

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 20 July 2021 07:30 GMT -04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Advancing the Integrated Approach to Transform Food Systems
CONVENED BY	Mohamed Imam Bakarr, Lead Environmental Specialist, Global Environment Facility (GEF)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/29356/
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

50

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

5 Local Non-Governmental Organization

5 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

5 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

10 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

10 United Nations

5 International financial institution

10 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?

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has supported integrated solutions to systemic causes of environmental degradation for many years. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the World Bank Group (WBG) are all playing major roles in the preparatory process towards the Summit. As lead GEF Implementing Agencies for several major GEF integrated programs, all four are well placed to share experiences and achievements from GEF investments in food systems transformation through the integrated approach. To harness this opportunity, the GEF Secretariat organized the independent FSS Dialogue in collaboration with FAO, IFAD, UNDP and the WBG, to convene key stakeholders from country, regional and global levels and provide them with an opportunity to exchange on the themes and pathways that will strengthen the integrated programming for food systems transformation. This also gave the GEF partnership an opportunity to discuss integrated solutions to global food systems challenges based upon programmatic country experience to date, including how investment in the environment and nature can be appropriately incorporated within the Summit's outcomes. Drawing upon the feedback, the Dialogue discussed game changing solutions that integrate key actions across the five Action Tracks to achieve sustainable food systems and generate global environmental benefits. The discussion was framed on experiences and lesson learned from across GEF integrated programming in the space. It also harnessed the convening power of implementation agencies to bring diverse stakeholders around the table to unpack the trade-offs and synergies of adopting a food systems approach to delivering global environmental benefits.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The GEF approach reflects the FSS principles as follows: Demonstrating value-add of the GEF - As financial mechanism for the major multi-lateral environmental agreements, GEF is uniquely positioned to incentivize countries and global actors to work in an integrated manner across connected issues and root causes. GEF works with national governments, which are key for sectoral transformation. Demonstrating Program additionality - By embracing a programmatic approach, GEF programs are designed to ensure that the whole is greater than sum of the parts. GEF financing also offers the possibility of additional targeted investments directed at reversing disquieting trends in the global environment. Creating Institutional framework for Stakeholder Engagement – GEF programs are designed to bring stakeholders together for engagement on priority issues of global importance. The collaborative process helps to define the best niche for GEF funds to enable and scale up the work of others, including stimulation of increased private sector engagement. Dealing with complexity - The challenges of food systems as drivers of environmental degradation are inherently complex. The complexity is reflected in the economic, social, and institutional dimensions, and hence require a holistic and systems approach to advancing transformational change. Achieving results by promoting systemic shifts – GEF programs seek to promote sustained flow of multiple global environmental benefits while ensuring that progress in one dimension of the global environment does not negatively affect other related objectives. This requires a systems approach to incorporate spatial and vertical dimensions of the environmental challenge. Leveraging the private sector - Across all GEF programs, the integrated approach creates opportunities for a range of options to crowd-in the private sector, from co-financing and parallel financing to creation of institutional platforms for catalyzing change. Hence program design activities involve a wide range of private sector entities at national, regional, and global levels.

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

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

Since its inception 30 years ago, the GEF has invested in a wide range of projects in the food and agriculture sector to address the need for sustainability and resilience. This has been largely driven by the recognition that sustainable food production and supply is one of the key solutions to environmental challenges. GEF financing and support through multilateral environmental agreements has focused on helping countries promote and scale up practices that improve agricultural productivity while protecting and restoring natural capital.

This focus has strengthened further in recent years. During the GEF's sixth (GEF-6) and seventh (GEF-7) replenishment cycles, the multilateral trust fund has used an integrated approach to tackle the drivers of environmental degradation on both the spatial and vertical dimensions of agriculture and food systems, addressing both production landscapes and supply chains.

In GEF-6, spanning 2014 to 2018, two major integrated approach programs were piloted: the Resilient Food Systems focused on fostering sustainability and resilience for food security in the drylands of sub-Saharan Africa, led by IFAD; and the Good Growth Partnership focused on taking deforestation out of commodity supply chains, led by UNDP. A separate Coastal Fisheries Initiative, led by FAO, was also developed on a similar basis to improve the management and sustainability of artisanal fisheries in key geographies across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

During GEF-7, from 2018 to 2022, a more ambitious and globally focused Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program, led by the World Bank Group, was developed. This Impact Program further broadened the GEF's engagement, targeting major commodities and food crops selected for their potential to transform food systems at regional and global scales and to secure global environmental benefits related to climate change, biodiversity, and other areas across multiple geographies.

The overall programming and engagement strategy for these programs have been invaluable in helping GEF to advance the integrated and systems approach to transforming food systems. Collectively, the three programs involve nearly 50 countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and covering major commodities and globally food staples. In addition, each of the programs has mobilized and engaged diverse stakeholders, from the government, large corporations to small and medium enterprises, smallholder farmers, financial institutions, technical and scientific entities, development agencies, and farmer organizations.

The experience and lessons emerging from these programs offers an invaluable opportunity for the GEF and partners to contribute to the UN Food Systems Summit and potentially pave the way for future GEF programming. The focus of the Dialogue was therefore on a comprehensive exploration of the programs and how the progress and achievements made are related to the FSS Action Tracks.

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

Building on experiences shared by representatives of agencies leading the programs, stakeholders from government, private sector and civil society reflected on challenges and opportunities in moving towards the multiple objectives of ensuring resilient and environmentally sustainable food production, while also addressing livelihoods, food security, and health and nutrition goals. Defining the key criteria and parameters of a sustainable food system was highlighted as an important but largely under the radar issue. The dialogue consistently highlighted several issues that are key to advancing integrated solutions and serve as enabling conditions for transforming food systems. They include the following:

- Platforms for stakeholder engagement and as “space” or “hubs” to influence change, foster collaborative action, and deploy knowledge resources and tools for supporting transformative action. This is key to fostering engagement between line ministries (e.g. agriculture, forestry, environment, and water resources) and between government agencies, businesses, and financial institutions. The challenge is ensuring the long-term efficiency of such platforms, which requires time for building trust with professional facilitation.
- Effective partnership and dialogue between all relevant actors involved in food production and supply / value chain, including government ministries and departments, private sector and investors, and technical organizations and practitioners. Such engagement is critical for influencing supportive policies, mobilizing financing, and establishing institutional frameworks as levers to drive transformational change in the food sector.
- Investing in smallholder producers to empower them and create opportunities for them to access to benefits and incentives. Frequently, the results of economic policies or subsidies in the food sector do not reach small holder farmers, who are often in need of dependable streams of finance/investment as well as technical support. Women and youth should be a major priority for such investments given their critical role in food systems globally.
- Knowledge sharing and learning particularly amongst farmers, fishers, and smallholders at the base of the food production system. It was stressed, however, that while new experience and knowledge is an important ingredient to achieving sustainable food systems, what is being learned and transferred must also be relevant to the context within which producers are operating.
- Investing in sustainable resource management and regenerative production practices that deliver benefits for people and the environment. These include agroforestry and agroecology for crop and livestock production, as well as protecting key ecosystems such as watersheds or coral reefs and mangroves. Local and indigenous knowledge can be as an important source of know-how for resilient food production practices.

The Dialogue concluded with a call for integrated solutions and “radical cooperation” as key to harnessing limited GEF resources to support food systems transformation. This should be an important aspect for consideration by the Food System Summit Action Tracks as well as the cross-cutting levers.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

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

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Human rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Governance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade-offs |
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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **GEF Food Systems Dialogue**
<https://www.thegef.org/events/gef-independent-food-systems-summit-dialogue>
- **Blog: Why GEF Invests in Food Systems**
<https://www.thegef.org/blog/why-gef-investing-transforming-food-systems>