

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 16 February 2021 09:00 GMT +00:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Strengthening the African Agricultural Research and Development for an Improved Africa Food System
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	FARA-CAADP-XP4/FANRPAN
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2850/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/2850/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	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

703

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

173

19-30

363

31-50

167

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

477 Male

226 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

49

Agriculture/crops  
Fish and aquaculture  
Livestock  
Agro-forestry  
Environment and ecology  
Trade and commerce

84

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

40

Health care  
Nutrition  
National or local government  
Utilities  
Industrial  
Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

78

Small/medium enterprise/artisan  
Large national business  
Multi-national corporation  
Small-scale farmer  
Medium-scale farmer  
Large-scale farmer  
Local Non-Governmental Organization

62

International Non-Governmental Organization  
Indigenous People

428

Science and academia

40

Workers and trade union  
Member of Parliament  
Local authority  
Government and national institution  
Regional economic community  
United Nations  
International financial institution

49

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance  
Consumer group

46

Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The organization of this dialogue was built on the recognized need of urgency for Africa to address its food system challenges to achieve the SDGs, particularly SDG2. In respecting the principle of multi-stakeholder inclusivity, participation in both webinars was not restricted, but opened to the key stakeholders in the food system fraternity. The announcement of the dialogue on the website of the FSSD gave opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to be informed about the dialogue. During the first webinar, a keynote address on 'Raising the Productivity of Africa's Food systems: A question of Science Technology and Innovation' was delivered after which a panel discussion was held to respond to the keynote address. To further incorporate the principle of complementing the work of the different stakeholders in the African food system, panelists were carefully selected from the different facets of the food system including research, producers' organizations, policy makers, and extension services. The main output of the webinar was a draft One Africa Voice (Policy Brief) which aimed at bringing out the specific and science evidence-based actions that supports the achievement of SDG2 by African countries.

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

The dialogue recognized that the issues of Africa food system are complex and diverse. The dialogue also recognized that to address these issues, different stakeholders need to be brought on board and remain active, and work to complement the efforts of each other. With this background, the dialogue was opened to any stakeholder who recognizes the urgent need to improve the food system in Africa. Furthermore, discussants at the dialogue were meticulously selected from a broad spectrum of actors in the food system that are involved, contribute, are affected, and also benefit from agricultural research and development on the continent.

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

Other Dialogue Convenors should take time to reflect on the principles of engagement during the planning stage of their dialogues. This will guide them in the planning and execution of the dialogues in terms of the selection of keynote speakers and panelists of their dialogues.

# 3. METHOD

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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 dialogue focused on a comprehensive exploration of the Africa food system. From 2016 to 2018, Africa imported about 85% of its food from outside the continent. The Challenge for Africa to feed itself and become a major food supplier for the world is compounded by the need to produce healthier, safer, and more nutritious food on less land, using less water and chemicals, and producing less waste and less greenhouse gases. The demands explain why Africa resolved to develop a Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa with a vision aptly stated as: "By 2030 Africa is food secure, a global scientific player, and the world's breadbasket". The structural inefficiencies of Africa's agri-food systems, however, arguably emanate from the fractured dual economy. Most of the rural agrarian population small family farms (SFFs) and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) largely disconnected from supplying the manufacturing-industrial part of the economy. While SFFs account for the largest proportion of the domestic food market, that market is almost entirely reliant on artisanal processing, whose market is separate market from the manufactured goods and services market. As such, poverty continues as the main cause of hunger. Apart from hunger and malnutrition, extreme poverty in Africa has increased from 413 million in 2015 to 437 million in 2019 (5.8%). Forecasts suggest that without significant shifts in policy, extreme poverty will still be in the double digits in sub-Saharan Africa by 2030.

The source of agricultural growth in Africa has largely been through expansion of the cultivated area at the expense of forests, grasslands, and other uses, rather than from increased productivity. A recent study by FAO on land use changes between 2000 and 2018 indicates that about 12 million hectares of forests were cleared and converted to cropland, constituting about 58% of the cleared forest areas. In addition, close to 11 million hectares of grassland was converted to cropland, constituting about 46% of the cleared grasslands giving way to cropland. This is not sustainable! Post-harvest losses in Africa are estimated to be about 14%, one of the largest in a context of low production overall. Water use efficiency has been the lowest, showing only marginal improvement overtime – and this with comparatively lower water stress levels. Also, according to FAOs Agriculture Orientation Index for Government Expenditure between 2001 and 2018, Sub-Saharan Africa has fared the worst when it comes to allocation of public investment to agriculture – it revolves around 0.2 without showing notable improvement over the period. This is notwithstanding the CAADP commitment to allocate at least 10% of national budgets to agriculture. No wonder that Africa is a net importer of food, despite the huge potential.

On the positive side, the potentials for increased productivity and opportunities for agri-food transformation are quite enormous. For example, according to some estimates, Africa could be two-three times more productive if it gets its agri-food systems in order, which means getting priorities right in terms of policy, governance, and investment. AfDB estimates that the value of annual agricultural output would increase from US\$ 280 billion to as much as US\$ 1 trillion by the year 2030. This potential is embodied in the current transformations taking place to include: positive food demand growth from the urbanization process; diet diversification; food supply chain transformation already emerging; factor market changes happening that promote economic converge

### 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

Sustainable food systems incorporate an understanding of transformation and linked to the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda. The game-changing options for agri-food systems transformation were identified and discussed as follows.

Accelerating the integration of SSFs and SMEs into industrial food system processes: that penetrate the mainstream markets, transforming the agri-food system from the “old economy” based on artisanal technologies to “new economy”. Africa’s unorthodox structural transformation is also such that there is rapid urbanisation with no manufacturing jobs in the cities. A deeper analysis places the agri-food system at the centre of orthodox structural transformation that pulls in the majority of SSFs and SMEs into industrial processes of mass production, mass processing, and mass consumption of food products and services by a growing rural middle class and bulging urban population. In many regions outside of Africa, agriculture is increasingly organized more like manufacturing – facilitated through technological advances to manipulate and control the production process and its ecosystems. Agricultural commodities produced under different contexts and regimes meet at the local market places – often resulting in displacements of less-competitive products and systems. In the face of large and rising food imports, African local products are often on the displacement side of the equation.

Aggregation and agrologists for SSFs and SMEs: Bridging the gaps between supply and demand through aggregation systems. A good example is the aggregator model developed by Africa Harvest and deployed along the Sorghum value chain in Kenya, and parts of Tanzania, which has fast tracked the commercialization of Sorghum production among smallholder producers in arid and semi-arid areas of the country, working with a large off taker in the malting industry. The role of private sector players, especially that of end-users/processors is pivotal in this drive through Africa’s rapid urbanisation will also be converted to an innovative advantage given that the urban population already consumes more than 50% of the food although they are less than 50% of the population. This will be achieved through aggregation and agro-logistical innovations that will see SSFs and SMEs achieve economies of scale and dominate both rural and urban the food systems’ value chains, especially in industrial processes.provision of sustainable local off-take SMES & other markets.

Inter- and Intra-Regional Food Trade: Free Trade Agreement would expand intra-regional trade in agri-food products by 20 to 30 percent by 2040, with particular gains in sugar, fruits and vegetable, nuts, beverages and dairy products. A handful of African countries account for the massive US\$ 35-40 billion food importation bill. To reverse this trend, there is need for enabling monetary and fiscal polies, trade regulations, as well as institutional and technological innovations that will catalyse infrastructural development, as well as aggressive facilitation of inter- and intra-regional trade. The top priority of AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area) being food transfers from the majority African countries with a positive food balance sheet to the deficit ones.

Workforce reconfiguration: Without significant investment in improving human capacity and infrastructure for agricultural research, training and extension the necessary transformation of African agriculture and food systems will not occur. Facilitating Innovation platforms and the use of ICT tools for long term sustainability; Development of innovation ecosystems within and across value chains and leveraging. All the transformations above will need an urgent shift in the agri-food systems workforce configuration from pre-occupation with farm production, to expansion into badly needed skills in food processing and service industries. Bridging the missing middle between the global-scale scientific options and the local and national level capacities to innovate and share. One CGIAR concept is expected to enhance the implementation of this agenda. This and many other conversations about the enhancement of the agricultural value chains have been discussed during the last fifteen years have been on the front burners but success continues to elude our continent in these regards. Unfortunately, the question of institutional capacities to embrace and deploy contemporary technologies remain our Achilles heel in our quest towards food self-sufficiency. It is, thus, important to invest in research and development to strengthen understanding of nature-positive production systems while increasing cooperation between public and the private sector.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Participants in the dialogue expressed the view of an urgent need for a broad-based partnership between the major stakeholders and players across the entire agricultural and food system and innovation systems. This collaboration needs to provide strategic platform that fosters continental and global collective actions including networking to strengthen the innovation to impact pathways of Africa's agricultural research and food systems.

Participants identified the main call to action by the STI community in Africa should action such as;

Upgrade existing domestic food system processes as a bigger priority than FDI in the upgrading of domestic and local food processing technology from artisanal to industrial scale food processing. Also, the need to diversify food systems agro-industrial activities, products, and services, as distinct from prioritizing upgrades to existing products is eminent. Participants identified the need to Strengthen SFFs and SMEs along entire value chains to bolster aggregation and agro-logists: truckers, wholesalers, warehousing, pre-processing, etc. Furthermore, the food industry research needs to be disintegrated into industry food systems needs: BIOCHEMISTRY of basic food fermentations; NUTRITIONAL outcomes under alternative processing technologies. Participants further identified the need enhance capacity for a steady flow of trained scientific & technical skills along the value chain: Farm production; Food and animal feed industries; Processing and packaging; Manufacturing & bio-chem engineering; Storage cold-chain logistics infrastructure; Supply chain management skills.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Participants discussed the various means and approaches to enhance the food system in Africa during a breakout session. The views expressed in the various participants in the dialogue were generally convergent. This is because participants generally agreed on the urgent need to improve the current food system scenario on the continent to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition. Participants further agreed generally on the actions that need to be taken in the short term, the medium term, and the long term to address the issues that confront the food system in Africa.

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### KEYWORDS

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



# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Concept Note of the Event**

## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Dialogue Session**  
<https://faraafrica.community/fara-net>