

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Wednesday, 23 June 2021 16:00 GMT +08:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Sustainable Food Systems driven by Agroecology and Organic Production Systems Independent Dialogues for the Food Systems Summit
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Asian Farmers Association (AFA), Pacific Island Farmers Organizations Network (PIFON), World Farmers Organization (WFO)
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/27697/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/27697/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam

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

210

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

20

19-30

90

31-50

65

51-65

10

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

140 Male

69 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

159 Agriculture/crops

10 Fish and aquaculture

25 Livestock

21 Agro-forestry

90 Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

15 Education

10 Communication

50 Food processing

21 Food retail, markets

Food industry

10 Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

21 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

50 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

103 Small-scale farmer

10 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

65 Local Non-Governmental Organization

10 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

20 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

15 Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

2 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 dialogue was organized by the Inter-continental Network of Organic Farmers Organization, a global network of organic farmers organization within the IFOAM - Organics International in partnership with Asian Farmers Association (AFA), Pacific Islands Farmers Organization Network (PIFON) and World Farmers Organization (WFO). The participants of the dialogue are farmer members, NGO partners, representatives from the Local Government Units and from the value and supply chain groups coming from South East Asia (Philippines, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam), South Asia (India, Sri Lanka, Nepal) and the Pacific (Fiji, ). Five presenter shared the proposed solutions on how the UNFSS can enhance, scale up and scale out agroecology and organic agriculture starting with seeds, traditional food, agroforestry to marketing. The dialogue was also coordinated with the INOFO country conveners and is open to the local stakeholders so that they will be able to share and discuss their perspective and important role in crafting recommendations for the UNFSS. The diversity of participants who joined the discussion is a reflection of the interests of the different sectors as organic agriculture and agroecology gain popularity as solution to the worsening impacts of the current food systems to the environment, farmers health and productivity. However, the dialogue did not only focused on environmental and economic dimension of agroecology and organic agriculture but also delved in culture, society, justice, equity covering the socio-cultural and political aspects to attain sustainable food systems. Each participant has the opportunity to share their recommendations during the regional break out session, giving enough time for each to speak their minds and are ensured that their points will be included in the report. There was no unfriendly debate, only sharing of perspectives and point of views while facilitators ensured that sharing are not going far from the objectives of the dialogue.

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

Act with Urgency and recognition of complexity - The participants discussed the importance of acting on SDG #1,2,3,10,11,12,13,14,15,16 and 17 as participants are mainly from the agriculture sector, particularly small scale farmers in the developing South, and are directly involve in the whole food value and supply chain. They are those who have first hand experiences in the challenges of the current food systems, specially with the pandemic which worsens the impacts of climate change and its effects and corporate takeover of the whole food system. Commit to the summit - as the viable solution to the problems of the current food systems, participants actively engaged and propose appropriate solutions to the realities of the majority of the farmers globally. The current food system has done a great damage to the small farmers, to the local ecosystem and the environment as a whole; with this, organic farmers efforts in conservation of biodiversity, local knowledge and traditions and methodologies that revolve around the needs and realities of the communities. Respect and embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity - Respect is the working principle in the conduct of the entire summit. The participants who came from different sectors, each were given the chance to speak their minds and their contributions, there were no unfriendly debate, only passionate discussion and proposal of solutions. Most of the contributions are complementary and differences in ideas were welcomed since the participants are coming from different realities, perspectives and priorities. Complement the work of others - the need for stronger cooperation and complementation are reflected in the recommendations of each speakers and the participants, specially with the government and private sector, in terms of policies, programs and projects. Production and marketing will be enhanced if there are working mechanisms and enabling environment to support to the producers and other stakeholders in the value and supply chain.

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

The principles of engagement should be read, understood well and kept in mind during the conduct of the dialogue, from the development of topics, assigning speakers and asking the right questions during open forums. These are helpful in crafting questions and developing guides in the presentation and overall structure of the dialogue. The principles will also help conveners to avoid biases in the conduct of the dialogue and practice inclusivity so that participants will be more active and will not show any reservation in speaking.

# 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

The dialogue Sustainable Food Systems driven by Agroecology and Organic Production Systems followed the method as recommended in the reference Manual , but was added with a series of presentation from invited speakers from different organizations with highly successful implementation of actions, programs and projects which were seen as important basis in the crafting of solutions for the UNFSS. The flow of program is as follows: I. Opening remarks/rationale II. Issues and Challenges Facing Organic Farmers and the need for agroecology III. Presentation of speakers (10 minutes each) - 5 topics aligned to the 5 tracks of the UNFSS □Seed, knowledge and traditional utilization and conservation □Agroecology in Agroforestry □Preservation of traditional food systems, including knowledge, traditions and local People's Rights, Sri Lanka □Strategy for Small Farmer's Autonomy and Sustainability During Pandemic: Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) □Organic quality and supply chain development IV. Plenary session (40 minutes) - discussion and recommendations were compiled, including that from the speakers V. Response and closing remarks The presentations helped in the break out session by becoming the baseline information and points for discussion. However, the facilitators ensured that the participants in each break out group will not be repeating the same points already discusses by the presenters so there were three (3) guide questions to be asked that were previously agreed upon by the dialogue organizers to be asked, they are: A. Aside from what has been presented, what are other initiatives, innovative solutions to the barriers and challenges would you recommend to the UNFSS? B. Are there specific strategies or innovations that have successfully addressed the challenges or barriers of women and young fishers? C. Please enumerate ways for scaling out and scaling up implementation of the solutions, initiatives presented (e.g. make agroecology the new normal; provide funding for transitioning farmers, policy intervention, program development, investments, intervention from the financial institutions) With these questions, the break out group where participants from sub-regions of South Asia, South East Asia, South East Asia (Mekong Region) and the Pacific were able to have an in-depth discussion of the dialogue topic and answer the questions in their respective break out session groups. After the break out session, the results were shared in the plenary session where other participants were also able to hear and understand the different context and perspectives of other nation in the practice and implementation of agroecology and organic production system. Each break out session group was facilitated by the partner organizations representatives of the week-long dialogue namely AFA, INOFO and PIFON. In the end, the point of divergence and convergence were clearly identified. The points of divergence are mostly about the priorities of each organization in the operation of their programs, however, the point of convergence were clearly about the issues that farmers are experiencing in Asia, from land rights issues, priorities in policies and programs of the government, climate change, biodiversity collapse in diverse rich countries of Asia and farmers rights as a whole. The participants were also able to hear from the agroecology team of FAO where he shared the programs and what FAO has been doing in terms of tools and approaches under the Scaling Up Agroecology Initiatives.

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

INOFO is a network that facilitates relationship between organic farmers unions through the autonomous, self-organized infrastructure within which farmer organizations consult and cooperate on matters of common concern and speak in any forum with legitimate professional voice. With its mission to unite organic farmers and support their voices at all levels of food systems development, INOFO Asia is conducting the independent dialogue to discuss the issues and challenges of the present food system, from seed to table and propose a sustainable food systems driven by agroecology and organic production systems as these two topics encompasses the five action tracks of the UNFSS.

Agroecology is a scientific discipline and a recognized social movement that nowadays is underpinned by a considerable evidence base for various production contexts. The HLPE report on Agroecological and other innovative approaches, and the FAO Agroecology Hub are considered common denominators for the definition and framework of Agroecology. It mimics natural ecological systems' principles for resilient and healthy food production while addressing systemic challenges such as, depletion of soils and natural resources, biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change.

Alternately, civil society groups define agroecology as a holistic approach to sustainable agriculture and food systems. Beyond its biophysical and ecological aspects, we look at agroecology as being strongly grounded on the environmental; social and cultural; economic; and political dimensions of sustainability, as defined and outlined by the Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité (CIDSE).

Complementing agroecology, "organic agriculture is a holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. It emphasizes the use of management practices in preference to the use of off-farm inputs, banning chemical fertilizers and pesticides and taking into account that regional conditions require locally adapted systems. This is accomplished by using, where possible, agronomic, biological, and mechanical methods, as opposed to using synthetic materials, to fulfil any specific function within the system." (FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, 1999).

Organic farming protects all living creatures in the ecological food web of life - the microbes, insects including butterflies, amphibians, birds and the entire biodiversity gets adversely affected by the use of chemical fertilizers and the pesticides which then affects the pollination, soil carbon and closing of these ecological cycles ultimately leading to unsustainable, toxic food systems that affect our health and environments.

Farmers do understand this but with limited or no access to these alternative resources for pest control, they succumb to what is available and easily accessible to control the pests. With the increased use of chemical pesticides, the farmers are now becoming aware of the resistance to chemicals by the existing pests and how this is a never ending vicious trap. Hence, many farmers are resorting to more sustainable alternatives of employing low cost, locally sourced, farm made organic pest repellents, advocated under the Organic Production Systems.

Agroecology and Organic Farming is practiced widely all over the world, often by small-scale operations but when it comes to the ground realities of a farmer in his/ her locality, it's still a huge struggle to convince the neighboring farmers, consumers, municipalities and ultimately Governments about the importance Agroecology and the innovative approaches to conversion to more regenerative practices.

With this, the dialogue aimed to: a) Inform and educate the participants about the issues and challenges of the present food system and the role of agroecology and organic production systems in addressing these issues; and b) Make use of the Independent Dialogue to put the voices of the small farmers and the marginalized in setting the agenda and proposing pro-farmer, pro-people and pro-planet solutions to the Food Systems Summit.

## 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 main findings of the dialogue are as follows:

### A. Issues and Challenges Facing Organic Farmers and the need for agroecology

□ The contradictions of the current Food System: Food producers stay hungry (821M people are hungry, mostly food producers); Food is increasingly not for humans (about 53% for biofuels, livestock, etc.); Food is wasted (1.3 B tons is wasted)

□ Reiteration of the findings of IAASTD, which assessed agriculture for the past 50 years and what should agriculture be in the next 50 years, where business as usual is no longer an option; Radical change is needed in agriculture policy and practice; Systematic redirection of investment, funding, research and policy focus towards needs of small farmers

□ Deglobalize and Relocalize our food systems so that it is sustainable, a mitigation to climate change and it addresses the broader objective of society of addressing poverty, hunger, sustainability, food sovereignty and equitability.

□ Stop biopiracy; biodiversity and ecosystems destruction; stop dumping/ unnecessary food imports; stop land grabbing and development aggression; oppose suppression of legitimate social movements.

### B. Seed, knowledge and traditional utilization and conservation

□ Farmers innovations and indigenous traditional knowledge is the basis of agriculture system, if they are lost, everything will be gone. The traditional knowledges are also reflected in culture associated with diversity in food systems.

□ Traditionally, food is the medicine, but now it has become a poison. In hybridization, there is no nutrition and nutrient security is lost.

□ Conservation, Cultivation, Consumption, Commercialization is needed to develop opportunities for livelihood.

□ Decentralized Seed Banks and put them on village and cluster level seed banks which are not just storage of seeds and display, but a live seedbanks. It is not just conservation for the sake of conservation, seeds have some uniqueness for different needs.

□ Demystify knowledge and develop on farm centers in the field, with the people involving communities.

### C. Agroecology in Agroforestry

□ Solidarity among farmers provide services to members that enables them to manage natural resources in an environmentally friendly manner, produce quality products that meet market demands, achieve fair and sustainable returns for their work and improve the wellbeing of all members of farming families.

□ Diversification is key strategy to coping with uncertain conditions, promoting innovations in integrated farming, which involves a combination of food crops, cash crops, livestock and forest products.

□ Through Farmer to Farmer Learning (F2F), members gain new knowledge on organic agriculture production diversification

□ The action research help farmers do the research by themselves.

□ Recognize the Local knowledge and wisdom on agroecological approach to farmer

□ Youth engagement is important for continuity and sustainability.

### D. Preservation of traditional food systems, including knowledge, traditions and local People's Rights

□ Rice has always been the staple and brings wisdom and the inter-relation of having a great diversity in culture.

□ Traditional food have medicinal roots. People don't just eat to be fed, but with the value of the medicine, with different varieties having different medicinal properties. Food that have different cultural and nutritional values.

□ The issue of micronutrients deficiencies, such as iron deficiency, is high on the government agenda, this is NOT needed. Even in this UN Food Systems Summit, the private sector people are encouraging food fortification. It is not the solution, there are traditional food where you can get the nutrition.

□ Food fortification is a myth, a lie. The traditional and local food, with all the nutrition, is what organic farming is all about.

### E. Strategy for Small Farmer's Autonomy and Sustainability During Pandemic through (PGS)

□ In many country, the government only allow certification of organic by 3rd party which is expensive for small scale farmers. An alternative approach for them is through the participatory guarantee system or PGS which is intended for the local market.

□ PGS encourages farmers to create autonomy in providing their own production inputs. Many activities in the PGS opened opportunities for farmers to solve their own problems creating empowerment.

□ PGS opens access for farmers to seek markets because the guarantee system includes customer and provide opportunity for farmers to open their own market

□ During the first semester of the Covid-19 pandemic, there was panic buying and farmers were still able to send their harvests to consumers, without being tied to market opening hours and consumers do not need to leave the house to get healthy food.

### F. Organic quality and supply chain development

□ Building supply chains - Since the farmers cannot bring their products to the market, and with very low volume, those products were needed to be brought to the market so producers, consumers and authority in the local to support the farmers.

□ Setting conditions to get involve in supply chains - Farmers has to register in groups, work in a group, and must be trained organic standards and technique. The main stakeholders include farmers, retailers, consumers and all interested will join functional teams assigned to manage and support farmers.

□ Flow should be = Integrity management on farm through adherence to standards and rules; postharvest management by bringing products to one place or packing house for handling together; organic products are stamped with QR code.

## 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



## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The following are the outcomes of the dialogue:

1. Increased awareness about agroecology and organic agriculture - The principles and practices of agroecology and organic agriculture are there, many farmers around the world are already practicing sustainable food production system that cuts across the challenges presented, it's just a matter of recognizing, promoting, supporting and directing resources into organic agriculture and agroecology by the national governments and international institutions such as FAO.
2. Stronger cooperation between members of INOFO in the promotion of agroecology and organic agriculture and for exchange of experiences, study and improving human resources. Farmers exchange and training to diagnose the problems and they are equipped with the technology & management techniques are able to assist with plant health in their communities.
3. Stronger call for rights recognition of women and youth - Food systems have been developed against the disadvantaged. We should develop agriculture for women and young people so that agriculture systems could become beneficial to people. There is a need to organize the youth creatively for them to encourage the youth to engage in agriculture. A lot of youth are discouraged to go to the field to do agriculture. The goal is to also break the stigma in farming, because their mindset is that farming is boring or dirty and not profitable.
4. Call for stronger unity, engagement and cooperation among stakeholders. Farmers and consumers should organize themselves, government and agencies should respect farmers' rights so that there could be a foundation of lasting food systems around the world. There needs to be an improvement in consumers' knowledge about organic food. This includes community engagement activities involving research with other partners to focus on ecological research & livelihoods, engaging the communities to participate in the research themselves to better understand, better understanding so that they work towards improving what they eat, plant.
5. Recognition of the rights of the farmers to resources as a cornerstone for the recognition of their role in food production. The recognition of the rights of farmers to the production of food. We have to go back to the basics and further push this in the UN food systems summit. I think we have to address the basic problems to address these rights. In organic agriculture, it's difficult if farmers do not have access to land and water. This would be helpful in the recognition of their rights.
6. Stronger call for GMO seeds to be controlled strictly and GMO seeds must be labeled so that people can easily recognize them.
7. Proposal to support and scale up organic farming and agroecology through financial models for organic farming and maybe consider awards for farmers pursuing this.
8. Push governments to create policy to reduce use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Ban these. Promote organic fertilizers. Policies that support small scale organic farmers to create favorable environment for them to thrive and become productive. It should include policy to introduce good post harvest facility for farmers. Subsidy not adequate. Some more support for farmers to store product to get better price for products.
9. Call to recognize IAASTD findings where business as usual is no longer an option.
10. Call for deglobalization and relocalization of food systems.

### 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

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There is not much divergence in term of principles and what are the participants are trying to convey to attain a better food systems. They are united that there should be strong implementation of biodiversity conservation policies nationally and internationally, better support structure for small scale producers - from production to marketing, including infrastructure, implementation of climate change policies nationally and internationally and stop the corporatization of agriculture.

The divergence is mainly in the priorities at the national level since many countries in Asia are not getting enough support, specially vaccine, to be able to continue producing more food. In Asia, many countries faced the challenge of transportation of the food to the urban centers that caused overproduction and wastage in the rural area. With this, the priority now is to bring the harvest to the urban centers but not in supporting farmers have better marketing skills and improve the production and processing capacities so that food do not go into waste.

Priorities of the governments in many countries are misplaced, which are pushing small scale and marginalized farmers further in the periphery. The proposed solution are all in the agroecology framework of FAO, but as part of the output of the dialogue, there is a strong recommendation to include the political dimension, specially farmers right recognition, to bring the back the resources (land, biodiversity, knowledge, technology, market) into the hands of the farmers, as this is basic requirement to have a better food systems.

### 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

# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

---

## ATTACHMENTS

- **Documentation of Asia Pacific Region Farmers Food Systems Summit Dialogue on Agroecology**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/APR-FSS-Dialogue-Day-2-Documentation\\_final.pdf](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/APR-FSS-Dialogue-Day-2-Documentation_final.pdf)