

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 21 July 2021 10:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	ADVANCING SMART, CLIMATE FRIENDLY & SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION: EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE & INDIGENOUS FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION IN BOTSWANA
CONVENED BY	Ms Jessica Mmola, Ms Nomhle Tshisela & Mr Letso Palai
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/26819/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Botswana

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

96

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

1 0-18 39 19-30 33 31-50 21 51-65 2 66-80 0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

51 Male 44 Female 1 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

18	Agriculture/crops	10	Education	5	Health care
	Fish and aquaculture	6	Communication	1	Nutrition
9	Livestock	12	Food processing	5	National or local government
	Agro-forestry	2	Food retail, markets		Utilities
3	Environment and ecology	6	Food industry	2	Industrial
6	Trade and commerce		Financial Services	11	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

33	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	3	Workers and trade union
2	Large national business		Member of Parliament
1	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
8	Small-scale farmer	16	Government and national institution
3	Medium-scale farmer	1	Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer	2	United Nations
3	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
4	International Non-Governmental Organization	3	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
1	Indigenous People	1	Consumer group
6	Science and academia	9	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

We wrote a Concept Note which not only provides details on the topic, but we incorporated the principles of engagement (specifically: being respectful to everyone, acting with urgency, building trust, complementing each other's work to build synergies that strengthen our food systems and embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity). We highlighted in the Concept Note how each invitee should be mindful of the principles as they listen in and contribute to the dialogue in their varying capacities. We also made mention of this in our email invitations. In the start of the Dialogue, our Curator Jessica Mmola highlighted each principle to further reinforce their importance in fulfilling our discussion objectives.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Everyone adhered to the principles by respectfully embracing all opinions and solutions shared in giving them due consideration. By the end of the dialogue, there was a lot of contact sharing for people to effectively form synergies.

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

They will help your dialogue run smoothly as they create an inclusive environment for open conversation and a safe space to explore different ideas, even if they are from different perspectives. The principles encourage healthy debate and healthy dialogue for problem solving and to unite in our plight to strengthen our food systems.

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

The focus was for an exploratory discussion on what place Indigenous and Alternative foods (as in edible insects like Ants, Termites, Crickets, and Mophane Worm) have in Botswana's food system.

The objectives of the conversation were to explore ideas with the potential to make our food system more nutritious, dependable, and lucrative using these foods by bringing forward solutions that are:

- a) Smart (Involving more 'tech' to make processes from farm to fork more efficient to minimize production losses and to make affordable products)
- b) Climate Friendly (Climate-friendly practices from farm to fork)
- c) Sustainable (strong enough to meet the demands of National Food Security)

The dialogue also explored ways in which the addition of technology in agriculture can help expedite the process and minimize losses.

The main questions were:

How will Botswana sustain nutritious and reliable food systems as the pressure to feed growing populations increases?
Can we turn to use foods that occur naturally to augment our cultivated food systems and diversify our diets without undue pressure on the environment?

In our dialogue, we explored this topic from each of the five Action Tracks for wider exploration while exposing links between key players to strengthen the food system. The following questions are what we focused on in each action track:

1. Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

- How can we make indigenous and alternative foods affordable and more accessible to all?
- What are the nutritional benefits of including indigenous food and insects in our diets, especially across tribes [tswii, phane, flying ants]?

2. Shift to sustainable consumption patterns

- How do we control the over-gathering and overconsumption of these foods?
- What government laws, regulations and penalties are in place?

3. Boost nature positive production

- What constraints do food producers such as smallholder farmers and small-scale enterprises face in the food value chain?
- What opportunities can solve their problems (e.g. workshops that teach on drones detecting soil fertility or plant disease outbreak or pests)
- Can we encourage environmental tax penalties to protect and regulate indigenous food harvesting and production as a way to collect tax and regulate natural resource abuse?

4. Advance equitable livelihoods

The goal is to create productive employment and decent work for all people in the food value chain and enable entrepreneurship. Here we want to focus on improving the livelihoods of people in villages and smallholder farmers who usually farm and provide these raw materials. Most especially, we want to focus on youth inclusion. Youth need not view food production at any level in the value chain as a second rate job.

- How can we show young people the huge opportunities in the industry?
- How can we attract them?
- Can we allow their new methods and technology into the existing system?
- How can we increase the value of indigenous foods through processing for export?
- What international trade opportunities since the Africa Free Trade Area can we identify?

5. Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

- How do we protect our food sources so as to not deplete them; what regulations does the government enforce to this effect?
- Are there safe food storage places to stockpile these foods during their off-seasons?

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

a) Strengths and vulnerabilities within food systems

Issue:

Disunity in the food system could slow down processes from farm to fork

Solution:

The Botswana Natural Products Association will help key players be accountable and review processes. More dialogues could bring people together to review the food system and make changes going forward.

b) Stakeholders whose interests should be prioritized.

Issue:

Lack of government price restrictions results in high prices at the harvesting level; affecting manufacturers' pricing model and therefore, costs are pushed onto the customer.

Solution:

The hope is to take this up with the government and create policies and restrictions surrounding the matter. Manufacturers and harvesters can work together to improve the quality and price of the product ultimately

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

Unifying and strengthening local value chains by:

- Creating synergies through dialogues and online expos to close gaps in the value chain between harvesters and manufacturers.
- Registering harvesters, manufacturers, and retailers in the Botswana Natural Products Association database for easy contact access among key players and encourage partnerships.
- Keeping companies that produce local foods accountable by the Botswana Natural Products Association maintaining contact and accountability with them and introducing shared projects.

Increased research in the area of indigenous foods to harness more of their power.

- 'Wild Plants For a Sustainable Future' by Keadire K. Mogotsi, Tiziana Ulian, Cesar Flores, Rafael Lira, Avhatakali Mamatsharaga, Patrick Muthoka, Samodimo Ngwako, Desterio O. Nyamongo, William Omondi, Abdoul K. Sanogo, Sidi Sanogo, and Efsio Mattana is a research book on indigenous foods and their uses that addresses the UN sustainable development Goals to 'end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all'. This is a book that can aid the research needed to explore more of our indigenous foods will create workshops with practical applications for capacity building and knowledge sharing.

Sustainable harvesting policies

- These can be created by National Agriculture & Development Institute and Botswana Community Based Organizations Network and agreed upon endorsed by the government.
- Natural resource and technical committee of rural development council can influence policy and make research easier for sustainable harvesting, semi-processing, and supplying manufacturers with these semi-processed raw materials.

Securing funding for activities

- The Botswana Natural Products Association in conjunction with community building bodies such as rural development council, NGO Council, 'Ntlo ya Dikgosi' (House of Chiefs) and Poverty Eradication to secure funding to set up semi-processing centers in each community to help communities process their yield of harvested indigenous foods to add value to them before selling to manufacturers.
- The Rural Development Council is currently working on indigenous food product prototypes to be commercialized.
- Technology transfer for building processing factories and practical workshops on the commercialization of indigenous products.
- Intentional farming of indigenous foods to curb over-gathering.
- Building consumer demand through marketing campaigns that celebrate alternative and indigenous food.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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KEYWORDS

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
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<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

The constraints food producers such as smallholder farmers and small-scale enterprises face in the food value chain are:

- lack of government support and intense independence on food production
- lack of funding support
- government bureaucracy across African continent
- high input costs leading to low profits
- struggles with exporting products across countries and internationally
- lack of infrastructure
- insufficient political support and youth involvement
- lack of markets and water access
- perception versus approach in which government perceives agriculture has the work of the farmer only and does not get engaged in the actual physicality
- governments have a top-down approach

The opportunities that could solve their problems:

- provision of subsidies to deal with water access to drill boreholes
- make agriculture sector attractive to attract youth with appropriate marketing campaigns
- effective and efficient land use for agriculture
- subsidies for production and maintaining production e.g. covering weeding costs
- building infrastructure such as roads
- use of drones like managing and checking harvesting of honey from hives
- integrating insects as compost
- move towards partnerships
- adopt a more bottom-up approach between authority and farmers
- UN Red in Nigeria to detect disasters such as drought
- governments have a top-down approach, so the solution is to give a more bottom-down approach
- reduce taxes as they only lead to impoverished societies

Contributions our organizations can make:

- advocating for smart technology
- sharing knowledge and empowering each other
- extensive study of what is going on the ground to see what's going on (get real-time data to use for studies)
- government looking at the environment to make it more conducive and safeguard resources

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

What actions in the next 3 years will have the greatest impact on the discussion topic?

- Building resilience: we have 3 main aspects to look into when we talk about resilience. These are challenges, commitment & control.
- Reinforcement of already existing storage.
- Providing different storages for different types of food so that all types of food are catered for.
- Technology: management of farms can now be made accessible and available using our day-to-day gadgets, for example, Barulaganyi App which is designed to help farmers track their livestock.

How will it be possible to tell if these actions are being successful?

- Developing strong policies: the ministry needs to enforce existing policies and develop new ones which are beneficial to the nation at large.
- Engaging the youth in summits that talk about food security and safety.
- Documentation of ideas and opinions of different stakeholders in dialogues.

What are the divergences that are revealed and how to manage them?

- Low/ lack of rainfall: the solution is to resort to underground water sources and the use of new and improved irrigation systems
- Lack of income: the government should lessen funding criteria
- Lack of knowledge: offer training to the youth and adults

Contributions from our organizations:

- Raising awareness about smart farming, climate-friendly crops, and livestock, sustainable farming methods.
- Host more dialogues to get fresh ideas from the youth across the world.
- Share information with relevant stakeholders, to assist with funding and marketing

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Solutions posed were:

- Educate Batswana and find a champion, a leader, and representative
- Alignment of policies to promote synergy
- Protect small producers by price regulations
- Encourage international Franchisers to include indigenous foods in their menus
- Focus on tech in agriculture to involve the youth

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

Solutions posed were:

- Advancing equitable livelihoods from farm to fork
- To make all aspects of producing to consuming in the value chain more lucrative
- The general consensus was that more attention needed to be paid to branding and packaging to attract all consumers. Maungo Craft products were an example of international standard packaging.
- Gaining knowledge positions us internationally; Local Enterprise Authority offers businesses classes that can be marketed more for business development. Continuous education also offers affordable courses at the University of Botswana for business development
- Increased marketing to make indigenous foods more attractive

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

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