

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 25 February 2021 14:00 GMT +00:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Event #2 - UNFSS Champion Network Panel Series: "Public Research for the Public Good"
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/27369/
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 second event in the series highlighted the Global Alliance's call to action, Increase public research for the public good supporting ambitious, trans-disciplinary, inclusive, and systems-based approaches with an emphasis on the indivisible ecological, health, social, and economic goals. 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. Speakers included three UN FSS Champions Network members, who explored the integral role of research to transform food systems to be renewable, healthy, inclusive, interconnected, and equitable.

Dr. Kanayo Nwanze, CGIAR Special Representative to the Food Systems Summit and immediate former president of IFAD, highlighted the influence of the CGIAR - IFAD partnership, which has allowed research and innovation to target the most vulnerable rural communities. He stated that research results will not be relevant without the participation of smallholder farmers and local solutions. Dr. Kanayo Nwanze further emphasized that end-to-end networks spanning from governments to CSOs to farmers will be critical in transforming the food system. João Bosco Monte, President of Brazil Africa Institute and General Coordinator of the Brazil Africa Forum, discussed the need for "real" research that understands people's priorities and generates results that can be put into practice, rather than simply put in a book. He stressed the importance of investment in detailed and pragmatic research that can work to change lives. Claudia Martinez Zuleta, Co-chair of country programs of the Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU) and E3, underlined the role of citizen knowledge and science. She stressed the need for better education and allocational systems that allow youth and citizens to develop their research and create solutions within their communities.

The discussion concluded with the panelists highlighting the issues of communication and dissemination of research. These barriers must be overcome to allow research to have more impact on the ground. Finally, all panelists agreed that the 5 Action Tracks of the UN FSS serve as a compass for discovering game-changing solutions, and this is where researchers need to focus.

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

Panelists believe that research must engage women, youth, Indigenous groups, and other communities that are most impacted by the food system in order for transformation to be possible.

Findings must be communicated in accessible ways and research must be precise and pragmatic to effect real change.

There is a lot of knowledge being held in different jurisdictions and communities. It is important to increase connections between top-down and bottom-up approaches - between universities/research bodies, governments, and communities to allow for the proper transfer of knowledge and learning from one another.

There needs to be collaboration between researchers and other stakeholders and increased funding to allow the research results to be implemented on the ground.

Creating strategic alliances and networks will be critical to bridge the gap between different actors and research bodies involved in food systems, and connecting producers to consumers. This is necessary for better integration of research and food systems transformation.

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KEYWORDS

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The greatest challenge in research today is integration. It is important to bring together different perspectives, methodologies, and issues while focusing on the needs of the people who are at the core of the research. A systems approach when researching food systems is necessary. This means there must be more emphasis on increasing participatory research with youth, smallholder farmers, and Indigenous communities. Rural communities are the most vulnerable to today's challenges including climate change, hunger and the pandemic. Not only should these groups be the focus of research, they also must be involved in identifying research priorities and implementing results.

Panelists believe that an urgent change needed is the dismantling of silos. For example, researchers are doing important work around agriculture, diet, and climate change, but not enough of this research takes a systems based approach. This integration will be essential.

New, innovative technologies and research can be used to reach a wider audience and to help communicate research effectively. Most research is conducted in English and this limits dissemination.

Two-way communication between researchers and communities is necessary to ensure the research provides practical solutions.

National and independent regional dialogues will be key to supporting dialogues between partners in various countries, to identify knowledge gaps across various topics (such as gender equality in food systems).

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KEYWORDS

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		✓	Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The panelists agree that education and communication have a large role to play in ensuring that research is accessible and pragmatic.

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KEYWORDS

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Finance | Policy |
| Innovation | Data & Evidence |
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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>