. Economic, social and environmental aspects are all linked to sustainability of the system. The food system is a core sphere of interest for the SDGs, with major concern for the transformation of food systems to be more productive, pro-poor, sustainable and resilient, and providing for nutritious and healthy diets for every person.

Under the decision made by the RGC under Notification 934 dated in 20 October 2020, CARD is mandated to work with ministries, institutions and academia to establish Youth Nutrition Champions to participate in the policy process at national and provincial level. We need to recognize that with so much of the population currently under 30 years of age (56%), it is critical that youth are directly involved in the planning, decision making and commitments that will define their future and country. As the so-called Bamboo Shoots of society, it is our duty to ensure that they are given every opportunity to develop as intelligent, healthy and strong foundations for the future. We must make sure that new blood (young generation) is injected into different institutions, so that new ideas, innovations and initiations are developed for rapid growth of our society.

Malnutrition in all forms, including overweight and obesity weaken this potential, with lack of knowledge and lack of physical activity contributing to the extent of these problems.

We must prioritise youth in terms of their education, health, and social development. We need to engage directly with youth to promote FSN through healthy diets. This is increasingly an issue of choice for young people, although deprivation remains a persistent problem due to under-nourishment. In the situation of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we need to recognize that FSN contributes to good health, livelihood and family harmony.

We need to give youth opportunity in developing themselves through active participation in food security and nutrition events and platforms. In addition, youth should be provided opportunity to engage activities related to income generation, so that they have disposal income for their own expenditure, allowing them to do volunteer work.

### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Promote engagement and awareness of nutrition for students; mobilize youth and sensitize them on the cooking and traditional diets for Cambodia and encourage moderation in the use of salt, sugar and fat; and fight against COVID-19 by eating a healthy diet, eating vegetables and fruit, cooking and eating in a clean environment, wearing masks, washing hands, drinking safe water and following hygienic practices.

We must build the capacity of youth and their influence as leaders of the future.

There should be a mechanism in place to motivate the public to participate more actively in these issues. We need to show a commitment that includes both budgeted actions on the part of government and commitment from individuals to address their own responsibilities and the consequences of their choices.

### ACTION TRACKS

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### 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 type="checkbox"/>            | Environment and Climate |

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

WHAT ARE THE KEY ROLES OF YOUTH IN CONTRIBUTING TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN CAMBODIA? Youth are engaged with food systems in many roles from agricultural producers to young entrepreneurs. They can be involved in many ways that contribute to sustainability, including organic farming, encouraging recycling, reducing waste and in efficient use of natural resources. Youth can bring new insights on accessing markets. They can also help by training other youth in communities because of their understanding of media, especially social media for spreading ideas. They can serve as opinion leaders, influencers and educators by extending knowledge to the general community. Youth can serve as role models, sharing what they learn, promoting local food production, monitoring the quality and safety of food, participating in learning events and exploring the food system. They can be volunteers, encourage the production and consumption of organic food and advocate for healthy diets by their own example.

The older group addressed the question of HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOUTH IN PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM?

The group suggested that support for youth should include:

1. Capacity building should be provided to youth both in and outside school at national, sub national and community levels. Informal learning is a powerful new force and should be channeled in positive directions.
2. Finding ways to get youth inside the government structure, making sure that youth representation is sustained in these structures (such as the PWG-FSN).
3. Encourage youth to bring their energy and enthusiasm to the private sector, to generate income and support society.
4. Youth can bring the same energy to government and institutions and we must help to showcase their abilities and achievements in contributing to innovation and policy and other areas.
5. We must support youth with access to technology and information and to share what they learn.
6. We must support youth with access to decision making process related with development of FSN policies and strategies

### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

### WHAT CHALLENGES WILL YOUTH FACE IN PERFORMING THESE ROLES?

The mindset of young people is that they are not interested in learning about the food system because they think this is about agriculture or working as farmers. They are generally not interested in this. Youth are interested in consumption but they are not much interested in producing food. The concept of the food system is not really understood.

The community members and leaders are not really willing to cooperate or listen to youth. Youth lack any organization at the provincial level to focus interest on food systems and healthy diets. There is also a perception that the community does not really pay attention to youth. Youth have limited knowledge and experience and they are not influential in the community. Youth initiatives always face budget constraints, there is a general lack of knowledge and the habits of youth are not very good, particularly their dietary habits. There is a lack of support from government and NGOs for activities both in the school and outside with the community. There is a lack of information about volunteer opportunities with NGOs.

Challenges also include the lack of information available to youth, securing youth commitment to something like the food system, the perceived lack of control or influence over these matters and the limitations for youth in terms of livelihood and equity. There are different opportunities for women and men and there are differences in the situation for rural and urban youth.

In this bigger picture, youth participation in the decision making process related to food security and nutrition policies and strategies has been limited. Youth engagement with food security and nutrition events (meetings, forums, workshops) at national and sub national levels has also been limited.

### ACTION TRACKS

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### 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 type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate



## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

### WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THOSE CHALLENGES?

Solutions need to start from within ourselves. Individuals need to pursue a healthy diet and then this translates into consumer interest in the food system. Every individual can contribute to this provided they are educated and informed. We need to eliminate agricultural stereotypes for Cambodia that reflect an association with poverty and hardship. A short video or animated story on food systems could help to promote new thinking about the importance of food systems and the opportunities of young people within the food system. Youth networks should provide information and healthy diets should be incorporated in the school curriculum.

The community needs to understand more about youth and their interests. This can contribute to the well-being of the whole community. We need to promote local products and ensure that they are produced to proper standards. The government should restrict imports and expand market access for farmers. We should promote small-scale projects that introduce food system thinking at a local level.

There should be greater use of the social media to attract youth interest and to provide information. Youth groups should be encouraged at provincial and district level and activities promoted at the community level. This needs government support and encouragement of debating and learning. The food system concept should be included in the school curriculum.

### ACTION TRACKS

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## **AREAS OF DIVERGENCE**

### **ACTION TRACKS**

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### **KEYWORDS**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy                  |
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|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate |

# CORRECTIONS, ADJUSTMENTS, OR CHANGES

Title Additional documents for pre-dialogue training

Date 11/07/2021

Short reports on the training provided to youth prior to their participation in the Youth Dialogue

## ATTACHMENTS

- **Youth Training Event May 12**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Youth-Training\\_May-12.pdf](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Youth-Training_May-12.pdf)
- **Youth training Basic Nutrition May 20**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Youth-Training\\_-\\_Basic-Nutrition-Training-Report-May-20.pdf](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Youth-Training_-_Basic-Nutrition-Training-Report-May-20.pdf)