

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 29 June 2021 09:30 GMT +00:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON GHANA'S FOOD SYSTEMS: DEVELOPING A RESILIENT AND EQUITABLE FOOD SYSTEM FOR IMPROVED NUTRITON SECURITY
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/29743/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/29743/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	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

342

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

1 0-18      50 19-30      225 31-50      60 51-65      0 66-80      80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

221 Male      121 Female      0 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

62	Agriculture/crops	50	Education	27	Health care
5	Fish and aquaculture	15	Communication	25	Nutrition
3	Livestock	6	Food processing	48	National or local government
8	Agro-forestry	5	Food retail, markets	0	Utilities
16	Environment and ecology	12	Food industry	2	Industrial
0	Trade and commerce	4	Financial Services	54	Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

4	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	2	Workers and trade union
5	Large national business	4	Member of Parliament
0	Multi-national corporation	48	Local authority
7	Small-scale farmer	143	Government and national institution
8	Medium-scale farmer	0	Regional economic community
5	Large-scale farmer	20	United Nations
15	Local Non-Governmental Organization	0	International financial institution
15	International Non-Governmental Organization	0	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
1	Indigenous People	0	Consumer group
72	Science and academia	10	Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The organization of the National Dialogue on Ghana's Food Systems greatly reflected the Food Systems Summit Principles of Engagement. • A Concept note detailing the relevance of the dialogue, objectives, expected outcomes and proposed participants was shared and discussed with facilitators to bring diverse perspectives and inclusiveness. • Facilitators and stakeholders were drawn from various sectors such as academia, private sectors, food system actors, media and civil society organizations. This was to ensure multi-stakeholder inclusivity • A Secretariat and National Technical Working Group of diverse backgrounds were established to support the Conveners to steer the national dialogues and preparations of the country report and commitment paper • Stakeholder groups were identified and sensitized about the UNFSS and Ghana's Food system. These included MDAs, MMDAs, private sector, Development Partners, media, civil society, youth groups, women groups • Identified Facilitators received training organized by the Conveners and by UN Food Systems Summit Secretariat • Highly visible launch of National Dialogue Chaired by the First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, with participation from government officials, academia, private sectors, food system actors and civil society organizations • Notable publicity about the dialogue using various media platforms such as radio, print media, Facebook and YouTube. Registration portals were made available for individuals to register and participate A day before the National Dialogue, a pre dialogue dry run/ "mock dialogue" was enacted by the facilitators for the conveners and other National Technical •Committee members to gauge the level of preparedness. •On the day of the Dialogue, Dialogue Conveners, Curators, and Facilitators reiterated and reinforced the Food Systems Summit Principles of Engagement to elicit contributions from participants.

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

• Implementing the National Food Systems Dialogue, the Conveners and other stakeholders of the Dialogue took cognizance of the Food Systems Summit Principles of engagement and ensured that the Dialogue was responsive to those principles. • First, regarding acting with urgency, stakeholders recognized, and reiterated the urgency with which the Ghanaian food systems needed to be transformed. As such the Dialogue requested specific policy tasks, and critical practice changes required to transform the Ghanaian food systems - by 2030. • "Commit to the Summit": Dialogue Conveners, Curators, Facilitators, and Participants received orientation at different phases of the Dialogue preparation and execution on Dialogue Principles – including training organized by the UN Food Systems Summit Secretariate • "Be respectful": Dialogue Conveners incorporated into the facilitation guidelines the need to show respect to allies but also to unusual "bedfellows" as transforming food systems require all stakeholders. Additionally, participants had the free hand to choose which breakout sessions to attend. • "Recognize complexity": Cognisant of the fact that food systems are complex and are impacted largely by the actions and inactions of humans, Dialogue Facilitators engaged participants in discussions that facilitated the identification of actions that have the potential to positively impact a complex system.

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

• The Conveners of Ghana's National Food Systems Dialogue would like to share the following with other Dialogue Convenors (especially those who are yet to implement their Dialogues) • Pre-dialogue engagements are crucial: - Engage potential participants on the nature and expectations of the Dialogue, as well as the Dialogue Principles of Engagement prior to the event. • Ghana's High Level highly visible launch of National Dialogue Chaired by the First Lady of the Republic of Ghana, with participation from government officials, academia, private sectors, food system actors, and civil society organizations motivated interest and participation in the Dialogue • Dialogue Conveners should dedicate time to highlight the objectives and expectations of the Dialogue, and outline the principles of engagement on the day of the Dialogue – to educate new audiences or reinforce the message to those already informed. • We have learned that it is helpful to plan ahead of time but it's even more important to be prepared to, as needed, take decisions extempore. The National Dialogue initially planned to hold 5 parallel discussion sessions on the day of the Dialogue. Upon assessing the number of registrants/dialogue participants on the day, the Dialogue Conveners innovatively duplicated the discussion rooms from 5 to 10 – to accommodate all interested participants. On the day of the Dialogue while some discussion themes were taken on in 2-3 breakout sessions due to large numbers of interested participants. Topics with manageable numbers remained as one discussion group. • Have the required background information for the 'Official Feedback Form' recorded via the online registration process but also on the day of the Dialogue. Not all who register for the dialogues turn up, and some find their way to the dialogue without registering.

# 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 Ghana National Food Systems Dialogue convened by the National Development Planning Commission, and the Ministry of Agriculture had an overarching theme - "Developing a Resilient and Equitable Food System for Improved Food and Nutrition Security". The discussions covered all areas of the food systems and were organized around the Five Action Tracks of the Food Systems Summit Dialogues:
- Action Track 1 – "Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all" – participants examined whether all Ghanaians currently have access to safe and nutritious food. If not, what is it that makes it difficult for Ghanaians to access safe and nutritious food?
- Action Track 2 – "Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns" – dialogue participants had conversations about what the key issues affecting healthy and sustainable food consumption were in Ghana.
- Action Track 3 – "Boosting nature-positive production at scale" – examined how Ghana's food production systems can be transformed to ensure sustainable food and nutrition security for the people.
- Action Track 4 – "Advancing equitable livelihoods" – explored inequalities within the Ghanaian food systems
- Action Track 5 – "Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks, and stresses" – examined Actions to ensure the resilience of the Ghanaian Food System.

### 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

The discussions from the breakout sessions produced the following key findings:

Dialogue participants agree that most Ghanaians have access to food but not necessarily safe, and nutritious food. Factors that militate against access to safe and nutritious food permeate the entire food system from production to consumption.

**Production:**

- most government- and donor-sponsored programmes and projects do not promote the production of nutritious local/traditional foodstuffs.
- Illegal mining (galamsey) is affecting the quantity, quality, and safety of food produced. Also, improper use of agrochemicals in farming, processing, and retail makes food unsafe.
- Food retailers do not adhere to safe practices resulting in microbial contamination, and foodborne diseases
- Post-harvest level challenges include food loss, fragmented food chain, poor transport, poor road linkages from farm to market.

**Healthy food consumption**

- absence of food-based dietary guidelines and few standards for nutritional requirements for different age groups
- little to no effort to valorize nutritious local, indigenous, traditional foods.
- vulnerable local (small-scale) farmers are not protected from the inflow of foreign goods that infiltrate the market.
- Poverty is pervasive and dictates access to food.

To address these challenges, Dialogue participants recommended short/medium/long term actions including:

- Improvements in conditions (roads, markets, appropriate mechanization and storage etc.) that promote small farmer production systems; to produce diverse foodstuffs.
- Protection of local farmers by supporting them with appropriate and quality inputs, and regulation of food inflow from other countries
- Valorisation of nutritious local/traditional food to incentivize production and consumption
- Application of best practices including promoting good and appropriate agronomy practices, tracing, and containing contaminated produce. The EPA and FDA should ensure that only approved agrochemicals are imported
- Government should set up food banks and land banks (reserve lands for agriculture) to increase food production.
- Meaningfully integrate fiscal and economic measures into food systems transformation initiatives.

**Healthy and sustainable food consumption :**

- Influx of imported foods that are cheap but unhealthy
- Food fraud (which includes adulteration, substitution, dilution, tampering, counterfeiting, and misrepresentation of the ingredients of food or composition of food).
- Food waste and loss – significant post-harvest losses

**Innovations and new approaches to address the above problems include**

- Use of hermetic bags for the storage of cereals and legumes to reduce post-harvest losses.
- Introduce warehousing systems or storage facilities at the time of bumper harvest:
- Encourage healthful food processing to increase shelf life of locally produced agricultural commodities;
- Mobilize resources to accelerate investment through public-private partnerships:

**Recommendations for Sustainable nature positive production:**

- Improving productivity of small-scale farmer production systems since they promote planetary health, are climate-smart, nutrition-sensitive
- Adopting diverse and appropriate improved farming practices, techniques to increase food production and productivity;
- Promoting practices that protect the loss of biodiversity of Ghana's indigenous and traditional foods, and natural regeneration of trees
- Avoiding destructive farming activities that destroy natural resources such as needless use of agrochemicals, uncontrolled
- Improved and localized irrigation systems by government and the private sectors as only rain-fed agriculture cannot sustain the food production

- Increase incentives to make agriculture attractive (branding) especially to the youth,

**Inequalities prevail within the Ghanaian food systems. Dialogue participants identified and proposed solutions including**

- Government should consider the deployment of mobile agricultural extension services in the digitization drive to attract the youth to agriculture
- Government should buy or subsidize lands for agricultural purposes and engage traditional landholders to address land tenure challenges for easier direct access by women and youth
- Regions with high hunger index and malnutrition should have a land tenure system that will support the production of food crops rather than cash crops
- Improving access to post-harvest technologies such as cold chains to reduce postharvest losses, especially during seasons of glut, and improve traditional production/processing/preparation technologies for competitiveness
- Fixing of railway and road networks to enhance transportation of harvested commodities and reduce losses in transit from hinterland as well as link farmers to markets.
- Improved handling of agricultural commodities that will reduce bruising in transit. Also, ensure that existing measures such as mandatory use of scales at both the farm gate and in the markets facilitate trading of farm produce.

**Resilience:**

- Government and other food systems stakeholders to support and promote all-year-round production system
- build data on actors in the food systems value chain, their profile, location, needs and actions given the risks.
- Improve the storage systems, e.g. producer capacity to store harvested produce
- The need to digitize our food system using artificial intelligence, blockchain farming, hydroponics etc.
- Improve road, and rail network
- Consider innovative financing models

## 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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

### DISCUSSION TOPIC 1: Access to safe and nutritious foods by all Ghanaians

Dialogue participants agree that most Ghanaians have access to food but not necessarily safe, and nutritious food. Factors that militate against access to safe and nutritious foods permeate the entire food system from production to consumption.

- At the production level, illegal minding (galamsey) is affecting the quantity, quality, and safety of food produced
- Relatedly, improper use of agrochemicals in farming, processing, and retail make food unsafe.
- Inadequate storage facilities and poor market linkages are other factors
- Vulnerability and lack of protection of the local (small-scale) farmers - from inflow of foreign goods that infiltrate the market.
- Food retailers, who are not properly regulated, do not adhere to safe practices resulting in microbial contamination and foodborne diseases
- Food fraud (including deceptive labelling practices, unregistered food on the market) is a challenge
- Post-harvest level challenges include food waste and loss, fragmented food chain, poor transport, poor road linkages from farm to market.
- With respect of healthful consumption, challenges include absence of food-based dietary guidelines.
- Little to no effort to valorize nutritious local, indigenous, traditional foods.
- There are cultural and social misperceptions of what constitutes healthy foods e.g. people who consume meat are seen as rich people.
- Low nutrition literacy of the populace.
- Unhealthy packaging practices: everything is going into plastics instead of the leaves, earthen ware bowl and calabashes
- Poverty is pervasive and dictates access to safe and nutritious food.
- Poor water quality is a challenge as access to safe water is important for food cultivation and preparation.
- “Unattractiveness of agriculture” – as a vocation to the populace – people do not consider training in agriculture necessary to become farmers.

To address these challenges, Dialogue participants recommended short/medium/long term actions including

- Protection of local farmers by supporting them with inputs, and regulation of food inflow from other countries
- Make agriculture more attractive to all especially young people
- Valorize nutritious local/traditional food to incentivize production and consumption
- Apply best practices including enforcing good agronomy practices, tracing and containing contaminated produce. The EPA and FDA should ensure that only approved agrochemicals are imported
- Training of farmers on best practices on the management of pests, chemicals, pesticides

Dialogue participants offered specific recommendations for the government, development partners, private sector and other food systems actors:

- In collaboration with academia, government should train and certify food systems stakeholders e.g. farmers and retailers
- In collaboration with development partners, government should expand and promote livelihood and income-generating activities (e.g. backyard farming, livestock rearing) targeted at women to improve household food security
- Government should improve the transportation system and enact regulations (including price control policies) that benefit all food systems stakeholders.
- Regulate advertising/marketing of food in general, not just unhealthy foods.
- Food safety and standards policies/regulations should have clear delineation of roles and responsibilities of regulators.
- Government should set up food banks and land banks (reserve lands for agriculture) to increase food production.
- Investment in food processing industry to produce healthy processed foods
- Institute both economic and fiscal interventions (tax system) to make healthy food attractive, and unhealthy food unattractive.

### 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
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- Policy
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- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate



## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

### DISCUSSION TOPIC 2: Factors that affect healthy and sustainable food consumption in Ghana

Dialogue participants identified the following:

- Influx of cheap, but unhealthy imported foods
- Food fraud (which includes adulteration, substitution, dilution, tampering, counterfeiting and misrepresentation of the ingredients of food or composition of food). A local challenge has been the adulteration of palm oil with Sudan IV dye, and tomato paste with starch rather than tomato concentrate
- Chemicalization of foods from farm to fork and port: Inappropriate uses of various chemicals by food systems actors
- Unhealthy foods are cheaper than healthy foods and consumers tend to buy foods they can afford, and these are mostly cheap unhealthy foods.
- Risk of contamination/cooking methods and duration: For instance, some people add paracetamol when cooking cowpea to cook faster.
- Bad fishing practices and trans-shipment of fish: (these have an impact on the sustainability of fish resources).
- Food waste and loss – significant post-harvest losses

Dialogue participants suggested innovations and new approaches to address the above persistent problems

- Use of hermetic bags for the storage of cereals and legumes to reduce post-harvest losses. Government could subsidize the price of these hermetic bags
- Introduce warehousing systems or storage facilities at the time of bumper harvest: Produce could be bought from farmers and properly stored and used during the lean season.
- Encourage the use of traditional silos built using earth and straw grass to store maize and millet, and other produce: When produce is stored in these environmentally friendly traditional silos, they could last for more than a year without pests.
- Encourage dry season farming using existing resources.
- Encourage home gardening especially in urban centres, construct tanks or poly tanks at homes to harvest rainwater for the purpose.

Dialogue participants suggested approaches for sustainable promotion and consumption of nutrient-rich and safe food

- The language used in communicating healthy and nutrient-rich food should not be abstract.
- Intensify nutrition education in school curricula: Include nutrition education in the curriculum of children at all levels of education (from kindergarten through tertiary level) as children are change agents.
- Inclusion of men/heads of household in nutrition education discussions: Heads of families/ include men in the discussions.
- Involvement of the media: There should be regular education on multiple media channels (radio, TV, print media, social media) on nutrition
- Promote culturally appropriate indigenous foods that are nutrient rich and safe food for consumption.

Dialogue participants emphasized that institutional reforms and arrangements are needed to address policy and strategic gaps, including inadequate and weak enforcement of food policies and regulations

- Harmonization of work among institutions: Different institutions could be working together to ensure that we have targeted production. For example, if the Ministry of Agriculture promotes a particular crop, it could liaise with the Ministry of Health to know the nutritional problems that require a specific crop to be scaled-up in its production.
- Development planning: The country should have long-term plans and then entrench in parliament. It should be legally binding on every government to continue existing agricultural projects that will enhance the sector. Parliament should pass a law binding on every govt to continue all agricultural projects.

To address environmental/sustainability challenges dialogue participants indicated that

- Policies and initiatives are needed to prevent/control overexploitation of natural resources in food value chains in Ghana
- Extension officers could educate farmers focusing on the health implications of the use of hazardous chemicals.
- Spatial production patterns could be more closely linked with soil fertility maps. i. e. Soil fertility maps are published by the soil research institute of CSIR to guide choice for crop for soils
- Recycling of plastics/ Limit the use of plastic packaging: Recycle, reduce, re-us

### 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
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### KEYWORDS

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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

### DISCUSSION TOPIC 3: Ensuring sustainable nature positive production in the Ghanaian food system

The majority of Dialogue participants agree that Ghana's food production system was not capable of ensuring sustainable food and nutrition security for the people. They identified factors that mitigate positive production as follows:

- Lack of promotion (by government-sponsored programmes and projects) of small farmer production systems which enhance planetary health and are climate-smart, nutrition-sensitive, and inclusive.
- Poor infrastructure especially bad road network in rural areas resulting in poor market access, low prices in producing areas but high prices in urban centres.
- Absence of land use planning leading to inappropriate application of technologies and poor use of natural resources
- Poor coordination, collaboration, and support among actors along the food value chain leading to high costs of activities at all levels of the chain.
- Lack of appropriate mechanization facilities and equipment
- Inadequate and inappropriate storage facilities leading to high postharvest losses
- Anti-environmental practices that destroy the natural resources and some species (crops and livestock) such as deforestation, bush fires, use of destructive agrochemicals
- Poor decentralization and distribution of resources as well as implementation of policy to the grassroots level
- Lack of and/or inadequate localized irrigation systems and high cost of irrigation equipment.
- Unattractive conditions and incentives in the agriculture sector

Dialogue participants suggested approaches to ensure positive production in Ghana's food system

- Greater emphasis by government and development partners on improving productivity of diverse locally produced foodstuffs.
- Scientific improvements of small farmer production systems to make them more climate-smart and resilient.
- Adopting appropriate, diverse and improved farming practices, techniques to increase food production and productivity
- Improve our storage systems to reduce postharvest losses. Also, it was suggested that future research innovations should focus on exploring food radiation
- Avoid anti-environmental activities that destroy the natural resources and species (crops and livestock)
- Well-developed land use policy and planning. Land use planning is important for appropriate application of relevant technologies. Also, information (data) on the potentials of different soils and what crops should be grown on which land will increase production and all-year farming.
- Improved irrigation systems by government and the private sectors and emphasis on the localization of irrigation infrastructure and governance.
- Increase incentives to make agriculture attractive (branding) especially to the youth, and to attract more investments into the sector. There is a need for appropriate and adequate branding of agriculture to make it attractive to the youth. Communication experts should be used to properly brand agriculture positively.
- The need for planned or appropriate mechanization in agriculture
- Improve smallholder farming in Ghana by encouraging site and crop-specific fertilizer usage.
- Proper identification and selection of good varieties of crop seeds and the breeds of animal
- Development of agronomic protocols. For instance, the current fertilizer recommendation for maize was developed many years back during the operation feed yourself era. However, in recent times more efficient fertilizers have been produced and need to be communicated to the right users.
- Innovative research and strategies into controlling pests and diseases that affect crops and animals

### 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
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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

### DISCUSSION TOPIC 4: Examination of inequalities within the Ghanaian food systems

- Government should consider the deployment of mobile agricultural extension services in the digitization drive to attract the youth and make agricultural extension services readily available to all persons in need on time
- Agriculture should be made attractive to youth; with innovations and education. For instance, seminars and training on agriculture; animal rearing, food production, and food processing as well as product enhancing will make agriculture attractive to the youth
- Farming should be encouraged as a professional career from the lower educational levels through to the higher level. This will encourage more people to have the desire and passion to go into farming
- Increasing opportunities for youth and women's direct access to land, production credit, agricultural inputs, technology, technical information on improved agricultural practices, and marketing outlets
- Training is geared more toward men but government and DPs should reach women farmers directly rather than training their husbands on the assumption that they will convey the skills to their spouses.
- Institutional innovations such as promoting group approach to agricultural investment and cooperative structures to ensure everybody wins
- In terms of inequalities in the access to premix by small SMEs, Government should consider subsidy or removal of import taxes to help make nutritious processed food products more affordable and available.
- There should be deliberate efforts to engage and involve (tertiary) students of agriculture in the design and implementation of solutions to address some of the issues affecting food systems in Ghana e.g. through projects
- Government should buy or subsidize lands purposely for agricultural purposes and engage policy revision/shift in consultation with traditional holders to address land tenure challenges for easier direct access by women and youth
- Regions with high hunger index and malnutrition should have a land tenure system that will support the production food crops rather than cash crops
- Government should promote irrigation, especially during dry seasons to improve food production
- There should be more diverse ways of supporting small scale farmers with equipment as well as capacity strengthening on the best use of equipment to enhance production in the food system and subsidies, funding and input support should target the small and medium scale producers
- Improving access to post-harvest technologies such as cold chains to reduce postharvest losses, especially during seasons of glut, and improve traditional production/processing/preparation technologies for competitiveness
- Government should help in setting up common unit prices of farm produce for local processors and a different common unit price for foreign processors or buyers to help encourage and motivate local processors. Industrial food processors should not be allowed to dictate food prices
- A policy should be enacted to provide incentives e.g. Subsidies to processors who site their firms in the rural areas especially where the road network is not good
- Fixing of railway and road networks to promote agricultural activities and reduce losses in transit from the hinterland and link production sites to markets.

### 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
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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

### DISCUSSION TOPIC 5: Actions to ensure resilience of the Ghanaian food system

#### Short-Medium Term actions

- We need to move to an all-year-round production system using modern systems. Focus on developing policies that will move us to seasonal production to all-year-round production.
- Build data on actors in the food systems value chain, their profile, and location and determine tailored needs and actions given the risks.
- Improve the storage systems, especially producer capacity to store harvest for later release on to the market.
- Funds should be made available by government and other donors to purchase modern equipment for production, processing, and storage.
- The need to digitize our food system using artificial intelligence, blockchain farming, hydroponics etc. The extent of digitization has major impact on resilience.
- Identification of food security hotspot in Ghana will play very vital role in responding swiftly.
- Invest in researching into how we can use modern technology to improve resilience in the food systems.
- Agriculture affects climate change and is also affected by climate change. So crop production processes that impact climate change must be addressed. Support those farmers who adopt farming methods that are environmentally friendly.
- Revamp our irrigation systems to adapt to climate change effects to produce all year round. Promote organic farming.
- Insurance packages tailored toward the resilience of all players in the food chain will be another step in making our food system resilient.
- Employ technologies targeted at fruit and vegetable, which are seasonal and perishable to increase the shelf life by employing packaging environments that help to produce safe and quality food for the short to medium term.

#### Long Term Actions

- Promote greenhouse farming among the youth in modernization of production systems
- Consider innovative financing models to better support food system resilience
- Agriculture affects climate change and is also affected by climate change, so crop production processes that impact climate change must be addressed. Support those farmers who adopt farming methods that are environmentally friendly.
- Promote Government-Private Partnership where private partners would be engaged to handle areas where Government cannot. E.g. Government financing infrastructural projects-irrigation, silos, etc., and the private sector partaking in the distribution of farm produce in time or marketing. Development partners can also do the same as earlier mentioned. Additionally, they can partner with our research institutions to research more on our food systems and develop more improved seedlings, etc.
- Government to create an enabling environment through designing favourable policies and strategies. Government can develop more support in terms of incentives, security for those starting their own business and making sure that any type of information and education on innovating their business and using new technologies for farming and marketing.
- Government needs to provide incentives or some form of financial security for farmers. Most farmers are not business savvy, they go through middlemen to sell their produce, thus making them poorer.
- The government should establish criteria for responsible agricultural investment so that PPP can be effective, and all players stand a chance of benefitting.
- Government should make a budgetary allocation to support regular testing of food throughout the food chain especially those run by public institutions to ensure food safety and food security
- We need a systems approach in dealing with food waste and increasing efficiency at each stage
- Government needs to improve road networks to help transport food.
- The private sector should adopt inclusive business operation models across the production, processing, and marketing segments of the food system. e.g. they can have good pro-poor financing mechanisms to support the actors in the food system
- Funding and technical support also from development partners
- Development partners need to work with government to understand our cultural issues to able to have an impact on our food system.

### ACTION TRACKS

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns              |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress |

### KEYWORDS

- |                          |                           |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Finance                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Policy                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Innovation                | <input type="checkbox"/> | Data & Evidence         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Human rights              | <input type="checkbox"/> | Governance              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trade-offs              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | Environment and Climate |

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

- Painting a gloomy and weak outlook of the Ghanaian regulatory sector, some dialogue participants noted that food retailers do not adhere to safe practices resulting in microbial contamination, and foodborne diseases. A representative of the Ghanaian Regulatory Sector argued that this dismal outlook may not be based on facts – contaminants could be due to poor hygiene and food handling and not organic contaminants. Another participant disagreed and cited local news evidence to support the claim of poor safety and the failure of the retail and regulatory sector to address this.
- On the use of the term unhealthy, not nutritious, a participant indicated that every food is nutritious, but maybe not balanced and that it is advisable to use the phrase “not balanced” rather than “not nutritious”.
- A dialogue participant noted that there are political and structural gaps that continue to fight against Ghana’s development. He further noted that decentralization is a complete failure and that federal governance of the food system should be considered. Another participant vehemently disagreed. “I think what the last speaker said, is 100% true. I will say it is rather better now since it has been decentralized. We are rolling out a lot of things. With the metropolitan, municipal, district assemblies, there are some challenges but it is not widespread. A lot of MMDCE are also supporting and prioritizing agriculture.”
- Responding to a recommendation to promote use of hermetic bags, a participant noted that hermetic bags, and traditional silos, have been used in the past and have not yielded the results. So, what more do we need to do to address the existing challenges with food storage? he quizzed. Although effective, the holding capacity of traditional silos is a problem. There is a need to expand the capacity of the silos to store produce adequately. Some of these traditional silos can hold only up to 10 bags. Additionally, the cost of hermetic bags (@15 cedis for one bag) does not encourage its use. Consider the price for a farmer requiring 100 or more of these bags. The local bags are about 3 cedis per bag but do not protect against pests; hence there is the need to subsidize hermetic bags to promote use.
- On policy on food importation, a participant emphasized the need for a government policy on importation of foods grown locally in Ghana and enforcement of the policy. However, others noted that given Government’s commitments towards AfCFTA, trade restrictions may not be practical. It would be more practical to promote a culture of consuming locally.
- The issue of conservation agriculture was also debated. A participant from Tanzania argued that conservation agriculture is a new technology, but other participant disagreed and stated that it’s already practiced by farmers and that only some newly introduced practices that have made it a more topical issue now.
- Though participants held different views on the type of farming systems in Ghana, i.e., subsistence and commercial, in the end, it was agreed that both systems are important in our attempt to achieve food and nutrition security, as well as environmental sustainability, and emphasis placed on improving and making them better and sustainable. Some participants argued for monocropping to improve the efficiency of production. Others, however, argued that monocropping is a problem in sustainability. “We should not be concerned with only economic sustainability. It is important to emphasize social and environmental sustainability as well. Mixed cropping and mixed farming systems can ensure all three types of sustainability if practiced well (scientifically). Mixed cropping and mixed farming ensures diversity of foodstuffs and thus important for both food security and nutrition security (food and nutrition security)”

### 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