

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 26 May 2021 09:30 GMT +05:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	UZBEKISTAN FIRST NATIONAL DIALOGUE TOWARDS THE UN 2021 FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT
CONVENED BY	Mr. Alisher Shukurov, Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture of Uzbekistan
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/29527/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/29527/</a>
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Uzbekistan

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

71

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18

8 19-30

52 31-50

11 51-65

0 66-80

0 80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

62 Male

9 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

9 Agriculture/crops

2 Fish and aquaculture

5 Livestock

4 Agro-forestry

4 Environment and ecology

3 Trade and commerce

15 Education

9 Communication

2 Food processing

2 Food retail, markets

1 Food industry

0 Financial Services

2 Health care

0 Nutrition

4 National or local government

0 Utilities

5 Industrial

0 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

1 Large-scale farmer

4 Local Non-Governmental Organization

3 International Non-Governmental Organization

2 Indigenous People

18 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

9 Local authority

16 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

6 International financial institution

7 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

1 Consumer group

Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The UNCT in Uzbekistan, led by UNDP and FAO, have joined forces with Uzbekistan's Ministry of Agriculture to hold the first national dialogues to discuss ways and take collective action to transform the way Uzbekistan produces, consumes and thinks about food. Through this dialogue, the UN aims to draw attention to food systems sustainability and broadly address the global triple crisis of climate, nature and pollution through an agricultural lens. The inaugural meeting of Uzbekistan's national food systems dialogues kicked off on May 26, 2021, Wednesday at 9 am. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the dialogue was conducted in a hybrid manner. The national dialogue started with opening remarks from high-level speakers (Deputy Minister of Agriculture, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, Assistant FAO Representative in Uzbekistan), and the brief introduction of the UN Food Systems Summit was provided by the Regional Technical Advisor of UNDP BPPS, Istanbul Regional Hub. Next, the Convenor of the National Dialogues, Mr. Alisher Shukurov, (Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture) presented on the national food security systems, focusing on the national agriculture development strategy 2020-2030 in Uzbekistan. In the thematic discussion session, three national priorities were identified and discussed; 1) Innovative technology for higher productivity, reduction of impact on nature in the context of climate change, 2) Financing of food production in the transition to more productive and greener agriculture: the role of subsidies, incentives, micro-credit, green bonds, and 3) Regulations: Government's role in creating/amending policies to encourage greener agricultural practices. The first member state dialogue successfully connected diverse national food system stakeholders and contributed to examining the potential and vulnerabilities of national food systems while considering how best to engage with the upcoming series of summits.

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

- **Act with urgency:** The first Member State Dialogue reinforced that transforming our food systems is among the most urgent and powerful ways of changing course and making progress towards all 17 SDGs. Rebuilding national food systems will also enable us to "build back better" from COVID-19. As we are all part of the food system, the dialogue brought all stakeholders together to bring about the most needed transformation.
- **Recognise complexity:** The Dialogue also highlighted the consumption and production pressure we are putting on our planet, particularly on biodiversity, which in turn impacts on the regulation of climate, contributing to a triple crisis globally. Consequently, it is vital to ensure that as we address the challenges associated with food systems sustainability, we also look at the bigger picture of addressing biodiversity decline and the ways we use these resources. Therefore, the national dialogues on food systems sustainability also highlighted the global triple crisis to better inform and sharpen our engagement in transforming national food systems.
- **Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity:** In total, 71 participants from diverse sectors, including agriculture, crops, fish, livestock, and the food industry committed to this first dialogue. The moderator and speakers also represented different stakeholder groups.
- **Complement the work of others:** The Dialogue offered opportunities to engage various stakeholders, such as the Government, the UN, NGOs and academic institutions, in considering their role in food systems, how their roles link with others, and how they can unite around transformative actions in support of the SDGs.
- **Build trust:** The Dialogue promoted trust and increased motivation to participate by being evidence-based, transparent and accessible in governance, decision-making, planning, engagement and implementation. At the end of the dialogue, it was agreed that all the relevant stakeholders would keep working together to boost joint efforts aimed at providing food security and sustainable development through various forms of partnership.

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

In order to achieve sustainable solutions to the pressing and sometimes contradictory questions raised by about food security systems, it is critical to appreciate the Principles of Engagement: • Rising population growth, set against the global triple crisis of climate, nature and pollution present a powerful incentive to respond: urgent action is needed. • Building trust allows for open dialogue, and honest sharing of problems and solutions, as well as ensuring motivation and momentum to drive progress in the short and long term. • Due to the interconnectivity of aspects of food security across sectors, it is important to include participation from a range of stakeholders. This prevents unforeseen outcomes, ensures sustainability, and heightens the involvement (and therefore motivation) or those affected by the outcomes. It can also contribute to the recognition of the voices of traditionally underrepresented sectors/groups of the population, who may have important and previously underappreciated input. • Food security represents a 'wicked problem' in which interlinked or opposing elements must be considered: developing sustainable solutions depends on recognising complexity. • Complementing the work of others allows for efficiency, maximization of resources and accelerates progress towards achieving joint goals.

# 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

The Dialogue began with a brief overview of the Agriculture Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030, sharing nine priority areas identified by the Government; 1) Food security for the population, 2) Natural resource use for environmental protection, 3) Development of agricultural sciences, education, information and counselling services, 4) Convenient agribusiness to improve value chains, 5) Modernise the Public administration systems, 6) Development of Rural Areas, 7) Reduce State intervention and increase investment, 8) Diversify government spending, and 9) Development of a transparent system of statistics. One of the highlights of this new strategy is to introduce indicators to monitor progress.

In the thematic discussion session, the first session introduced innovative technology for higher productivity, reducing the impact on nature in the context of climate change. Mr. Murod Khusanov, (National Project Officer of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan, Head of the "Agromart" project) presented on the role of innovation and technology in sustainable agriculture, enabling us to achieve the ambitious 2030 agenda.

At the beginning of the session, he emphasised the impact of the agricultural sector as a significant contributor to global warming. Agriculture accounts for 25-30 % of total human-induced greenhouse gas emissions annually and has caused the loss of more than half of the topsoil on the planet in the last 150 years and up to 75 % of crop genetic diversity. Moreover, it has threatened 22 % of animal species and more than half of fish stocks. Simultaneously, agriculture plays a crucial role in the Uzbekistan economy, representing 18% of the country's GDP, around \$ 5.6 billion. It employs nearly 50% of the population, and 65% of these are small scale farmers. Cognizant of this challenge, he introduced the "Agromart" project as a sustainable solution leveraging innovative technology.

The second thematic session covered financing food production to transition to more productive and greener agriculture with subsidies, incentives, micro-credit, and green bonds. Mr. Isomiddin Akramov, Regional Project Manager, International NGO ACTED, presented the importance of financing sustainable food production.

From a demand side perspective, Uzbekistan's population will reach 37.4 million by 2030, and demands for food will increase accordingly. On the supply side, 46% of the land has undergone severe degradation and 90% of total water resources are spent on irrigation, shredding the supply chain. Furthermore, the average price of food products increased by 15.3% by 2020 with a further expected increase of 13.6% in 2021 compared to the previous year resulting in an 11.1% inflation in the consumer sector. Regarding assistance for business development in agriculture, according to the World Bank index of "Assistance in business development in agriculture," Uzbekistan ranked 77th with 42.6 score in 2019 and needs to rise by ten more scores by 2030. In order to address these issues, he presented several of the green financing opportunities available in Uzbekistan, such as subsidies, green bond, and green-tech, and proposed the recommendations for strengthening sustainable financing option.

The third thematic session took note of regulations, and the policies which the Government could create and amend to encourage greener agricultural practices. Ms. Adiba Akhmedjanova, Chairperson of Association of Women Agrarians, explained how the Government plays a role in normative and legal support to promote clean and ecological production in agriculture.

She introduced the Agriculture Development Strategy for 2020-2030 adopted by the Government to address the agricultural challenge systematically. Furthermore, several governmental efforts were presented, including developing legal systems, radical system-modernising reform, and areas of technical and financial support. Finally, she highlighted that to strengthen the existing legal and regulatory framework in the field, harmonisation with international instruments and constant monitoring are essential to achieve conservation of natural resources, soil health and crop rotation.

#### 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	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation		Data & Evidence
	Human rights	✓	Governance
	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

## MAIN FINDINGS

### 1. National Food Security System

The dialogue convener underlined three urgent major issues:

- The urgent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural waste. While Uzbekistan emitted 32,423 gigagram greenhouse gas in 2017, a reduction of 5.53%, they revised the target to achieve a 10% reduction by 2021, which still poses a challenge.
- Further improvement of the hunger level. In the 2020 Global Hunger Index, Uzbekistan ranked 30th out of 107 countries with sufficient data to calculate the 2020 GHI score. Since 2000, Uzbekistan has achieved low levels of hunger – 6.7% down from 24.4%.
- The recent dramatic growth of food imports from foreign countries has caused various issues in Uzbekistan. In 2020, food imports amounted to \$1,750.7 million and 4,794.4 thousand products, mainly from Russia, Kirgizstan, Belarus, China and Malaysia. Law and institutional systems must be streamlined to integrate international standards and strengthen import policy.

### 2. Innovative Technology

- Several issues have been identified, including low awareness about sustainable agricultural practices, a shortage of scalable, sustainable agriculture practices and access to quality advisory services in Uzbekistan.
- Therefore, digitalisation for efficient agriculture and outreach to farmers, especially in remote areas, is crucial to sustaining the economy of Uzbekistan.
- The convener introduced “Agromart.uz,” an innovative new digital service in farming, accessible through web-browsers and smartphones. This service was created with agro-experts and engineers in July 2017 and launched in 2018 with support from the OSCE PCUz. The team contains agricultural consultants, software engineers, content managers, and regional managers.
- Fast and precise online extension services focus on promoting sustainable agriculture practices and serve as a digital marketplace for agricultural commodities and services. Constant guidelines and training for farmers on improving agricultural practices and sustainable agriculture are always available, and it continuously provides the latest situational updates, prices for agricultural commodities, news, and official statement. This platform is used by more than 13,000 + registered users and 21,000 + followers in telegram, 23,000 + Instagram and Facebook followers.

### 3. Financing of Food Production

- Challenges were identified to accelerating green financing in Uzbekistan. Lack of awareness and capacity, financial literacy, and relevant work experience deter progress. Lack of incentives and business interest in investment also prevent green financing. Legal and normative business environments must streamline to create an enabling environment.
- Notably, small and medium businesses face further barriers to green financing. The high cost of bank loans, delivery mechanisms, collateral requirements, and lack of alternative resources in financing are the most common obstacles for small and medium business. With regards to sources of funding for small and medium business, while 26% of funding are secured from bank loans and 8 % are borrowed from family and friends, more than 64 % of small and medium businesses consistently suffering to obtain funding.
- There are several available subsidies in the agricultural sector. In 2019, up to 10% of the cost of credit or lease of purchased equipment have been targeted as subsidies, and the local rate is 15 % for equipment purchase. In 2020, a total of 11.2 billion sums were allocated for 681 units of equipment as subsidies. From July 1, 2021, VAT payers will receive subsidies for livestock, poultry and fisheries. Furthermore, the role of green bonds (Sukuk) in agriculture demands attention. Sukuk green bonds are a way to attract investment—a \$ 1.35 trillion market since the 1990s which in 2020, grew to \$ 6.1 billion, especially in Indonesia, Malaysia and the UAE. Uzbekistan will increase the value of 5-year Euro bonds by \$ 500 million at 4.75% to 10-year Euro bonds at 5.375%.

### 4. Regulations for Greener Agricultural Practices

- With regards to the implementation of the agricultural development strategy, the Government set the following action points (and indicators): improve water-saving irrigation systems in the territories; strengthen market mechanisms and promote settlements between water consumers and suppliers; ensure the sustainability of export growth by processing high quality and competitive production of fruits and vegetables; and apply sustainable agricultural practices, agri-business-friendly practices and other quality standards.
- Furthermore, on October 20 2018, the Government approved a resolution to achieve sustainable development by 2030 and set goals, objectives and implementing measures. The following priorities were set: strengthening food safety and improving diet to promote the sustainable development of the economy; ensuring the availability and rational use of water resources and sanitation; implementing a one-year action strategy to transition to a rational model of consumption and production. Following agreed international principles, the disposal of chemical waste and ecologically rational use throughout the chemical life cycle are essential to minimising negative impacts on people and the environment, particularly through reducing soil erosion. Protection and restoration of territorial ecosystems, coordination of their rational use, forest and land management, and combatting desertification will stop and reverse the biodiversity loss.

## ACTION TRACKS

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## KEYWORDS

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	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

### 1. National Food Security System

Based on nine priority areas in the agriculture development strategy, the Government set the following indicators and action points to address food system challenges.

1) Food Security: Increase the productivity of the average crop of cereal grains by 17 %; Increase total crop areas containing fodder crops by 1.1 %; Improve the average milk yield.

2) Favourable Agribusiness Environment: Increase the share of export from agricultural enterprises by 14 %; Improve village farming and strengthen the "Made in Uzbekistan" brand; Improve Uzbekistan's ranking (117) in 2018 in the World Bank's Logistic Performance Index (LPI); Increase the share of processed products by 21.1%; Increase workers from the food industry by 3 %.

3) Reduction of State Intervention and Promotion of Investment: Improve on ranking of 77 out of 101 countries in the World Bank EVA index; Increase capital investment (2021 exceeded the target for the year).

4) Improve Natural resources usage: Increase farmland by 1.0 million hectares; Increase farmland water-saving technologies by 2.3%; Reduce percentage of saline soils; Increase forest areas to 3.4 million hectares; Increase angiosperm land area by 39%.

5) Modernise Public administration systems: Proceed with the ongoing agricultural reform and strengthen accountability as per new Presidential Decrees; Revise the structure of state enterprises; Privatise public enterprises and accelerate legal process.

6) Diversify government spending: Increase agriculture research costs by 0.0015%; Increase loans to \$ 900 million; Strengthen medium-term budgeting.

7) Develop agricultural sciences, education, information and counselling services: raise number of graduates who engage in agribusiness by 24 %; Increase farmers' access to advice and services by 5%; Increase the number of farmers who are satisfied with knowledge dissemination services and information counselling centres by 5%.

8) Development of Rural areas: Increase the number of manufactures (micro-firms) in rural areas by 57.8%; Increase the number of Women producers in rural areas by 8 %; Increase youth involvement in product development in rural areas by 8%.

9) Development of a transparent system of statistics: Improve the national statistics system, including agriculture food statistics.

As outcomes of the national food security system overview, the Government of Uzbekistan will implement the following actions by the end of 2021.

- Introduce a supply market mechanism for plant protection and mineral fertiliser by April 2021.

- Initiate a food safety and national consumption programme by September 2021.

- Create transparent mechanisms for the lease of land plots by September 2021.

- Conduct climate change analysis and software development by December 2021.

- Initiate a digital agriculture integration platform (e-agriculture uz) by December 2021.

In order to achieve these ambitious targets, the Government emphasises the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement. Moreover, cognizant of existing strong food system cooperation, internal and external, Uzbekistan seeks to demonstrate strong initiative and leadership in the upcoming global dialogue session.

### ACTION TRACKS

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### KEYWORDS

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	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

2. Innovative Technology  
One example of new technology is the recycling of agricultural and residual organic waste into organic compost, transforming 6,000 tons of waste annually. Composting significantly reduces methane emissions from solid cow manure and CO2 emissions from landfills. After the compost is applied to farmlands, it puts back CO2 into the land instead of emitting it into the atmosphere. In addition, the topsoil is restored with natural humus and microorganisms. Farmlands also get a sufficient amount of N/P/K that is organically produced rather than chemically synthesised. Regarding deployment plans for 2020-2023, satellite imagery for efficient agriculture and sustainable soil and crop management are planned, as well as Integrated Trading, which is a 'from farm to fork' platform for trade and monitoring of supplies. Furthermore, Farm to Farm Rentals: a mobile app enabling farmers to rent machinery from one another and a Consultant's Marketplace: a platform for tailored services, is also available.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

3. Financing of Food Production

There are several green financing opportunities available in Uzbekistan. For instance, through Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF), the EBRD provides credit lines to local financial institutions in Uzbekistan. These loans are dedicated to finance private sector sub-borrowers in Uzbekistan for investment in green technologies and services supporting Green Economy Transition. Ipak Yuli Bank is one of the participating financial institutes of GEFF and the National Bank of Uzbekistan (NBU), ASAKA BANK, SQB, and ASIA ALLIANCE BANK also have a World Bank-funded project to provide financial incentives to industrial enterprises which increase energy efficiency.

Another alternative solution would be the RAYGO model. This is an end users' payments model for renewable energy on a weekly or monthly basis so that customers can choose a favourable time to pay using financial technology. The value proposition would enable us to use renewable energy at an affordable price, as it is cheaper than the current energy price and does not require any initial setting fee. One example is "ADJACENT POWER", a start-up company based on environmentally friendly technologies, using internationally recognised innovative technologies, and a unique business model aimed at mass use of renewable energy at an affordable price.

In conclusion, the following recommendations were proposed to strengthen the financing system for sustainable food production.

- Development of trade finance consulting services.
- Develop business management skills.
- Capacity building in the agro-industrial complex and banking.
- Effective distribution of loans from international financial institutions.
- The strategic importance of some agricultural products, subsidising interest rates on commercial loans allocated for cultivation.

ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

### 4. Regulations for Greener Agricultural Practices

According to the Agriculture Development Strategy for 2020-2030 adopted by the Government, the priorities of the strategy include; 1) ensuring food safety and improving the diet of the population as well as producing the required amounts of food; 2) environmental protection system improvement for the rational use of land, forest and water resources; 3) enhancing the mechanism of quality standards recognised in international markets (Global G.A.P, Organic, etc.); 4) developing guidelines for compliance with environmental practices for optimal agriculture for agricultural produce; 5) encouraging investment in food safety laboratories/sanitary and phytosanitary systems; and 6) promotion of safe practices for ecology and climate in agriculture; soil analysis and management.

With the World Bank's participation, Uzbekistan initiated a project to modernize the organization of the agrarian sector. Seed centres, plus 56 elite farms, introduced radical modernising reform based on the principle of PPP. Horticulture and greenhouse farms also started to grow quality seedlings and introduce a certification system. The Republican Agrotime station and its 13 regional branches also started modernising and developed 1 million hectares of agrochemical maps. Standardisation and radical reform of introducing the international certification system were conducted, and agricultural machinery and certification of technologies and test sites introduced new technology based on the experience in Turkey and Belarus. Finally, the crop variety testing centre introduced a chemical technological laboratory system.

Furthermore, there are several areas supported by the Government already, which include;

- irrigation technologies for grape plantations (8 million sums), water-saving in greenhouses (6 million sums), and irrigation to drill wells for crops (100,000sum),

- covering electricity and energy costs for manufactures, the cost for running equipment for fruits and vegetables, marketing study costs (50%), and the interest expenses of purchasing agricultural equipment.

In order to develop the value chain, the Government adopted a resolution on "Agricultural products processing and development of the food industry" on July 29, 2019. According to the decision, foreign credit has provided \$ 3 million from 2019-2024, and eight large agro-logistics centres were established in the region, at a cost of \$ 367 million. These agro-logistics centres will increase product turnover from 738,000 tons to 4 million tons and increase the volume of refrigeration capacity from 956,000 tons to 1.1 million tons. An additional 11,2000 jobs will be created, the loss of fruits and vegetables will be reduced by 10%, and export will increase from 1.6 million tons to 2.5 million tons. The Government is also developing medical plants, adopting several resolutions to protect and further develop their cultivation.

Finally, the Government highlighted the following crucial issues for strengthening the ecologically clean agricultural products policy. In order to strengthen the existing legal and regulatory framework in the field, harmonisation with international instruments and constant monitoring are essential to achieve the conservation of natural resources, soil health, rational cultivation of crops and to improve the system of placement and crop rotation.

- Expand the cultivation areas which have adopted the method of "Zero level processing" developed by FAO.

- Expand the use of biological methods to protect plants from pests and strengthen the work of the bio laboratories by technical support.

- Adopt a state programme for the production of non-traditional organic fertilisers, i.e., governmental support for producing ecologically clean and organic products (subsidies, taxes and other benefits).

- Train farmers and other entities in sustainable agricultural production so as to systematically grant privileges.

Ministry of Agriculture with the European Union is preparing to conduct an impact assessment of climate change in agriculture and invite participants to provide their inputs and cooperation.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

- Sustainable Procurement of agricultural technical equipment

In response to increases in agricultural technical equipment, how should the procurement of such equipment be enhanced; should it be procured from abroad or manufactured locally, ensuring the inclusivity of local farmers and producers?

Due to customs tax reduction, the country's import capacity for agricultural technical equipment has increased and local farmers and companies can import agro-machines as needed. Furthermore, the Government has also set up an agro machinery production centre in Uzbekistan to strengthen local production capacity. However, it is impossible to fully intervene and control market mechanisms, and continuous efforts will be required to create fair and appropriate market conditions for local farmers and producers to ensure equitable access to technical equipment.

It is recommended that the UN provide further support to enhance the local production of technical equipment.

- Attention to Sustainable Consumption

While the first dialogue and governmental strategy mainly focused on sustainable food production, it is also crucial to focus on sustainable consumption. Many people tend to choose processed food, so education on sustainable food consumption is necessary, requiring further efforts and resources.

- Private Sector Engagement

Cooperation with the private sector should be further accelerated. The private sector plays a crucial role in disseminating information to the farmers, for instance, plant clinics in the Plants Quarantine State Inspection Centre currently offer free, private sector-provided services with regards to providing a quarantine plan and a mineral fertiliser list with retail prices. The private sector also supports the development of phytosanitary system infrastructure based on exporting country's requirements. "Agromart.uz" expresses interest in integrating plant quarantine information into their digital portal due to the high demand for plant quarantine information. Partnerships to align and maximise this joint effort would be helpful.

- Inaccuracy of Data and Indices

Many inaccuracies and contradictions of data are identified within official registered data and global indices in Uzbekistan. Therefore, high-level country experts should be involved, and recognized protocols used. While it is essential to benchmark global standard indices, such as that of the World Bank, effort should be made to first improve the quality of data collection and harmonise/contextualise the domestic data collection system with the international one.

- Issue of Sustainable Land Use

Before strengthening financing mechanisms, sustainable land usage should be reconsidered and accentuated. It is suggested to develop an insurance system for the entire land rental period to tackle the land rental agreement issue.

- Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Although the government-set indicators presented in today's dialogue did not explicitly indicate the gender element, how does the government approach this issue? In a similar manner, how is gender sensitivity included in the digital platform Agromart.uz? Are statistics disaggregated by sex and gender?

Promoting gender equality in agriculture is not limited to the creation of indicators. The Government seriously gender equality seriously and is taking action to enhance the role of women in agriculture. For instance, the Government launched a pilot programme on country level gender assessment to support rural women. In addition, together with "Adiba opa" (NGO), the Government are also developing a gender strategy in agriculture and considering how to visibly mainstream gender issues. In addition to policymaking, the Government is tackling improvements in agricultural practice, focusing on gender. Currently, the Government is working on a specific mechanism to enable rural women to access financial resources and technical skills. "Adiba opa" emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation between NGOs and the Government, highlighting more than 16 gender-sensitive MoUs with the Ministries as well as FAO. However, the availability of gender-disaggregated data needs to improve further.

The Agromart.uz portal provides free access to advisory services, regardless of gender or social status, and conducts research using various gender indicators. However, the total ratio of registered women users is only around 11%, based on the latest data. Even though Agromart.uz conduct research surveys using their own social networks, it is not always easy to identify the role of women as the family tends to be represented by men, as well as enterprises. Therefore, Agromart.uz also requests ideas from participants about how to involve women directly.

Regarding gender issues, the private sector's role needs to be highlighted again as they are the driving force behind the move towards a gender-responsive and sustainable food system. Therefore, it would be advisable for the Government to motivate the private sector to link its strategies with national SDGs and involve them in the policy dialogue.

- World Agriculture Congress and Private Sector Engagement

Every year, the Government conducts the "World Agriculture Congress" to provide a broader platform for networking between state organisations and the private sectors. Although the Government has limitations to its interactions with the private sector, the Ministry will try its best to engage them proactively at the policymaking level.

## ACTION TRACKS

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# CORRECTIONS, ADJUSTMENTS, OR CHANGES

Title	Correction regarding the number of participants in each sector and number of participants from each stakeholder group
Date	14/07/2021

Number of participants in each sector. I have mistakenly indicated the number of participants from "Financial services" sector as "0" instead of "2". Number of participants from each stakeholder group. I have mistakenly indicated the number of participants from "United Nations" as "0" instead of "3".