

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Wednesday, 30 June 2021 09:00 GMT +08:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	National Dialogue on Food Loss and Waste
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Hon. William D. Dar, Ph.D.
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/27041/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/27041/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	No borders

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

75

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

15

19-30

35

31-50

25

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

24 Male

50 Female

1 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

24 Agriculture/crops

1 Fish and aquaculture

1 Livestock

Agro-forestry

1 Environment and ecology

1 Trade and commerce

9 Education

Communication

3 Food processing

Food retail, markets

1 Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

3 Nutrition

24 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

5 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

1 Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

1 Large-scale farmer

4 Local Non-Governmental Organization

3 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

16 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

43 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

3 United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

4 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The secretariat thoroughly read the document Reference Manual for Convenors of Food Systems Summit Dialogues to ensure that the Principles of Engagement are taken into account during the whole process. Stakeholders from the government (both national and local level), non-government organizations, private industry, international organization, and academe were invited to ensure multi-stakeholder inclusivity, and to cover the complexity of the food systems elements affecting food loss and waste. Discussion topics were prudently laid down to showcase the urgency of the issue, and to capture participants' commitments. After the presentation of discussion topics, an open forum was held to encourage complementation of work, networking, and building of trust among the participating stakeholders.

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

The National Dialogue on Food Loss and Waste reflected all the Principles of Engagement. During the conduct of the open forum, through a participatory approach, the stakeholders recognized the need to act with urgency, and provided various commitments in addressing the problem of food loss and waste in the Philippines. The promotion of food production and consumption policies and practices that strive to protect and improve well-being of individuals, communities, and the environment was reflected in the discussion topics of the resource speakers. The Dialogue's moderator acknowledged the complexity of the issue on food loss and waste, and conveyed it to the participants. Each stakeholder group was given an opportunity to share individual initiatives and approaches on how to collaborate with other groups moving forward in tackling food loss and waste in the country. Towards the end of the Dialogue, the moderator encouraged all participants to network and build trust among themselves.

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

The Dialogue Convenors must keep an open mind, be neutral, and be rational to appreciate the Principles of Engagement. The Convenors must realize that it is necessary to involve stakeholders from multiple groups operating in food systems, and that all participants have the right to speak. Fundamentally, the Principles of Engagement will guide the Dialogue Convenors to create opportunities for the widespread engagement of various stakeholders in food systems.

# 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 Dialogue focused on the Food Systems Summit Action Track #2 Shift to Sustainable Consumption Patterns specifically on the matter of food loss and waste. The concepts of food loss and waste based on the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) definition were conveyed to the participants. Food loss is the decrease in the quantity or quality of food resulting from decisions and actions by food suppliers in the chain, excluding retailers, food service and consumers. On the other hand, food waste refers to the decrease in the quantity or quality of food resulting from decisions and actions by retailers, food service providers and consumers.

Overview of the extent of food loss and waste at the national level were presented. In the Philippines, substantial post-harvest losses of up to 50% were from initial harvesting, grading, packaging and transportation from field to storage and distribution. In terms of food waste, an estimate of 2,175 tons of food are wasted daily in Metro Manila. It was emphasized in the Dialogue that food loss and waste is an economic waste— every time food is wasted, all the money, packaging, manpower, and water are wasted too, all along the supply chain. There are three ways to address food loss and waste. These include prevention, donation, and composting. The Philippines has the Food Donation Act of 2009 through which the food surplus can be donated such as the community pantries. It was emphasized that a nation feeds its people, soils, and its animals.

Commercialized technologies for reducing post-harvest loss developed by the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization were presented. The available commercialized technologies are low-cost, and are applicable to commodities such as cassava, rice, corn, soybean, cashew, and coffee. In addition, the effectiveness of post-harvest facilities particularly for rice production was also discussed.

In 2008, the wasted rice in the Philippines was equivalent to 12.2% of the total rice imports which is equivalent to Php 7.27 billion or the consumption of nearly 2.5 million Filipinos in a year. One of the strategies applied to address rice wastage is thru information and awareness-raising campaigns. The result of this campaign was discussed by the Philippine Rice Research Institute.

The initiatives in the Legislative Branch in addressing the issue of food loss and waste, specifically the Senate Bill No. 1242 An Act Providing for a System of Redistributing and Recycling Food Waste to Promote Food Security, was also reported in the Dialogue.

Hunger is a social issue. Hunger can be addressed by sustainable consumption. Addressing food loss and waste can contribute to the alleviation of hunger.

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

## MAIN FINDINGS

In the National Dialogue on Food Loss and Waste, the active participation of all stakeholders coming from the private sector, non-government organizations, international agencies, academe, and the government was highly appreciated. This aspect is significant in understanding and addressing the issue using a multisectoral approach. Each stakeholder group is eager to forge partnerships among themselves for the creation of programs that will address the issue of food loss and waste. The national government can facilitate the institutionalization of the intended partnerships among the stakeholder groups. All of the participants recognized the importance of their institutions, and the effectiveness of collaboration for the various initiatives that were discussed.

The majority of the participants across all stakeholder groups expressed their current initiatives and future commitments in addressing the issue at hand. There must be a continuing discourse on these initiatives and commitments to really operationalize them in a participatory and collaborative manner for all stakeholder groups. The ideal future scenario is that there are collaborative programs being implemented by various groups of stakeholders which are institutionalized through formal agreements. Relevant to this, it was noted during the Dialogue that the Philippine House of Representatives has already approved the Substitute Bill for House Bills (HB) 2031, 2186, 2189, 3342, 3370, 3849, 3973, 4450, 4465, 4524, 4616, 4903, 5467, 5974, 6468, 6474 and 7709, and has transmitted to the Senate as HB 7956 or the Food Surplus Reduction Act.

There is a proposed consensus in the Dialogue to reinforce data relevant to food loss and waste. With this, the data collection and database establishment shall be identified as the top priority activity. The data that will be collected and analyzed will be the prerequisite for all the policies and programs that will be developed intended for tackling the issue of food loss and waste in the country.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The discussion topic of the Dialogue mainly focused on the issue of food loss and waste. Participants from the various stakeholder groups provided a great number of ideas during the discussions. Among the significant ideas include coming up with an economic definition of food loss and waste, establishing data, integrating the concept of food safety to the Zero Waste Act, extending advocacies, value-adding of commodities, improving postharvest handling, and developing metrics on food loss and waste.

There is a basic definition of food loss and waste that is provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization. According to the participants, it can be further supplemented with an economic definition of food loss and waste. This will resolve the dilemma on whether it will be more economical just to throw foods or there will be an economic benefit in redistributing foods. This will be highly applicable to the Zero Food Waste Act, and other initiatives involving food banks.

Lack of data on food loss and waste is a major concern for all the stakeholders. Data collection on postharvest loss and food waste are very patchy and inadequate. The Philippine Statistics Authority can be requested to be involved in this initiative to include in their activities the data collection specific for food loss and waste. Subsequently, the stakeholders across the value chain must help identify the variables that must be gathered.

One of the main components of the Zero Food Waste Act is the redistribution of edible food waste to the food insecure. This is a great initiative that must also consider the principles of food safety. The technical experts from the academe will be keen on working with the legislators to ensure that food safety will be incorporated in the draft bill.

The RICEponsible campaign was an effective advocacy for reducing food loss and waste in the rice commodity. This program can serve as a blueprint to extend the advocacy to other commodities such as vegetables, fruits, livestock, and fish. Consumers shall also be educated to purchase food without having a bias on its physical quality/appearance. The government may lead this initiative in collaboration with other stakeholder groups.

Value-adding of commodities is one of the strategies to extend the shelf life of commodities and increase their economic value. Making use of available technologies to value-add specific commodities will result in reduced food loss and waste. The academe in partnership with the private sector can lead this. The concept of a community-based food processing facility shall be further explored and amplified.

Postharvest handling to reduce food loss and waste shall rely on postharvest technologies, storage facilities, and improved packaging to lessen food loss and waste. The government, private sector, and international organizations have expertise and resources to complement the proposed initiatives under this subject.

Developing context-specific metrics in measuring how the Philippines is progressing towards the reduction of food loss and waste is also an important proceeding. The tool that will be developed must be useful to the policymakers, and program implementers.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Food loss and waste is an issue that everyone wanted to solve. Thus, in the conduct of the National Dialogue on Food Loss and Waste, there is no area of divergence. The participants are respectful of each other's views, and the discussions were purely rational.

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