

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 30 June 2021 10:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Towards sustainable food systems in the State of Kuwait
CONVENED BY	Dr. Reem Al-Fulaij
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/28146/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Kuwait

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

99

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18 14 19-30 55 31-50 27 51-65 3 66-80 0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

45 Male 54 Female 0 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

5	Agriculture/crops	16	Education	8	Health care
3	Fish and aquaculture	3	Communication	6	Nutrition
3	Livestock	12	Food processing	13	National or local government
0	Agro-forestry	10	Food retail, markets	1	Utilities
3	Environment and ecology	12	Food industry	1	Industrial
2	Trade and commerce	1	Financial Services	0	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

2	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	1	Workers and trade union
14	Large national business	0	Member of Parliament
5	Multi-national corporation	8	Local authority
0	Small-scale farmer	31	Government and national institution
1	Medium-scale farmer	0	Regional economic community
2	Large-scale farmer	7	United Nations
5	Local Non-Governmental Organization	2	International financial institution
1	International Non-Governmental Organization	3	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
0	Indigenous People	2	Consumer group
14	Science and academia	1	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Kuwait recognized the importance of moving forward to host phase three of National Food Systems Dialogue as part of Member State Dialogue on 30 June 2021. Kuwait plans to come out with a written document containing working plan to move forward and strengthen its food systems. The event embraced the Summit principles of engagement: Act with Urgency, commit to the Summit, Be Respectful, Recognize Complexity, Embrace Multi Stakeholder Inclusivity, Complement the Work of Others, and Build Trust.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Kuwait National Food Systems Dialogues invited multiple stakeholders and decision makers from different sectors related to food systems to participate in the final phase of the National dialogue in preparation of the UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021. The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) - Kuwait arranged all stages of member state dialogues and all were held virtually. Participants included stakeholders from across the food systems, ranging from government officials, ex-ministers, food industry, Non-Governmental Organization, research and academic institutions, activists, entrepreneurs, media, financial institutions and others. This diverse group of participants was able to add value to the issues discussed and was able to set measurable goals in the food systems chain to be able to translate them to short, medium and long term plans to be achieved by 2030.

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

It is very important to appreciate the principles of engagement when preparing for the dialogue. Spending enough time to list all stakeholders and decision makers is important for a successful dialogue. It is advisable to encourage women to voice their opinions as they have proved themselves in many developmental sectors such as academia, environment, social issues and more. Every opinion is important, and everyone shared their views in a very respectful manner.

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

It is important to note that the opinions mentioned in this report reflects the opinions made by the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition and does not reflect the government opinion.

Stage 3 of the dialogue focused on ways to move forward regarding developing policies to enhance applicable and achievable intervention programs to improve the nutritional status of school children through partnership between the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Health (MOH), media and food industry. This partnership aims to take the concept of school canteens (SC) to a new level; to provide appropriate food snacks with added nutritional value, and to adhere to the school canteen's approved specifications, standards, and requirements. Moreover, this collaboration will ensure the implementation of nutrition awareness programs targeting students, school administrators, teaching staff, and parents. The latter intervention activity requires collaboration with nutrition health educators in related sectors to utilize their expertise and skills in this field. The MoE will comply and adhere to the health measures and social distancing guidelines to combat Covid-19 pandemic with regards to school canteen in the event of reopening of schools in the next academic year in September 2021.

The dialogue also focused on steps to move forward on developing water and food security in Kuwait. Water security is threatened and it is vital to adopt digital system to provide and analyze data. Kuwait imports more than 90% of its food which puts it in an extremely challenging position in times of crisis as has happened during the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the latter, the authorities in Kuwait were able to find new opportunities with new trade partners to ensure availability, affordability, accessibility, safety and nutritious food in a sustainable way.

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

There were many key findings during stage 3 of the dialogue. In order to make substantial and rapid progress towards national food security, coherence and convergence are fundamental elements among policies and programs in the country. COVID-19 pandemic exposed the different challenges that faces food systems at the global and national levels. Kuwait relies heavily on food imports to ensure sustainable food supply because of the many challenges it faces to meet the local demand for food. These challenges include desert climate, scarcity of water resources and the increase demand for food due to population growth . Hence there is an urgent need to develop national water and food security strategies and legislations to achieve sustainable food systems in Kuwait. .

It is important to use knowledge , research , capacity development and innovative technologies to explore new venues for water resources and promote biodiversity.

It is vital to form a collaboration between relevant stakeholders to unify joint efforts towards strengthening food and water security in Kuwait.

Other findings highlighted the importance of managing water and food loss and waste in the country through the enacting laws and legislations.

Kuwait is a pioneer in the region for implementation of its policies on energy , food and water subsidies. However, there is a need to review and reformulate policies on these subsidies to optimally manage these important resources quantitatively and qualitatively.

Overweight and obesity in Kuwait is a huge health burden and rates in school children have reached 36%. The main contributing factors are high calorie consumption, physical inactivity and lack of nutrition awareness. Furthermore, focusing on the younger generation ensures effective impact of intervention programs. Thus, Kuwait has prioritized this age group for developing healthier food environment culture which involves capacity building of teachers, canteen procurement officers, students and parents . It also includes enhancing applied nutrition, school farming and managing food waste in school curricula. Therefore, collaboration between PAFN , MoE and MoH is inevitable to improve the nutritional status of school children.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

PAFN has communicated with the National Security Bureau (NSB) to establish the Supreme Committee for Food and Water Security in Kuwait. This committee will be led by NSB with all relevant stakeholders as members. The committee will develop, implement and monitor strategies with measurable action plans and SMART goals. Progress of the action plans will be assessed by key performance indicators (KPIs). Meanwhile, there will be challenges facing this committee such as the overlap of responsibilities among different stakeholders, resistance to change the current situation and lack of commitment.

PAFN will establish and chair the National Committee for Improving Nutritional Status of School Children with the membership of both MoE and MoH to address the health and nutritional challenges that were of major concern among the participants during all stages of the dialogue. PAFN will also collaborate with UNICEF on research to promote healthy eating behavior in school children. Successful partnership with food industry will ensure reformulation of food items that are acceptable by students and provide healthier choices. Nevertheless, food industry might not comply to the agreement specially that this affects their sales and profits. Another challenge is related to the acceptance of these newly formulated food items by the students or their families.

It is important to engage with members of parliament to legislate laws and regulations regarding food and water loss and waste. This will ensure commitment and accountability by relevant sectors. However, this might take a long time to implement and might face some resistance by people.

PAFN is collaborating with the Ministry of Commerce and industry to review and amend subsidized food items, qualitatively and quantitatively to optimize nutritional health. This will increase the potential of food diversity and encourage entrepreneurship that will eventually strengthen the food system. This may contribute to improve the food consumption patterns and possibly reduce food waste. This reformulation may face opposition from the citizens and pressure from food industry.

PAFN will collaborate with Kuwait Institute for scientific research (KISR) in developing research areas related to food security and achieving sustainable food systems and conducting training programs for capacity building. Budget constraints can be a major challenge facing this initiative.

PAFN is aware of the pivotal role the Ministry of Information plays in food and nutrition awareness based on a strategic plan with related entities. Ministry of Information needs to fulfill its responsibilities by collaborating with media influencers and experts in the field of food and nutrition for accountability especially in times of emergencies. Challenges facing this collaboration is mainly lack of commitment to the action plan.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There were no areas of divergence in the dialogue regarding collaborations and commitments that are needed to be taken.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Dialogue PPP cover page**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Stage-3-dialogue-1.png>
- **Virtual meeting preparation**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Stage-3-dialogue-2.png>
- **Arabic version of the report**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/تقرير-المرحلة-الثالثة-للنظم-الغذائية-باللغة-العربية.docx>
- **Certificate of Attendance for stage 3 of the dialogue**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Stage-3-certificate.pdf>