

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Thursday, 1 July 2021 12:00 GMT +07:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	CGIAR INDEPENDENT FOOD SYSTEM DIALOGUE UNDERSTANDING FOOD SYSTEMS IN THE CONTEXT OF VIETNAM
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Dr. Stephan Weise, The Alliance of Bioversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/26600/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/26600/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Viet Nam

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

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18	5	19-30	59	31-50	21	51-65	2	66-80	80+
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## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

45	Male	41	Female		Prefer not to say or Other
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## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

30	Agriculture/crops		Education		Health care
3	Fish and aquaculture		Communication	10	Nutrition
5	Livestock	4	Food processing		National or local government
	Agro-forestry	13	Food retail, markets		Utilities
13	Environment and ecology		Food industry		Industrial
	Trade and commerce		Financial Services	9	Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
	Large national business		Member of Parliament
3	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
4	Small-scale farmer	6	Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer		United Nations
	Local Non-Governmental Organization	3	International financial institution
16	International Non-Governmental Organization		Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People		Consumer group
53	Science and academia	2	Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Independent Dialogue on Understanding Food Systems in the Context of Vietnam was successfully organized by CGIAR on July 1, 2021. To follow current COVID-19 regulations, a hybrid event was adopted, combining both in-person and virtual participation. To allow efficient engagement, the committee carefully followed key steps in organizing the dialogue. Part of the preparations involved designing the main sections of the dialogue, i.e., plenary session with official introduction, dialogue session, and summary sessions. Next, the list of participants was made, ensuring inclusivity and diversity. In the event proper, messages from representatives of the government of Vietnam and CGIAR and partners were shared to open the event. Following the pattern of other food system dialogues in Vietnam, a technical presentation was made to provide participants the summary results from the Stage 1 National Dialogue about food systems framework, the Vietnamese food systems, and its main challenges. Parallel group discussions took place for an hour after the plenary session. The consolidated findings from the breakout groups were summarized by each group facilitator and shared to the plenary, and the panel discussion was able to provide reactions to key questions related to the work of CGIAR in Vietnam. Finally, through this format, the CGIAR Independent Dialogue organizing committee closely adhered to the summit principles.

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

The CGIAR Independent Dialogue in Vietnam was attended by 90 participants from various sectors and actors across food systems. The principles of engagement were reflected in the dialogue follows: 1. Act with urgency: Various stakeholders acknowledged that the current food systems in Vietnam is unsustainable and at-risk to shock, stress, and vulnerabilities. Therefore, it was agreed that we must urgently act together to transform the food systems toward more sustainability, responsibility, and transparency. 2. Commit to the summit: CGIAR researchers and participants who attended the Dialogue contributed their knowledge and experience to characterize the state of Vietnam food system and provided creative and practical solutions to address the current problems. 3. Be respectful: During the breakout discussion, participants had the chance to openly share their thoughts and expertise while respecting each other's opinion. The initiatives and solutions proposed build on the existing strategies and are applied to the local context. 4. Recognize complexity: Vietnam food systems are complex and involve in many sectors. In order to achieve systematic transformation, the organizers invited multiple stakeholders and designed the dialogue to accommodate five simultaneous breakout discussions where participants can identify solutions and the type of support needed from CGIAR centers to address food system problems. 5. Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity: The Dialogue brought diverse participants from six food systems-related sectors including governments, donor organizations, agriculture, agri-business community, associations, academia, and multilateral organization, among others. They work across the food system from production to consumption and provided rich inputs during dialogue, largely contributing to the system transformation.

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

From our experience in organizing this dialogue, we found some lessons learned and best practices that can be applied to future dialogues: • Prepare and train the curator and facilitators before the dialogue • Send out the pre-reading materials to the participants to provide information about the event and the Action Tracks. • Strictly follow the agenda, especially during the breakout sessions to ensure that every participant can share his/her opinions. • Welcome both convergence and divergence of opinions from all participants. • Create a trustworthy, friendly, and open atmosphere for discussion.

# 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 CGIAR Independent Dialogue focused on the five main Action Tracks of the UNFSS exploring the current challenges, opportunities, trade-offs, and synergies in Vietnam food systems. The Dialogue was a half day event with about 90 participants. The dialogue's theme was Understanding Food Systems in the Context of Vietnam.

- Action Track 1: Access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Sustainable consumption patterns
- Action Track 3: Sustainable food production
- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- Action Track 5: Resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stress

The event opened with messages from CGIAR representatives, then a short introduction on CGIAR in Vietnam, followed by the summary of the Stage 1 National Dialogue. The participants were divided into five breakout groups according to their preferred Action Track. Each group was assigned an Action Track and was supported by a facilitator and a notetaker. First, the facilitator gave a brief presentation to provide group members a background of the topic and process for the discussion, afterwards participants were invited to share their opinions, guided by four questions:

- What are the current issues of the interested Action Track?
- Which solutions are needed to address those issues?
- What type of support is needed from CGIAR?
- Which stakeholders should CGIAR approach to foster the level of changes?

### 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 CGIAR Independent Dialogue was successfully organized with the participation of diverse stakeholders coming from six food related sectors. The Dialogue created a friendly and trustworthy platform for participants to share their ideas, experiences, and knowledge on specific problems and challenges of Vietnam food systems and to contribute bold ideas and creative solutions and identify types of support needed from CGIAR to address these problems and to catalyze system changes.

The main findings from the dialogue section and panel discussion are described in two parts:

The first part characterized problems, challenges, and gaps that need to be addressed in Vietnam food systems, such as inconsistent policies between national and provincial policies, inefficient and ineffective policy implementation, mislabeling of foods, difficulty to assess healthy and safe foods, unbalanced nutrition, unsustainable supply chain operation, low awareness of people on food safety (including misperception of food safety risks) and nutrition, climate change and environmental pollution due to abuse of chemicals and over-exploitation, and the invisible role of minorities and women in the society, among others.

On the flip side, the participants identified opportunities, solutions, and types of support needed from CGIAR in order to transform Vietnam food systems to be more responsible, sustainable, and transparent. The solutions could be grouped into: (i) using innovations and technologies applied across the entire food system including labelling, traceability, food safety, use of risk based approaches, product quality, and e-commerce, (ii) providing insights in legal framework and policy implementation to support or control sustainable/un-safe production, (iii) funding distribution chains to be effective, and (iv) addressing environmental protection, and gender equality and social inclusion, particularly most vulnerable groups affected by shocks and stress.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

### Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

- Several food policies cannot catch up to food system development.
- Lack in effective implementation of food policies and laws
- Limited access and relatively low consumer trust to safe and nutritious foods
- Food safety is a major issue due to hygiene deficits along the value chains resulting to considerable health risk for consumers (e.g., consumption of pork contaminated with microbial pathogens, abuse of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, veterinary products, food additives, and traditional farming habits).
- High rate of children malnutrition and nutrition deficiency in the mountainous and remote areas

### Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns

- Junk food transition happens due to inadequate post-harvest handling practices and infrastructure, availability, and prices.
- Food labeling is not transparent.
- There is no clear evidence to distinguish between healthy, safe foods, and junk foods.
- There is lack of research and policies on food waste and food loss.

### Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production

- Limited capacity of cooperatives to manage trade and develop agricultural products
- Transition to landscape approach regarding land procession, land use planning, application of new varieties/technologies
- Conflicts between the optimal temporal and spatial scales of synergies from products and diversification when applying the landscape approach due to dominance of small-scale and fragmented production (ecological and adaptation benefits are longer term)
- Donors often give the funding for short-term projects (3 - 4 years) which is not feasible for perennial plantations nor to result to many of the ecosystem benefits (e.g., soil improvement, natural pollination, and even effects on natural disaster prevention).
- Farmers, extension, and local seed/seedling suppliers are unfamiliar with choosing input products and matching production systems for diversification/ecosystem approaches.
- Large-scale production planning is needed.
- Some agricultural policy favor monoculture; resulting to gaps and less opportunities for diversification.
- The provincial policy is not harmonized with the national policies, e.g., there are no offers/support/incentives to implement diversification policy at the local level.

### Action Track 4: Advanced equitable livelihoods

- Many food value chains are not sustainable; the linkages between actors are loose, and the flow of information is not transparent.
- The poor and ethnic minorities are dependent on agriculture and natural resources and vulnerable to climate change. They have limited access to resources (input, capital, land, market).
- Ethnic minorities are still lagging behind on income, accessibility to education, services and nutrition.
- Unfair competition among enterprises due to lack of information transparency.

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

- A common problem for agricultural products in Vietnam: high yields (good harvest season) cause price drops due to limited postharvest and processing technologies.
- Harsh weather conditions, climate change, African swine fever outbreak, and COVID-19 pandemic make farmers unsecure and result in major market shocks.
- Climate change causing more frequent and harsher storms, landslide, soil erosion, drought, saline water intrusion negatively impacts crops, and livestock and producers' livelihood
- Failure of cultivation on monocrops
- Limited ability to adapt to climate change
- Limited involvement of the private sectors

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

A summary of the solutions which need support from CGIAR are identified for each Action Track are as follows:

**Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all**

- Issue a new policy on the right to access safe and nutritious foods to protect producers and consumers
- Issue a legal document on food safety and human health based on four aspects: safety, nutrition, accessibility, and enough quantity
- Research on profit and competitiveness comparison among producers exporting/importing agricultural products
- Introduce specific programs on food waste and food systems for children and the elderly
- Increase consumers' trust on food products

**Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns**

- Promote access to healthy diets, especially to marginalized rural consumers who have low-income—it could be done via policies and communication campaigns in schools and for children and making healthy food more appealing and attractive
- Develop clear targets to understand the nature of consumers, thereby changing/raising their awareness by applying behavior change approaches
- Promote production of fortified good quality foods
- Conduct an in-depth study on drivers and perceptions on junk food consumption, to suggest policies on the issue

**Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production**

- Combine agriculture and tourism so that the producers can ask for better prices for their products and give them motivation to produce safe foods with high quality
- Apply ecosystem approach on small scale productions
- Promote the formation of cooperatives
- Create policies to attract young people and to strengthen farmers' capacity in the cooperatives
- Promote communication, marketing, food processing, and storage/preservation technology
- Promote digital agriculture and economy, organic production, climate-smart production, and agroforestry models
- Promote market-oriented planning and integrating biodiversity conservation for large production areas
- Implement regulation and stabilization of input supplies for production
- Describe different scenarios at landscape levels to integrate products and stakeholders in the value chains
- Involve policy makers and authorities in production planning
- Engage the private sector to maintain farmers' production
- Strengthen public-private partnership

**Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods**

- Move from a crop-based approach to system approach
- Research on different types of systems (wetland, upland) and management to regulate access, ensuring that vulnerable and marginalized people get access to resources
- Work with collective actions for smallholder farmers.
- Research on the characterization of seed systems to understand the access of the poor and the ethnic minorities to farming inputs
- Tailor low-cost interventions to the retail or value chain type, and use of risk-based approaches and risk communication

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

- Establish agroforestry landscapes with fruit trees and integrated with forest rehabilitation in Northwest Vietnam to reduce soil erosion, landslides, and extreme weather condition
- Diversify the cropping system and other agro-ecological system research
- Develop and apply advanced technologies and innovations to cope up with climate change and improve soil health
- There should be better vertical policy integration for diversification to avoid gaps and contradictory national and subnational policies. Policies are opportunities to show long-term intentions towards more integrated landscape approaches and diverse land uses.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Divergent views from participants are as follows:

- Policy conflicts, demarcation of institutional responsibility and program are disconnected or overlapped
- The legal framework is internationally recognized but the food policies issued need to be updated and efficiently and effectively
- Vietnam legal frameworks are internationally updated, however, food policies should be updated and be implemented more effectively and efficiently.
- The consumer perception on health risks on microbial versus chemical food safety risk are different and may not reflect actual risks
- Practice of monoculture and specialized production over diversification
- Practice of nature and biodiversity preservation versus natural resources utilization for agricultural production
- Safe and nature-positive production compromises production yield and quantity
- Balancing short-term production and economic goals of smallholder farmers and SMEs, and the long-term food system sustainability and food security

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