

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 17 June 2021 13:30 GMT +08:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Consultation Forum on the Demographic Aspect of the Food System
CONVENED BY	Hon. Secretary William D. Dar
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/27043/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Philippines

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

81

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

28 Male

53 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

1 Agriculture/crops
Fish and aquaculture

2 Livestock
Agro-forestry
Environment and ecology
Trade and commerce

Education
Communication
Food processing
Food retail, markets
Food industry
Financial Services

3 Health care
Nutrition

21 National or local government
Utilities
Industrial

54 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

3 Small/medium enterprise/artisan
Large national business
Multi-national corporation
Small-scale farmer
Medium-scale farmer

3 Large-scale farmer
Local Non-Governmental Organization
International Non-Governmental Organization
Indigenous People

1 Science and academia

Workers and trade union
Member of Parliament

17 Local authority

57 Government and national institution
Regional economic community
United Nations
International financial institution
Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
Consumer group
Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Philippines Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM) discussed through an online meeting the initiative to collaborate and generate significant actions and measurable progress towards the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and provide inputs to the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS). Both agencies agreed on how to be able to invite key stakeholders and bring out tangible and positive changes to the country's food systems. The Consultation Forum took on the population trends, including population growth, as it affects the many aspects of the food systems. The participants from the agricultural and population program side were invited to represent the group that could possibly provide inputs during the forum. The growing population of the country has been connected with the topic of food security and the need to take actions and pursue a more vigorous population program for the sustainability of the food security in the country.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The Consultation as mentioned will provide preparations and inputs to the National Food Systems Dialogue as well as to the UNFSS. The forum highlighted the demographic dimensions of the food systems and the linkage to create a sustainable and equitable food security. The interrelationship between population, food security and sustainable development involve more than a mere sufficiency of nutrients for a growing population (UN-Department of Economic and Social Affairs). The implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action will also contribute to food security as well as improved nutrition. Efforts to increase education, prevent child marriage, reduce adolescent pregnancy, improve nutrition and access to family planning can help reduce risks to women's and children's health. Various population program interventions and strategies are being adopted to include responsible parenthood and family planning, adolescent health development and population and development integration at the national and sub-national levels. In this context, the key players to include the population sector, healthcare, academia, farmers and other stakeholders need to act accordingly to achieve the objectives of the forum.

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

As Convenors, they should ensure that the food systems dialogue can provide a venue to engage and enable different stakeholders put some actions on the discussion that were not appreciated by other groups. Interactive discussion is a way of gathering different perspectives and dealing with issues and concerns affecting the main topic. Along this line, understanding the demographic aspect of the food systems may clear the issue on the sustainability of the food systems in the country. The engagement of these different groups including farmer groups is necessary to contribute towards the attainment of the objectives of this forum. Through alignment of the methods of engagement and interactive participation with different stakeholders, a more exhaustive discussion that would encourage them to share different perspectives could generate ideas and networks within them. Thus, engagements with different stakeholders including farmer groups and civil society organizations will contribute to the social and economic aspects of the country's food security as well as long-term transformation of 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 main discussion of the forum focused on the demographic dimensions as it affects the food system of the country. Based on the ICPD Principle 2 that “Human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development...They have the right to an adequate standards of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing, housing, water and sanitation.” It was further stressed under Section 3.20 that “Measures should be taken to strengthen food, nutrition and agricultural policies and programmes, and fair trade relations, with special attention to the creation and strengthening of food security at all levels”.

Population determines the level of demand and also affects the core processes of food systems: as producers, processors, distributors and consumers. The discussant also presented data on the current population, population growth and changing age structure, fertility and mortality which undeniably affect the food production of the country. Food insecurity among Filipinos has significantly increased from 53.9% in 2018 to 64.1% in 2019 (based on 2019 Expanded National Nutrition Survey). As emphasized, food insecurity was higher in the rural areas, poor households, households with heads with lower educational attainment, without financial assistance from abroad and those that are engaged in agriculture.

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 need for a sustained program to help increase food security may be achieved through the collaboration of both the government and the private sector. The joint effort may ensure continued outcome and progress in the food system of the country. Another response would be on the productivity support and incentives that should be provided to the farmers as they are the main drivers for food security.

In addition, the population growth based on the projection of the Philippine Statistical Authority by 2025 will be down to 1.04% if the trend in 2019 continues. This would mean that there will also be a possibility of achieving an equitable food system in the country.

Further, the improving literacy and education among the populace especially the youth in order to address the problem of teenage pregnancy, among others, need to be addressed as part of the needed action and program of the country's Department of Education (DepEd). The idea is to come up with programs and policies which could help in resolving the premarital pregnancy and the well-being of young mothers and their children.

Spatial planning for more food production, on the other hand, is also important as part of the Department of Agriculture's program intervention. Exploring spatial plans to help in the advancement of food security through mixed land use that could result in accessibility and quality of the food systems.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

One of the highlights of the presentation and discussion is on key population-related issues affecting food systems in the Philippines, including:

- Increasing population would also result in increasing demand for food;
- Changing age structure (e.g. increasing proportion of those in the working age) impacts on the level and types of food needed by the population;
- Continuing influx of population to urban areas affects human resource for food production while it increases demand and consequently the prices;
- Large family size affects per capita investment for the health and welfare needs including food for the members; and
- Poor households, many of them with large family size, have inadequate access to nutritious food.

Some of the policy recommendations put forward and agreed include:

- Improve institutional mechanisms for more integrative programs (e.g. integration of population management strategies in food security and anti-hunger mitigation programs);
- Strengthen the population and development integration policy and program (i.e. comprehensively address concerns on population distribution due to unmanaged internal migration and optimizing changing age structure – demographic dividend);
- Reduce regional imbalance in economic opportunities by expanding economic opportunities in other regions outside NCR, Central Luzon and CALABARZON;
- Enhance the linkages within the core system of food systems (production, aggregation, processing, distribution and consumption) and their support service providers, as well as the interactions between the core system and social and natural contexts they are embedded in, affected by and have impacts on; and
- Enhance governance mechanisms among diverse stakeholders of the food systems.

ACTION TRACKS

- | | |
|---|--|
| ✓ | Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all |
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KEYWORDS

- | | | | |
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| | | ✓ | Environment and Climate |

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Although there is divergence among the concerns and perspectives of the stakeholders, the discussion was towards a common goal. The role of government, specifically at the local level, should be ensured and supported to come up with the sustainability of the food systems.

Agricultural areas should be protected through land use planning. Although there is divergence in this area, adequate tools/processes to maintain sustainable agriculture should be maintained and protected for sustainability and good food to be provided to the population.

The issue on the rapid increase of population also matters. Addressing the needs of families, including access to family planning to help slow the rapid population growth, improves their health and enhances their food security.

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