

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 29 January 2021 14:00 GMT +00:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Event #1 - UNFSS Champion Network Panel Series: "Addressing Power Imbalances Through Shared Power and Inclusivity"
CONVENED BY	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food Tank, and Global Alliance for the Future of Food, and in partnership with the UN Food System Summit (UNFSS) Champions Network
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/27333/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	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

999

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

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?

Dialogues were organized to incorporate, reinforce and enhance the principles by always including a diverse group of stakeholders, to ensure that multiple perspectives were acknowledged and able to communicate with one another. These dialogues also recognized the importance of collaboration between stakeholders, encouraging a complementary approach, which fostered new connections.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

This dialogue facilitated respectful discussions between members of multiple stakeholder groups. The diversity of stakeholders was embraced, and various topics including Indigenous knowledge, cultural insights and science-based evidence were able to be explored as a result. Various speakers were able to voice their opinions about policy design options. These dialogues also recognized the complexity of food systems, by acknowledging that humans, animals, land, water, climate and the ecology and economic systems are all interconnected and fundamental to creating resilient, equitable food systems.

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

Designing sessions on the principles of diversity and inclusion from the outset helped to create dialogues that provided an opportunity for different stakeholders to connect across issue and sector silos, share perspectives and elevate areas of convergence and divergence.

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

Speakers in the live dialogues were enthusiastic and curious to connect with one another from their respective locations and subject matter areas. Aided by the facilitators, connections were made throughout the conversation in order to point to areas of convergence, while it was acknowledged that tensions would always exist and require further dialogue and engagement to further unpack the issues and perspectives at play.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Co-organized by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food Tank, and Global Alliance for the Future of Food, and in partnership with the UN Food System Summit (UNFSS) Champions Network, presented seven-panel discussions (running one event each month from January to June 2021) focusing on how to transform the world's food systems. Each virtual series explored one of the Global Alliance's seven Calls to Action and brought together more than 25+ UNFSS Champion speakers worldwide, including world-renowned activists, journalists, business leaders, farmers, policy and technical experts, and many others. Each conversation will help set the stage and identify critical pathways to create a better future of food and strengthen our global food systems for the upcoming UNFSS in September 2021.

This first event highlighted the Global Alliance's call to action: Ensuring integrated, participatory, rights-based approaches to governance and policy-making at all levels to address the structural inequities and power imbalances in food systems. The panel brought together an international array of food systems leaders to issue calls for action on global food systems, elevate public discourse about reforming our food systems, and develop principles to guide stakeholders in leveraging food systems to support the SDGs.

During opening remarks, Ruth Richardson, Chair of UN FSS Champions Network and Executive Director of Global Alliance for the Future of Food, underlined UN FSS Champions Network's importance and its contributions to the UNFSS processes leading up to the Summit in September 2021. She stressed the network aims to co-create solutions, act as a sounding board for recommendations, and, lastly, engage in dialogue within their networks to ensure needs are met. Setting the stage for the discussion was indigenous youth leader Jessica Vega Ortega, who stressed the necessity for inclusion of indigenous peoples, women's, and youths' knowledge and perspectives in the UN FSS dialogue processes. She identified significant barriers these groups face when participating in the dialogues, such as lack of technology, language barriers, and access to the internet.

Co-moderator Dani Nierenberg, President of Food Tank, and panelists agreed to this and stressed during the event these are common challenges across the globe and the need for better processes and mechanisms to include these groups more effectively. Christine Ciccone stated that for the UN FSS to be successful, it must engage more people in the dialogues, especially smallholder farmers, and receive feedback as solutions emerge in the dialogue processes. Christine also highlighted IFAD's mandate and work with rural people and their communities, and as the UN agency for the UN FSS Action Track 4, along with CARE and other stakeholders.

Michelle Nunn, President and CEO of CARE US, emphasized the role of women and gender equality in transforming food systems. She emphasized the need for providing tools to allow people to hold their governments accountable. Ajay Vir Jakhar, Farmers' Forum India, insisted that farmers need an agency in agricultural policymaking and need to reorganize the food value chain. He stressed that changes in power relations and equality start from the top down and are represented in high-level decision processes. Mamadou Goita, Institute for Research and Promotion of Alternatives in Development (IRPAD), stressed the need for creating more spaces for multi-stakeholder dialogues, especially where farmers and IPs have a seat at the table. Many panelists concluded by sharing various success stories that offer hope for the future of our food system. Yet, all panelists underlined the intersectional issues regarding food; therefore, to solve the food problem, we must look beyond food. Their conversation addressed transformational changes needed within the food system in order to challenge deeply rooted power structures.

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	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
	Human rights	✓	Governance
✓	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

The main finding of this discussion focus on the first call to action: ensure participatory, integrated, rights-based approaches to governance at all levels in order to address the structural inequities in food systems. Build processes and policy platforms on principles of transparency, inclusive participation, and shared power. This will ensure policies are driven not only by evidence, but also ethics and public interest. This call to action is the overarching umbrella of the other 6 call to actions in this series. A sustainable and equitable food system cannot be achieved without this call to action. This call to action found that there is a need to create a narrative that is inclusive and allows for participation, especially of farmers, women, and indigenous peoples. There are high levels of expertise in these dialogues, but all people should feel empowered to contribute, we are all "experts" when it comes to food.

Amongst the speakers there was agreement that there is a need for more spaces for dialogues between all stakeholders, (research institutions, private sector, agricultural companies, CSO's, states, etc.) Farmers should be recognized as key stakeholders as they produce 70% of the world's food. We cannot make any progress without their engagement. There is also a need for greater access to technology, access to internet, and language, which are currently the main barriers to inclusion. We need a way to ensure that a multitude of people with varying perspectives are able to have their voices and knowledge heard. Another crucial finding is the importance of political power, which is the first step to addressing power imbalances. Equality starts with who is included at the very top.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

- Below are ten key discussion outcomes from this panel discussion:
- 1. It is essential for IP, youth, and women to have full and effective participation in the FSS processes, as they have a different but important lens to the food movement.
 - 2. Major barriers to participation: technology, internet, and language. IP will need continuous consultations for technical support in order to be included throughout this process. Need to develop better mechanisms to transmit indigenous voices and knowledge.
 - 3. For IFAD, it is critical that the voices of rural poor smallholders are heard throughout this process leading up to the FSS and in the summit itself.
 - 4. Throughout the FSS process, we need to continuously engage more people. As further specific solutions emerge, it is necessary to share those solutions, get feedback, and adjust accordingly. This will help ensure the success of the people who need it the most.
 - 5. Action Track 4 is really focused on livelihoods in the food system. A rights-based approach is at the center to addressing power imbalances in the food system.
 - 6. Good governance is critical. Smallholder farmers should be at the center of all conversations. They need tools to give their voices agency and to hold governments accountable (like CARE's "Score Card" tool).
 - 7. It is important to identify and speak about the problems in a language that common people can perceive and grasp - Power imbalances are usually brushed aside in a well articulated Call to Action. Farmers need to be included throughout the process - not just the outputs.
 - 8. The food value chain system needs to be reorganized. 60-70% of the market is controlled by agriculture input companies, brand companies, and online retail/ecommerce companies, etc. This is a power imbalance.
 - 9. Another issue is with defining success and reworking the matrix for measurement. Measurement is focused on increasing productivity, but what about losses of biodiversity due to monoculture - how do we measure that?
 - 10. We need participatory and progressive research mechanisms that are more aligned with farmers' needs. Adaptive farming systems, that are also according to local practices.

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KEYWORDS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ✓ Finance | ✓ Policy |
| ✓ Innovation | Data & Evidence |
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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

In this discussion the panelists seemed to hold supporting views and there weren't any clear areas of divergence.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **UN FSS Panel Series Summary**
<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:d23b196f-b343-497e-9134-d2b73ca2b1c9#pageNum=1>
- **25+ Members of the UN Food Systems Champions Network**
<https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/event/25-members-of-the-un-food-systems-champions-network>