

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 6 July 2021 14:00 GMT +00:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Bridging The Digital Divide
CONVENED BY	Lydia Carroon, Business Manager of the Microsoft Airband Initiative, Regina Richardson, Program Officer, Seed & Extension Systems, AGRA and Samuel Afrane, Country Director of The Hunger Project-Ghana in addition to other development experts.
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/28345/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Ghana, 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

27

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

27 31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

11 Male

16 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

3 Agriculture/crops
Fish and aquaculture
Livestock

1 Agro-forestry
Environment and ecology
Trade and commerce

3 Education
Communication
Food processing
Food retail, markets
Food industry
1 Financial Services

Health care
2 Nutrition
National or local government
Utilities
Industrial
16 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan
Large national business
1 Multi-national corporation
Small-scale farmer
Medium-scale farmer
Large-scale farmer
5 Local Non-Governmental Organization
10 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
2 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
Consumer group
9 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

As a convener of an independent dialogue the discussion was organized to incorporate the Principles of Engagement specifically within the questions of the moderated Q&A; section where a diverse group panelists from a range of private and public sectors had the opportunity to answer questions in regard to their organizations impact in bridging the digital divide and implementing technological solutions in rural communities. The diverse range of speakers recognized the complexity of food systems, and embraced the inclusivity of multi-stakeholder inclusivity. In planning the event as a question and answer forum, we aimed to not only ensure the participation of our audience, but also enable a platform where the complexity of the technology in Food Systems could be discussed.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Our independent dialogue “Bridging the Digital Divide” reflected the different Principles of Engagements through the speakers present and through the set-up of the call. The moderated Q&A offered diversity in the voices heard and provided an inclusive environment for thought sharing. Through the Q&A session we aimed to target the Principle of Engagement “Recognize Complexity,” as the panelists discussed the challenges in transforming and strengthening food systems and the complexity of impactful change. Another Principle of Engagement incorporated was “Complement the Work of Others,” as the panelists engaged with each other in conversation of benefits of private sector businesses and civil society partnerships. Our virtual event was an opportunity for people working across different sectors and organization types to offer their perspective on how to bridge the digital divide.

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

My advice for Dialogue Convenors would be to review the Principles of Engagement during the creation process of your independent dialogue. The Principles of Engagement can be incorporated into key discussion points and used to guide the questions. The moderated Q&A was followed by an audience Q&A which allowed for a trustful conversation between panelists and participants in an open and free space to converse. We also advise other dialogue convenors to explore different uses for online platforms to allow for a variety of diverse voices to be heard.

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

“Bridging the Digital Divide” focused on the implementation of technological solutions and how they strengthen food systems. The discussion centered on THP-Ghana and partnerships with Microsoft AirBand Initiative and civil society organizations such as AGRA and Farmerline. The conversation explored a few of the action tracks essential to Science Days, such as Action Track 1, 2, and 4. Speakers addressed how implementing technological solutions into rural communities aids farmers in delivery services that are needed to grow their yields. Specifically, some of these solutions are sending voice messages about weather forecast alerts, market prices, new farming techniques, and agrochemical applications to more data-driven individualized for the farmers. We focused on how these services ensure production of safe and nutritional food accessible to the communities, as well as advance equitable livelihoods for farmers and members of the communities.

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 panelists involved in the discussion shared their organizations progress and success stories. Many of the speakers expressed that in order to further advance the technological solutions in place in rural communities there needs to be an increase in partnerships between private sector businesses and civil society, as well as involvement of the youth. THP-Ghana, AGRA, Farmerline, and Microsoft AirBand Initiative all concluded that technology strengthens food systems and allows for farmers to grow safe, nutritious, and accessible food to the community through various services provided by technology.

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KEYWORDS

- | | | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Innovation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Data & Evidence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Human rights | <input type="checkbox"/> | Governance |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trade-offs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environment and Climate |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Throughout the discussion, panelists shared their outcomes and successes. As a civil society organization, AGRA's digital transformation works to improve food security for 30 million farming households across 11 countries by 2021. Microsoft Airband Initiative provides high-speed internet connectivity to rural communities to leverage the technological solutions. These partnerships serve as examples of the success public and private sectors have in strengthening food systems through collaboration. The Hunger Project, Farmerline, and AGRA currently work together, resulting in sustainable digital solutions to aid communities in Ghana and establish a village-based advisor delivery model. The panelists agreed that partnerships and connectivity in rural communities are two areas of action that can be continued to further progress and success.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Throughout the dialogue, panelists spoke on their partnerships and the success they have had implementing technological solutions in rural communities with the help of collaborative partnerships. The panelists each agreed that connectivity is essential to strengthening food systems sustainability. Furthering partnerships with private sector businesses and civil society will advance food systems and community-led development. The panelists' stories differed in the areas of implementation. Microsoft AirBand Initiative laid down the infrastructure needed for technological solutions to thrive. While Farmerline contributed to the services needed by smallholder farmers. An area where further exploration is needed is the involvement of the youth

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Bridging The Digital Divide**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Bridging-the-Digital-Divide-UN-Food-Systems-Side-Event-Image.png.jpg>

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Bridging The Digital Divide - UNFSS Independent Dialogue**
<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/28345/&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1626383122733000&usg=AOvVaw2GW-vhHVpTLzoUSPSxmzuG>