

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 24 June 2021 14:00 GMT +00:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Ag. Innovations and Interventions for Food Systems Transformation in Ghana
CONVENED BY	Prof. Eric Danquah, Director, West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI), University of Ghana
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/28789/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Ghana

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

0

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

92 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

138 Male

52 Female

0 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

149 Agriculture/crops

2 Fish and aquaculture

1 Livestock

Agro-forestry

2 Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

18 Education

Communication

7 Food processing

1 Food retail, markets

Food industry

2 Financial Services

1 Health care

1 Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

17 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

6 Large national business

5 Multi-national corporation

12 Small-scale farmer

2 Medium-scale farmer

4 Large-scale farmer

2 Local Non-Governmental Organization

3 International Non-Governmental Organization

1 Indigenous People

101 Science and academia

5 Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

25 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

2 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

1 Consumer group

11 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The organizers of the dialogues at WACCI, acted with urgency and made panelists and participants aware of the urgency in working to deliver on the SDGs by 2030. Commitments to the global food summit was incorporated and reinforced during the dialogue. The Convenor gave a speech to open the dialogue, and, in his speech, he intimated the need for the call to action by the UN Secretary General. The dialogue was organized and facilitated by professionals who were very courteous, respectful of every participant and allowed contributions from the more than 100 participants although we were limited by the time constraints. In recognizing the complexity of the food systems and the multi-faceted nature of the actions that will be required for transformation, we engaged actors from industry, media, academia and government covering: researchers, lecturers/educators, business leaders, students and the general public. In the spirit of the principles, we recognized the works, efforts and initiatives currently on-going towards food systems transformation in Ghana. Trust and motivation was increased during the dialogue among the panelists and discussants especially as we engaged them in thinking about the critical issues, problems, solutions and necessary actions required for developing innovations, interventions and policies for the food systems transformation.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The concept on the Dialogue was developed weeks before the event and was shared with the panelists and discussants. This concept was structured to have background/context on the food system, the SDGs and the urgency to achieve the SDGs in the coming decade. This provided a good reflection on the principles and provided to the panelists and discussants good information for the preparation for their participation in the dialogues. The issues to be discussed were well identified and grouped into sub-sections called sessions within the dialogue. This structure provided clear guidance on the critical issues and the scope of the discussions. The webinar started at 2:00 pm with an opening statement from the facilitator, Mr. Joseph Opoku Gakpo, a journalist with "Multimedia Group Limited". There were introductory speeches by the convenor, Prof. Eric Danquah as a prelude the discussions. This speech provided information on the context, the Ghanaian food system, interventions and key issues that need to be addressed for proper food systems transformation. Guiding the discussions, the Convenor's opening statements were clear and indicated the need for all to work together in responding to the call of the United Nations Secretary General to participate in the global dialogues and engage in the Global Food Summit. Lead discussants for each of the three sessions gave presentations covering key issues, challenges, opportunities, and interventions for transformation of the food system. In a respectful manner, each session had contribution from four panelists, followed by questions, comments, and suggestions from participants (see Annex 1 for program). Key findings and outcomes of the dialogues were presented at the end of the dialogue. The first session of the webinar focused on discussions to identify innovations needed for food systems transformation. This session focused on research and development projects that are required for the transformation of the food systems. It discussed the problems, challenges and requirements necessary for countries to establish institutions that

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

The manual for convenors communicates clearly the principles and methods to be used in organizing independent dialogues. The principles are in line with ethical standards and requirements for multistakeholder engagements to find solutions to a complex problem. We will advise convenors to use this manual and the principles to guide the processes and the spirit of engagement of stakeholders during the dialogues. It is recommended that we all act with urgency in transforming our food systems and hence the dialogues should be organized quickly, and all actors should be motivated to act urgently in working together to organize the dialogues, identify the key issues and prepare plans for addressing these issues in a timely manner. A lot needs to be done in order to address key bottlenecks necessary for food systems transformation a major requirement in meeting the 2030 targets for the SDGs. It is advisable to engage stakeholders to develop, motivate and ensure commitment to the objectives of the food systems summit hence, we encourage all convenors to engage actively in organizing these independently dialogues using the manual stipulated by the UN. Convenors should be advised to ensure that all dialogues are organized in an environment that will encourage mutual respect, openness and honesty for people to feel free and contribute immensely to the discussions. Without promoting such an environment of mutual respect, people will not openly engage and share their views on issues and this will limit the outcomes of the dialogues greatly. Also, Convenors must recognize the complexity of the food systems and the need for inclusivity in engaging panelists, discussants and participants for all relevant institutions. Complementing the work of others helps to reaffirm and encourage them to act and participate in future programmes which the UN or convenors will be organizing hence it is important the peoples and institutional efforts and initiatives which are ensuring food production are acknowledged. This also helps to build trust and motivation in actors which is required if

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

A) Major Focus

The dialogue focused on three areas; (i) Innovation for the food system transformation, (ii) Interventions for the food system transformation, (iii) Policies for food system transformation.

Innovation for the food system transformation

This session focused on research and development projects that are required for the transformation of the food systems. It discussed the problems, challenges and requirements necessary for countries to establish institutions that will accelerate the development of ground-breaking innovations for food systems transformation. The discussion covered the following topics:

- Structure and Governance of Research Systems
- Sustainable funding for research systems
- Support for accelerated innovations development
- Key sectors that require accelerated innovations development
- Platforms for Innovations and Knowledge Management
- Public – Private Sector Relationships for Innovations

Interventions for food system transformation

This session focused on identification of key interventions needed for food systems transformation. The discuss covered the following:

- Bottlenecks in the Food Systems across Africa (using country specific case studies)
- Structural changes for Food Systems transformation
- Key interventions for sustainable funding of agribusinesses
- Transformation of Extension – Research – Farmer Linkages for increased productivity
- Support for accelerated innovations development
- Key sectors that require actions for transformation
- Public – Private Sector Relationships for Agricultural Transformation

Policies for food systems transformation

This session identified policies that will be transformational and impactful in the food systems development. The dialogues will cover the following:

- Policy gaps in Food Systems across Africa (using country specific case studies)
- Changes in Policy Formulation Processes for Food Systems transformation
- Sustainable Funding for Dynamic Policy Development
- Governmental Policies for Food Systems Transformation
- Policies for Innovations and Technology Integration into Food Systems
- Policies for Effective Public – Private Sector Initiatives for Agricultural Transformation

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

- We need to redesign our food systems to achieve the SDGs. Science based research driven actions are needed to transform the food system.
- There is the need to increase investment in research and development for the transformation of food systems in Africa.
- Urgent need to establishment of a national research fund.
- Need for private sector participation in collaborating and funding agricultural research.
- Governments should more proactively support the development and use of new technologies, including ICTs and biotechnology.
- Commitment to strengthening the capacities within research institutions.
- Incentivize innovations and investments that help lower agriculture's vulnerability to climatic/environmental impacts and lead to more affordable healthy food consumption.
- Reduce interest rates for the benefit of smallholder farmers and also encourage savings among smallholder producers.
- Develop a digital driven agricultural policy aimed at attracting the youth engagement in food systems.
- Need for effective public-private-partnership.
- There should be a national focus on developing value chains of key staple crops.
- More collaboration between universities and research institutions to do basic research on new innovations.
- Need to for science research journalism to communicate innovations effectively to end users.
- Strengthen research-extension-farmer linkages.
- Need for mechanization, irrigation, improved varieties that are adapted locally.
- Need for standardized markets for agricultural commodities.
- Link farmers to reliable markets.
- There is the need to diversity crops being cultivated including indigenous crops and develop value chains for indigenous crops.
- Develop efficient monitoring systems to be able to track progress and identify gaps to be addressed.
- Place more emphasis on post-harvest technologies, especially in food processing.
- There is the need to emphasis on efficient fertilizer and water utilization for sustainable productivity and environment.
- Establish innovation platforms for interaction among actors in the commodity value chains.
- Prioritize food safety issues to reduce postharvest losses.
- Improve infrastructure to make technology accessible to farmers.
- Sustainable funding sources for dynamic policy development.
- Make government policies for food systems more inclusive.
- Need to actively involve the youth in agriculture.
- Focus on climate smart agriculture.

ACTION TRACKS

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|---|--|
| ✓ | 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 |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

1. Establishment of a national research fund: We need to prioritize investment in agriculture. Government should set up a dedicated fund purposely to support research. Government should commit to make budgetary allocation to this fund. Private sector should be encouraged to invest in the research fund.
2. Need for private sector participation in collaborating and funding agricultural research. Private sector should collaborate with researchers in setting objective research agenda to drive innovation in Africa. This requires a constructive stakeholder dialogue for a clear transition path. Partnership with private sector should be at the onset of research objectives. Research institutions should know how to relate with private sector. The research institutes should coerce the private sector to work with them and give the private sector the advantage of commercializing new products.
3. Governments should more proactively support the development and use of new technologies, including ICTs and biotechnology. There is the need to promote ICT to take advantage of the youth bulge in Africa that portends for a more technology-induced food systems transformation. There is need to develop a digital driven agricultural policy aimed at attracting the youth engagement in food systems.
4. Need to for science research journalism to communicate innovations effectively to end users. The media is too silent, not communicating science-based innovation to the populace. There is the need to train media on science-based communication.
5. Commitment to strengthening the capacities within research institutions. There is need to train more research scientist. Also, there should be more collaboration between universities and research institutions to do basic research on new innovations. Also, strengthen collaboration with advance research institutions.
6. Strengthen research extension farmer linkages. Extension agents should be aware of new innovation developed by researchers and disseminate innovations to farmers. Private extension has role to play in spearheading the transfer of information from the researcher to the farmers.
7. Prioritize food safety issues to reduce postharvest losses.
8. Need for mechanization, irrigation, improved varieties that are adapted locally. Link farmers to reliable markets
9. Improve infrastructure to make technology accessible to farmers.
10. There should be a national focus on developing value chains of key staple crops.

ACTION TRACKS

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all |
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KEYWORDS

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environment and Climate |

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The private sector actors believe that they are doing their best to contribute to research and development whilst academia and researchers believe that the private sector has a lot more role to play in food systems transformation when it comes to setting the agenda for research and in funding research.

Private sector actors intimated that researcher do not know how to deal with private sector or businesses and that research cannot be funded without profit generation as the ultimate goal in the short-medium term. Therefore, researchers must know how to work closely with the private sector in order to attract funding.

The issues of leadership in the delivery of extension services (dissemination of innovation) was also a point of divergence as stakeholders intimated that the private sector can play the leadership role as the public extension services are woefully inadequate.

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KEYWORDS

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