

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Wednesday, 9 June 2021 08:38 GMT +12:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Action Track 5 National Dialogue on Building Resilience to Vulnerability, Shocks and Stress
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Mr Ritesh Dass- Permanent Secretary -Ministry of Agriculture
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/26377/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/26377/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Fiji

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

125

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

22

19-30

77

31-50

23

51-65

3

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

52 Male

72 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

25 Agriculture/crops

9 Fish and aquaculture

11 Livestock

5 Agro-forestry

7 Environment and ecology

1 Trade and commerce

7 Education

5 Communication

3 Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

10 Health care

5 Nutrition

16 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

18 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

2 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

1 Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

7 Local Non-Governmental Organization

9 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

14 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

62 Government and national institution

5 Regional economic community

14 United Nations

International financial institution

3 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

1 Consumer group

7 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Fiji National Dialogue was divided into five separate Action Track dialogues, each focusing on a specific Action Track. This report refers exclusively to Action Track 5 – Build Resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress. The Fiji National Dialogue for Action Track 5 was curated by the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and led by the Fiji Convenor, the Permanent Secretary for Agriculture, Mr Ritesh Dass. Technical support for the curation of the dialogue was provided by the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) offices in Suva, Fiji. Recognizing and observing the UNFSS Principles of Engagement, a series of highly consultative, inclusive, preparatory meetings were held in the lead-up to the dialogue with key government ministries and partners such as the Ministry of Rural & Maritime Development and Disaster Management, the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Agriculture as the national Convenor. The preparatory meetings developed the dialogue agenda, framed questions and topics for discussion, developed a group reporting template to focus and guide group discussions and identified themes for discussion across three strands (i) Economic Resilience (Being Equitable and Inclusive) (ii) Social Resilience (Producing Broad Based Benefits for all people) (iii) Environmental Resilience (Generating Positive and Regenerative Impacts on the Natural Environment). The Action Track 5 dialogue was chaired by the Fiji Ministry of Rural Development & Maritime Development and Disaster Management and officially opened by its Permanent Secretary, Mr David Kolitagane. The preparatory meetings highlighted the Summit's Principles of Engagement and ensured that they were understood and incorporated into the format of the dialogue agenda and the identification of participants. In addition to this, participants were sent a URL to register online where they were required to read and agree to the Principles before being able to register.

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

As highlighted above, the Fiji national dialogue on Action Track 5 ensured that the UNFSS seven Principles of Engagement were observed throughout the dialogue curation process and its preparatory meetings. They were reflected in the development of the dialogue agenda and in the careful selection of participants from a diverse range of stakeholders. The need to (i) act with urgency, (ii) commit to the Summit and show (iii) respect for all views and individuals were highlighted throughout the dialogue preparatory process, and were endorsed by stakeholders during the dialogue as well. The (iv) acknowledgement of complexity in our food systems was highlighted, particularly in the context of Fiji and the Pacific, where the food we eat not only brings together as families and communities – it also connects us back to the land and sea, where our food is traditionally sourced from. Transformation therefore, would require a systemic multi-stakeholder approach, taking into account the fragility of our food systems and unique vulnerabilities to factors such as climate, environment, biodiversity and food safety challenges etc. (v) Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity (vi) Complement the work of others – This was reflected in the diverse group of 125 participants who were part of the multi-stakeholder national dialogue - from areas of science, business, policy, healthcare and academia, farmers, youth and women's organisations, consumer groups, market vendors and environmental activists. The dialogue provided an opportunity to 'think outside the box' and share innovative thinking, connect stakeholders and broaden partnerships. (vii) Build trust - The dialogues was curated and facilitated in a way to ensure a "safe space", promote trust and encourage mutual respect for ideas and discussion.

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

The Summit Principles of Engagement are an important guidance for Fiji in the curation of its dialogues across all five Action Tracks, including the National Dialogue. The Principles encouraged Fiji to think innovative, transformative and to draw on the wisdom of a diverse group of stakeholders and partners to explore solutions in our food systems, and to help advance progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, the Principles were used to guide different stages of Fiji's dialogue preparatory process and assisted in the identification of participants and stakeholders to ensure inclusivity and diversity. The Principles also assisted in facilitating discussions to ensure that all views were heard and respected and that any divergent views arising at any stage of the process were taken into consideration, listened to with respect and recorded.

# 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

The Fiji national dialogue on Action Track 5 – Build Resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress was held on 09 June 2021 at a crucial time as the country battled its second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic with restrictive measures and lockdowns. This makes this Food Systems Summit even more crucial to Fiji as it enables the country to study the challenges exposed or exacerbated by the COVID crisis and to find transformative solutions to emerge and build back. This is the fifth national dialogue to be organized for Fiji during May and June 2021. Curation and Methodology – In compliance with the country's COVID-19 restrictions, the Fiji national dialogue was virtually curated on the Zoom platform, using a participatory method of wide, multi-sectoral stakeholder engagement. In addition, interaction and crowdsourcing platforms such as Slido, polls and the Zoom chat box were also used to crowdsource questions and engage participants in live polls and quizzes throughout the duration of the four-hour dialogue. One hundred and three participants took part in the dialogue that was officially opened by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Rural & Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Mr David Kolitagane. Participants represented government ministries, development agencies, UN agencies, civil society, international institutions, Pacific regional agencies, women's groups, international NGOs and academia. Prior to the dialogue, participants received the following from the Secretariat: (i) Invitation to participate in the dialogue (ii) Dialogue Agenda (iii) Relevant resource materials (reading materials, video links etc.) (iv) Reporting template identifying questions and topics for discussion groups Dialogue Format • Registration of participants (online in advance and on the day itself) • Official opening address by the Permanent Secretary for Rural & Maritime Development and Disaster Management • Setting the Scene: What is the UN World Food Systems Summit 2021? (Video) • Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stress Expected Outcome: Chairperson AT5 - Director of National Disaster Management Office • Presentations on Action Track 5 o Economic Impact of Natural Disaster on vulnerable groups (Climate Change Unit, Ministry of Economy) o Social Impact of Natural Disasters on vulnerable groups (Social Welfare, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation) o Environmental impact of Natural Disasters on vulnerable groups: (Ministry of Agriculture) – Discussion groups on themes and questions focused on questions such as (i) What economic impact do natural disasters/climate change and other shocks and stresses have on our food system? e.g. on production, processing, distribution, consumption (ii) How are we currently addressing these economic impacts? What measures/strategies do we have in place? (iii) What barriers are there that limit greater economic resilience in our food system? (iv) What are the transformations needed to further strengthen economic resilience in our food systems? – Participation and Engagement – Through crowdsourcing using Slido questions, live polls, zoom chat, zoom breakout discussion groups, plenary reports/discussions and presentations. Group reporting templates were also shared with participants to review following the dialogue to allow them the opportunity to include any information that may have been missed out by rapporteurs

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The Chairperson of AT5 briefly presented on the Fiji Food System Dialogue elaborating on what is expected from today's discussion on AT5 before the floor was given to the presenters.

Strand 1: Economic Impact of Natural Disaster on vulnerable groups (Climate Change Unit, Ministry of Economy)

Almost half of those living below the poverty line rely on agriculture for at least part of their income, compared to a quarter of people above the poverty line. Around 64,500 Fiji households (37 percent) derive some form of income from agriculture, approximately 8 percent of GDP (2015 GDP).

The climate change-related losses in agricultural productivity could lead to economic losses of 2–3 percent of Fiji's GDP in the future. Natural disasters caused loss of lives and damages to infrastructure, livestock, and agriculture totally up to F\$170 million, F\$100 million and F\$194.9 million, respectively. TC Winston destroyed crops on a large scale and compromised the livelihoods of almost 60 percent of Fiji's population with damages amounting to F\$2 billion, or 20 percent of GDP. Estimated F\$14 million worth of investment is needed to climate proof Fiji's agriculture sector from a total of F\$9,272 million as estimated for a resilient Fijian economy.

Climate Smart Agriculture which transforms and re-orientates agricultural systems to support food security. Disaster preparedness efforts and strengthening the resilience of farmers by encouraging the diversification of agricultural produce for subsistence consumption and market sales, improve financial literacy and collaborate with the private sector.

Development of an affordable parametric and weather index-based climate risk insurance targeted at the agriculture, fisheries, retail and tourism sectors.

Strand 2: Social Impact of Natural Disasters on vulnerable groups (Social Welfare, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation)

Some of the psychosocial impacts for vulnerable persons were mentioned as older persons more reluctant to leave home, suffering more chronic medical/psychiatric conditions and increase risk of abuse. Persons with physical/mental disabilities may not search for help because of stigma, abandoned by their families and open for verbal and physical abuse. Children may feel anxiety and distress, changes in school performance etc. Women may give birth in unsafe places, domestic violence, etc. Homeless - Limited capacity to find shelter, scarce support within the community, high prevalence of mental illness and physical illness etc.

Possible solutions to these impacts are related to access to resources and protection against abuse and exploitation; medical and psychosocial interventions, education and support of care givers; ensure provision of basic and specific needs (young children, pregnant, lactating mothers, homeless people etc.) and safety, if necessary in separate facilities in Evacuation Centers.

Strand 3: Environmental impact of Natural Disasters on vulnerable groups: (Ministry of Agriculture)

Future climate predictions for Fiji include temperature will continue to increase with more very hot days, changing rainfall patterns, more extreme rainfall days, less frequent but more intense tropical cyclones, sea level will continue to rise.

Climate change affect crop production since most crops are seasonal, affects pest outbreaks, limited diversity, crop yields (rice productivity declines 10% with every 1° C increase in temperature), farm income and economy.

In order to build a resilient agriculture system, the Ministry of Agriculture is working on policies, plans and strategies, plant breeding and crop improvement, strengthening gene pool conservation, promoting sustainable land management practices, introducing resilient crop varieties, collaboration with international/regional Institution, traditional varieties & knowledge, review package of practices, tissue culture lab and crop modelling for climate change.

The Ministry promotes resilient traditional foods, multiplication and distribution of resilient crop varieties, more collaborative work between stakeholders, adopt improved sustainable farming practices that have been successful in Pacific and Asian.

### ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" 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

## MAIN FINDINGS

### Strand 1 - Economic Impact of Natural Disaster on vulnerable groups

Participants identified many different impacts, including limited input supply and those related to movement restrictions affecting incomes, food distribution and purchasing and thus consumption. This may increase reliance on imported food and local expenditures. In order to allow farmers to make viable decisions about their investments more data needed, as who grows what, where, and what and soil information. Same situation for ocean data, including salinity and pH to identify which native fish species are effected and how this in turn affects the supply to communities that rely on it for food and livelihood. Involvement of women and youth in agriculture and fisheries farming is still low.

In order to minimise economic impacts that affect exports and economy, some new technologies were discussed, as the use of a new app on Pacific Pest Pacific Pests, Pathogens and Weeds and the use of drones for agriculture. A comprehensive view considering the whole value chain is needed, engaging the communities and aiming at moving from subsistence to commercial farming. Capacities of extension officers need to be strengthened, including environmental friendly practices and organic methods.

Among main barriers limiting the economic resilience of the food system in Fiji were mentioned legislations and regulations (aquaculture policy is missing); lack of tailor-made disaster and climate resilience plans for specific communities; funding availability; lack of opportunities for female market vendors/farmers on trainings and capacity building in their villages/districts and limited facilities for storing and processing food locally.

### Strand 2 – Social Resilience (producing broad based benefits for all people)

CV19 has put unprecedented stress on Fiji's food systems disrupting livelihoods and threatening many people's access to food and income. The informal settlements are particularly vulnerable because the majority lack social protection and have little or lost access to productive assets and health care. Low- and middle-income families could not afford high food costs (especially fruits, vegetables and root crops) after disaster, instead they use alternatives such as canned or frozen foods. This in turn reduces their access to healthy, safe and diverse diet thus increasing prevalence of malnutrition among vulnerable populations.

Internal migration on social dynamics on rural & urban drift is a norm in Fiji however, CV19 has seen many people, especially the youth moving back to their villages due to loss of jobs. Barriers that limit greater social resilience in our food systems include lack of infrastructure, data and specialized capacity and stakeholders working in silos. Technical expertise and support in country particularly in information management on emerging vulnerabilities within existing vulnerable groups in communities.

### Strand 3 - Environmental Impact of Natural Disaster on vulnerable groups

The discussion found that natural disasters have environmental impacts that affects agricultural production in terms of quantity and quality. Some examples mentioned included heavy rainfalls, sudden changes in temperature etc. that can severely affect water and soil, essential elements for crops and livestock. Fisheries are also affected, impacts on coral reefs, mangroves were specifically mentioned.

Natural disasters combined with deforestation and poor land use practice are resulting in an increase in invasive species, more resilient than native ones, and thus affecting the productivity of the food system. Organic options are not so popular after a disaster as other quickest options that are not necessarily the best solution are prioritised.

A good example of integrated farming, mixing agriculture and fisheries farming (an example of combining tilapia with ducks in Fiji where poultry birds provide for the fertilizing algae in the tilapia pond), was explained and recommended to be scaled up. Hydroponic agriculture in green houses was also discussed, highlighting the need for funding the high cost involved and capacity building. We need to be building management systems that are responsive and can adapt to change, and new shocks.

The inadequate inclusion of women in the climate change/ building of resilience in the food systems space (including fisheries) was raised by some participants.

Some barriers limiting greater environmental resilience in the food system were not enough focus on nature-based solutions that enhance environmental systems on which food systems depend; lack of understanding of soil and how to adapt crops to different soil types, a situation that deteriorate with the increase of natural disaster and chemicals being used; and scarce funding to better carry out the work needed and implement policies and strategies. Dissemination of information to farmers and fishers from the ministries and vice versa should be easier if they are registered under MOA and MOF. This would help with market information technical assistance, financing instruments and others.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

### Strand 1 – Economic Impact of Natural Disaster on vulnerable groups

Among the main transformations needed in the current food system were identified the establishment of digital spaces to improve market access through local and regional opportunities (marine species are high value commodities); the adoption of climate smart technologies and genetically improved crops more resilient and tolerant; increase stakeholder engagement from a multi-sector perspective for both agriculture and fisheries and the use of agricultural mechanisms that consider traditional knowledge approaches to support Early Warning Systems EWS and reduce post-harvest loss. Participants alerted of a potential risk of genetic modification, which could affect our biodiversity or reduce the national flora genetic pool since they tend to be more adaptable.

### Strand 2 – Social Impact of Natural Disaster on vulnerable groups

Government response is to ensure food security as well as nutrition and Ministry of Health is working with NDMO and local food industries to incorporate package nutrient foods in the food basket using local foods. The traditional 'solesolevaki' system should be encouraged especially with the recent migration of people back to rural areas. Educate and empower community health workers on food and nutrition knowledge. Invest on online/digital infrastructure by working with private sector which can assist in transporting local produce to markets. Empower women on locally food production and processing. Important to include women and youth in all solutions and provide resources to integrate such activities into Fiji's ongoing employment and disaster mitigation and response plans and activities. Some organisations in the Private Sector that have empowered communities and women groups to add value to their Agriculture and Fisheries products. These communities have vulnerable people including women, those with disabilities and marginalised groups as well. We could learn a lot of lessons and best practices and see how we can replicate them at different levels and sections of our communities.

Ensure all people have home gardens - supply seeds/seedlings to all households. At the community level engagement - iTaukei Affairs to have arrangements within villages for communal plantings collectively worked.

Fiji need to progress the Fiji Policy on Food and Nutrition Security which is inclusive between government, academia, private sector, CSOs NGOs FBOs and community settings, to address some of these issues.

### Strand 3 - Environmental Impact of Natural Disaster on vulnerable groups

Food System transformation should consider the Fijian traditional Crop and Fisheries calendar and adjusted it to the current circumstances. This would ensure all year round harvesting despite effects of disaster. Better land conservation practices and enhancing traditional varieties and knowledge together with the use of resilient crop varieties and livestock breeds were mentioned. After a disaster, traditional knowledge on processing may help to make people more resilient, but skills need to be strengthened. Climate smart practices and technologies need to be promoted and adopted, with more investment in soil improvement and conservation. If we keep it healthy, it will mean communities do not need to clear more land and deforestation will decrease.

We need to ensure that women are part of the discussions, dialogue, and solutions. So better processes are needed for the inclusion of women, and other marginalized groups.

Policies should aim to strengthen villages system, people lost their jobs and are coming back to the villages where better services (education & health, infrastructure and others) are needed. Information/Communication and digital tools can play a role here; linkages to markets, inputs etc. There is a need to look at food systems and disasters/shocks through an intersectional lens, as our responses will need to operate at that level. Need to re-focus food summit on people and emphasise collaboration between stakeholders.

### ACTION TRACKS

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	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
✓	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

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✓	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate



## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

### Strand 1 – Economic Impact of Natural Disaster on vulnerable groups

Consumers need to have accessibility not only to food but income to purchase these foods. Increase in imported foods also relates to increase in local expenditure and people are not earning enough during COVID19 to be able to afford.

Crop resilient tolerant and genetic improvement by MOA should also take into consideration that genetic modification shouldn't affect our biodiversity that is reduction in our floras genetic pool since they tend to be more adaptable due to their genetic diversity. Due to COVID19 if these newly introduced crops are not identified, it can establish and affect our crop production and also affect the export pathway that will have a major impact on the economy.

Agricultural mechanisms to also take into consideration traditional knowledge approaches to reduce post-harvest lost.

### Strand 2 – Social Impact of Natural Disaster on vulnerable groups

There is already a lot of food in Fiji since the rural populations grow food, the urban and peri urban areas depend on these rural supplies. Need to address how rural farmers can be supported to get their produce in a timely manner to the populations that can afford them. Intervention required is how to make it affordable without compromising affordability for anyone along the food system chain- from producer to consumer.

Empower communities to reduce the idea on food/other dependency from government subsidies which may hinder exploring traditional practices. How can we support existing social protection systems to decrease these dependencies - perhaps improve our financial literacy at rural settings such as cash transfer strategy and other forms of assistance.

### Strand 3 - Environmental Impact of Natural Disaster on vulnerable groups

Food security vs. system damaged that needs to recover; resilience needs to be built; systems already degraded and then facing shocks.

Tension: people to adapt and understand the changing climate and ways of doing business.

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