

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 30 June 2021 10:00 GMT -04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Using Data for Food Systems Transformation
CONVENED BY	Alliance for Climate and Food Systems Research, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), University of Pretoria
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/27551/
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

65

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?

We co-hosted this Dialogue with several multi-stakeholder partner organizations who are acting with urgency in response to the critical challenges facing our food systems. The Alliance for Climate and Food Systems Transformation, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, and the University of Pretoria represent stakeholders from all over the world, and we showcased the urgency of action and a commitment to the Summit with our partners and panelists. We also conducted the Dialogue with a strong eye towards respect and trust-building among attendees: the framing was that we are here to bring our disparate skills together to discuss and solve thorny problems.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

This independent dialogue focused on the complexity of food systems by reinforcing their interdependent, systems-level nature. The focus of the dialogue was on how to build better systems-level data infrastructure to support food systems transformation, which by nature enforces the complexity of the system. The dialogue also incorporated multi-stakeholder inclusivity by inviting participants from all sectors of the food system and many types of stakeholders: researchers, practitioners, private sector representatives, producers, and beyond.

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

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 of this dialogue was broad: using data for food systems transformation. Key areas of focus included:

- Existing opportunities and challenges associated with large-scale datasets
- Prioritizing the primary data users and primary data collectors so datasets work for them (i.e., how can we center farmers' needs, as primary data collectors?)
- Developing systems-level data sharing and data sets for systems-level change

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

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> | Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Innovation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Data & Evidence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Human rights | <input 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

- Data collection needs to work for farmers. That might mean thinking of data as “data interaction” rather than collection – it’s a two-way process, and producers are at the front lines. Data collection and interaction methods need to develop basic levels of trust, especially because farmers are the decision-makers at the field level.
- Data architecture and infrastructure is a recurring and critical problem in the food systems space. We need improved coordination across scales and methodology. One specific threat is proprietary data at the company or producer level, despite the critical need to share data in a way that helps others. How can we develop models of social organization that make data-sharing more feasible? In addition, cross-use datasets, data storage, and data sharing across organizations, government agencies, and other users continues to be a critical challenge. Even in emergency situations like drought or famine, agencies struggle to effectively cooperate and data-share to effectively deploy response and aid.
- We need to develop better adaptive management for data and evidence systems. Right now, most data systems are reactive rather than proactive in that they follow a pre-set model for collection and analysis. We need adaptive management of our data and evidence systems to ensure that they are responsive to the changing needs of the food system and ongoing food systems transformation.
- To build effective data systems, we need to understand the end user. Who is data trying to influence? For example, there is limited appetite for consumers to drive change, but companies could drive change in the supply chain to have a larger impact on consumer choice. To translate data into effective decision-making, we need to understand who the decision-makers are, and what types of outputs they will listen to.
- We need more refined metrics and data for measuring food transitions. There are extensive metrics and datasets focused on production, but there are less clear for the consumption side of the system. We need to discuss and refine the role of corporations in driving corporate transitions, food labelling systems, and purchasing patterns to better understand what drives consumer choice. There are a lot of data gaps in this field still. We also need further work on aligning data across scales and being able to integrate datasets and develop datasets that allow us to see a systems perspective.

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KEYWORDS

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

ACTION TRACKS

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