

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 5 July 2021 13:00 GMT +00:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Learnings from country-level pathways to the global food policy debate
CONVENED BY	Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land-Use, and Energy (FABLE) Consortium, the Food Systems Economics Commission (FSEC), and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/28965/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	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

120

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

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

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

First, we selected a topic that reflected the urgency of action while showing successful experiences from countries. The focus of the discussions was how scientists can better support policymakers in the design of integrated long-term strategies towards food and land use systems, that identify the synergies and tradeoffs of different courses of action. We selected a panel that could represent geographical diversity to show and compare different experiences, and common challenges, working on the same topic. Given the complexity of our food systems, the methodology that was discussed by the different scientists involves a series of stakeholder consultations to ensure that the pathways are technically feasible and that the results are owned by all stakeholders.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

1) Act with Urgency: The discussions focused on how scientist can support policymakers to design integrated strategies towards sustainable food and land use systems, raise the level of ambition and implement feasible strategies based on science and data. 2) Commit to the Summit: The discussions were centered on the need for a systemic approach to address the complexities, trade-offs, and synergies in food and land systems. The discussions connected key issues central to UNFSS Action Tracks, such as shifts towards healthy diets, land use, water management, climate, biodiversity, equity, socio-economic aspects. 3) Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity: The panel showcased country cases where scientists are working to design mid-century integrated pathways towards sustainable food and land use systems, in consultation with multiple stakeholders including government agencies, industry groups, other scientists, etc. The panelists represent country teams that are part of a consortium of knowledge institutions from over 20 countries, working together across the globe with the same mission: to understand how countries can transition towards sustainable food and land-use systems. 4) Complement the work of others: The focus of the discussion was how scientists and policymakers work closer together and involve other stakeholders from across sectors, to develop integrated strategies. 5) Build Trust: The event highlighted the importance of transparency, open-access information, and evidence-based decision-making to achieve the transformation of food and land systems.

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

It is important to have a geographically diverse panel and audience. This helps ensure the discussions and questions are comprehensive and reflect different points of view.

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 comprehensive exploration of food systems. The presentations showcased how scientists critically assess synergies and trade-offs from transforming food and land use systems, focusing on equity and resilience. The discussion focused on how to strengthen the science-policy interface so that existing evidence can effectively inform policy and better use science to support the transition to sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems.

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

1. Need to promote a transition towards country-driven healthy diets: Call for the transformation of agri-food systems to ensure availability, accessibility, and affordability of healthy diets. To ensure healthy diets, countries need to also address inequities, poverty, and food insecurity. To ensure cultural appropriateness, government-led dietary guidelines should not only take into account health and climate but also the agronomic conditions and topography at the national and regional levels. This can help increase the acceptability and accessibility of healthy diets and thus facilitate the transition.

2. Need to ensure an equal transformation: The livelihoods of smallholder farmers should be at the center of these transformations. Policies promoting trade liberalization should ensure these benefit national trade balances and smallholder welfare. To ensure this, regulations to set standards are needed (e.g. preventing dumping). The African Free Trade Area is an opportunity to promote economic growth and regional resilience. According to the Report on Green recovery for Africa, investing in energy, food security, and nature-based solutions brings the best return in terms of jobs created and value addition. Climate-smart agricultural practices can help reduce climate impacts and increase resilience at the community level. Science-based evidence needs to be embedded in the trading system, prioritizing food security. Assessment of environmental impacts along the value and trade chain is essential if we want to achieve an equal sustainable transformation.

3. Need to align across sectors: There is increasing awareness and concern among policymakers about the urgency to act and respond to climate change and implement policies that are long-term. However, there is a lack of scientific assessments and tools that take a long-term perspective and that are accessible to all policymakers in all countries. In addition, policymakers are pressured by short-term goals and face silos between ministries. E.g., environmental and climate policymakers do not work closely with those working in agricultural and food policy. Countries need to align their national targets with the global targets on climate and biodiversity. They also need to align their national and subnational policies across food security, biodiversity protection, and climate change accordingly.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Need for integrated long-term strategies for food and land systems: Countries need long-term integrated strategies that recognize the complexity of our food systems. Integrated assessment models can serve as a tool to support this endeavor. Integrating agriculture, climate, biodiversity, water, trade, and socio-economic indicators into one pathway can illustrate the system-wide implications of certain policies and support government decision-making. Climate change is eroding socio-economic improvements. African countries spend on average 5%/year of GDP on climate disasters, in some scenarios, climate change might cost up to 50% GDP by 2030. Moving forward, models should seek to improve the inclusion of key indicators, such as inequality, in their integrated assessments.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Areas that need further exploration:

1) We need to strengthen bottom-up approaches for the transition to sustainable food and land systems. Countries need to support and strengthen local scientific research, community engagement, and local knowledge to provide a country-specific pathway. Supported by shared knowledge, technology, and good practices, policymakers should adopt an approach that not only is integrated but also that is based on the local agronomic conditions, trade opportunities, and cultural heritage. This can increase acceptance and support for the transition to healthier diets, sustainable agricultural practices and sustainable consumption patterns.

2) We need to strengthen the integration between climate, biodiversity, food, and socioeconomic components. Modeling socio-economic indicators such as land abandonment, changes in cropland composition, and agricultural trade balance under mid-century pathways can help illustrate the impact that certain climate and agricultural policies can have on the economy, and particularly, on smallholder farmers. Further analysis and exploration on this topic are needed.

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KEYWORDS

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✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
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