OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 7 June 2021 20:00 GMT +12:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	FSS Dialogue Series in Asia Pacific - Climate Change Adaptation, Monday 7th June 2021
CONVENED BY	Asian Farmers Association/International Network of Organic Farmers Organisations/World Farmers' Organisation/Pacific Islands Farmer Organisations Network
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/27845/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Bangladesh, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu, 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 138

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

	0-18	25	19-30	52	31-50	43	51-65	18	66-80		80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

60	Male	78	Female		Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

51	Agriculture/crops		Education		Health care
18	Fish and aquaculture		Communication	15	Nutrition
	Livestock		Food processing	21	National or local government
11	Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets		Utilities
22	Environment and ecology		Food industry		Industrial
	Trade and commerce		Financial Services		Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

9	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
	Large national business	3	Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
18	Small-scale farmer	29	Government and national institution
11	Medium-scale farmer	16	Regional economic community
9	Large-scale farmer	3	United Nations
7	Local Non-Governmental Organization	6	International financial institution
12	International Non-Governmental Organization	6	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People		Consumer group
9	Science and academia		Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The dialogue was co-organised by the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development and Pacific Island Farmer Organisations Network for 7th June. Leading up to the event, during the week long event of dialogue (the event on the 7th was the first of a 5-consecutive day event) and after the event, meetings were held between the organising partners to assess the ideas shared, how to improve from day to day on delivery which included time management, sequence of presentations, technical, as well as administrative, support. All involved were able to express their thoughts. During the actual event, participants were encouraged to share their thoughts, showcase examples from their communities/regions, and sufficient breakout rooms were organised so that people had a greater opportunity to express themselves. All thoughts were shared in the main meeting room after all returned from the breakout sessions, with contact details provided for further thoughts to be shared following the event. The final day of the 5-day event allowed all to hear and add to the thoughts shared from each day's dailogue. Following the event, debriefs included providing the necessary supplementary information for the necessary reports to be drawn up.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Participants were encouraged throughout the dialogue to share their ideas at the appropriate time during the breakout sessions, and were reminded to be respectful to those who were speaking at any one time. Given that some regions had specific thoughts and issues to raise specific to their location, and to also accommodate the different languages from across Asia-Pacific, it was decided that breakout rooms would be assigned geographically. This resulted in participants from Asia being divided between 3 breakout rooms, and the Pacific had one room for all its participants. This format also allowed for multi-stakeholder inclusivity within each room.

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

Collaboration is key, and the willingness to share information.

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

Agriculture has supported Asia Pacific communities for thousands of years, but in recent years, population growth, deforestation and the intensification of crop production for commercial purposes has threatened the very foundation of agriculture: the soil. Soil condition and fertility vary considerably across countries, with more fertile and productive soils found in volcanic lands and islands. The loss of soil fertility threatens the productivity of crops, and soil erosion through run-off into the sea is damaging the coral reefs on which island communities largely depend for their protein.

Jon Barnett (2011) summed up the potential impact of climate change: 'Climate change will adversely affect food systems in the region, including the supply of food from agriculture and fisheries, the ability of countries to import food, systems for the distribution of food, and the ability of households to purchase and utilize food. In these ways, climate change puts at risk the very basic and universal need for people in the islands to have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food at all times'

Agricultural products are a significant component of exports for many countries in the region and food production activities (agriculture and fishing) continue to employ the greatest percentage of the labour force, either in commercial enterprises, or more commonly, in self-sufficiency endeavors. This is despite the Asia Pacific region comprising the most environmentally vulnerable nations in the world. Natural disasters, such as cyclones, floods and droughts are not new to the region. However, the climate projections for the 21st century and beyond, suggest that extreme events such as heatwaves, droughts, tsunamis, typhoons and floods are likely to increase in frequency and intensity, projected rainfall and rainfall patterns are likely to create problems for a region already affected by droughts and floods, and cyclones, typhoons are most likely to increase in intensity. Extreme high tides and storm surges will probably continue to threaten low-lying flat lands and islands, as will the ongoing sea level rise, which will cause contamination of groundwater.

It is vital therefore that the Asia Pacific region assesses the vulnerability of its agriculture sector, so that strategies can be developed both to cope with extreme climate events and improve the resilience of production systems to the changing climate.

Vulnerability to climate change has different dimensions as the focus turns from plants, trees and animals through agricultural systems and landscapes, to individuals, households, communities and countries. Individual plants, trees and animals have vulnerabilities to changes in climate, which can be assessed by considering their physiological thresholds or limits within different emission scenarios. The vulnerability of agricultural systems can be modified by changing practices, such as altering planting dates, changing the mix of varieties or species, introducing innovative systems or reviving traditional practice weaved in with modern day sciences.

Women tend not to have access to the key information and education critical for adapting to a rapidly changing climate (McOmber et al. 2013). This is due to many factors linked to tradition (in the Pacific) and work burdens. At best, this reduces their potential to contribute to household, community and national responses and at worst their vulnerability to extreme weather events is increased. It is crucial that women are fully involved in the development of climate change adaptation strategies and in capacity building related to climate change, as it is women who tend to remain behind to run farms and gardens when men move away to seek employment in urban areas.

Understanding the gendered division of labour within Asia Pacific communities can assist in providing more in-depth understanding of community perspectives on changes to climate and the environment. It can also provide a useful entry point for harnessing specialized knowledge in developing strategies for adapting to climate change. Adaptation solutions must build on the diverse knowledge, priorities and capacities of both wo

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

• Likely impacts of climate change in the Asia Pacific region will amplify pressure on existing threats, particularly climate extremes. Enabling farmers to adapt to these extremes in the short to medium term will help future generations. The pragmatic approach is to address the existing threats while continuing to address knowledge gaps and identify future threats.

• The comparative advantage for Farmer Organisations (FOs) in agricultural research and extension is that for agricultural research, a partnership between agricultural ministries, relevant public sectors and FOs will improve the depth & quality of agricultural research. For extension, FOs can effectively & efficiently complement the work of Government & Aid agencies by extending the outreach of support to farmers.

• Improving access to seeds; learning farmer exchanges; technical assistance in upgrading seed production; new seed packaging to extend viability; hosting regional events focused on roundtable discussions for open pollinated seeds, breadfruit, soil learning, and off season vegetable production; Australian learning exchanges, development of traditional foods as orchard crops; farmer to farmer (F2F) technical exchanges; taking to the virtual platform to launch commodity specific content (such as the Breadfruit People), and climate adaptation webinars on agroforestry, soil health and food security; forgotten foods where traditional varieties are resilient to climate change, but farmers are forgetting how to grow them in the midst of commericalisation.

• FOs are centrally placed to help extend the outreach of Government, aid agencies and other development partners to support the adaptation process; are in a position to identify the communities, farmers and farms in need of assistance; able to communicate to Government the type of assistance needed

• Improving on the capacity of FOs to manage pests and diseases by disseminating the correct information on climate smart farming practice, providing the necessary resources to support those farmers in need, and ensure the close collaboration with Government and other stakeholders

• Understanding soil in relation to climate change is important as artificial fertilisers represent external energy that simplify soil, reducing biomass and consequently tonnage of living organisms, making the soil more reliant no external energy

• Climate Change is here, but mindsets need to be changed to develop production systems which place meals on the table, and avoid hunger

• The strategies to employ for minimising damage to traditional crops during natural disasters, which can also bring floods.

• Given their natural resilience to climatic conditions, traditional crops are grown, as are vetiver grass

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

Other initiatives, innovative solutions to the barriers & challenges to be recommended:
- Focus on local food systems, including local wisdom in terms of cultivation, including pest management
- Encourage ecological/agroecological/natural farming systems so as to promote sustainability/resilience
- Practice continuous conservation of biodiversity, traditional seeds and local food
- Analyse rainfall and design water saving/conservation mechanisms for harvesting water
- Engage with policy makers to promote organic agriculture through the development of policies supporting climate mitigation and incentives for farmers to shift to organic farming
- Invest in integrated, diversified organic farming systems where food for livestock is produced from within the farming system, rather than outsourcing
- Consumption of traditional crops is present, but the commodity is not in retail shops, so recommend that the project work with retail shops and larger companies so the greater public may access these crops too

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Specific strategies or innovations that have successfully addressed climate change related challenges of women and young farmers:
- enhancing family farming and promotion of agroecology through community based seedbanks, and establishing community based enterprise where a portion of the revenue is invested in a fund, only accessible for climate emergencies.
- Local seeds are important for organic farming/agroecology as they have a better adaption rate than hybrid seeds
- Engage the youth in green technology and entrepreneurship
- Use grafting of indigenous species, as evidence has shown that grafted local trees enjoy a better harvest
- Soil protection is crucial, and chemical substances are to be avoided, by instead investing in micros technology to develop organic waste
- Partnerships with Government on policy and programs is needed to ensure the general farming community and public are involved
- Commodity specific communities, including virtual platforms, continue to be encouraged, such as the Breadfruit People in the Pacific

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

Enumeration of ways to scale out & scale up implementation of the solutions, initiatives:
- Provide subsidies to support farming families investing in agroecology
- Funding and market accessibility can be provided through improving/strengthening climate change adaptation and strengthening the participation of women and young farmers in sharing through farmer to farmer exchanges or schools/rural training centres
- Improve dissemination of information to the public about climate change mitigation and adaptation to better connect the community to other stakeholders, as well as create/develop the market for local organic products
- Develop policy on improving the capacity of households to control resources, such as land ownership, so as to encourage production with creating any further damage to the environment; as well as for innovations and initiatives
- Improve research/data and use for planning on a larger scale, especially for engagement with Government
- Target audiences for education and capacity building, by seeking out youth and women too, so as to upskill in the area of organic farming/traditional knowledge and business skills to sell products and value add
- Establish cooperatives, and work with the relevant ministries, especially the Ministry of Agriculture towards aligning/integrating agricultural activities
- Encourage multi stakeholder partnership mechanisms at local & national level
- Encourage home gardens for each family

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The dialogue did not highlight areas of divergence, rather the ideas were aligned, and in some instances reflected the greater needs of the respective countries/communities. For instance, water conservation is important, but some regions required support on a greater scale than others.

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