

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 7 July 2021 09:00 GMT +08:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	National Dialogue on Engaging the Youth in Agriculture: The Key to Food Secure Future
CONVENED BY	Hon. Secretary William D. Dar
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/29784/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Philippines

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

311

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

292

19-30

13

31-50

5

51-65

66-80

1

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The National Dialogue, convened virtually by the Department of Agriculture (DA), targeted participants belonging in the youth cohort. As part of the preparatory activities for this event, written consultations were conducted with the DA's Committee for the Youth and Women to seek advice on how the Dialogue would be able to capture the youth's perceptions on the existing programs of the DA, and how these recommendations would be utilized to be able to frame better initiatives that would ensure multi-sectoral engagement with youth as one of the key stakeholders. Likewise, the concept design and work program of the activity were developed under the guidance and/supervision of the Curator, the Chairperson of the Committee on Substantive Matters, relevant DA agencies, and resource persons to ensure that the objectives are aligned with the thrusts of the Department. The title of the National Dialogue was based on the idea that the youth are the key to achieving sustainability. To achieve this vision, the youth must be engaged, and food systems must be transformed. The complexity of this undertaking warranted the participation of all actors who have huge roles in youth engagement and youth development. As such, invitations were sent to various sectors of government institutions, international organizations, academe, youth/non-government organizations, start-up companies founded by youth in agriculture, private individuals interested in farming; and beneficiaries of our Department's youth-related programs, i.e., scholarships and internships. To focus the discussion on two of the most important aspects of youth involvement, the organizers deemed it necessary to structure the Dialogue into two Plenary Sessions: 1) Efforts and Initiatives on Engaging the Youth in Food Systems and 2) The Role of Youth in Food Systems. Participants' views, perceptions, and opinions were gathered after each plenary session.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

It was ensured that the resource persons will come from national and international organizations with programs and interventions for the youth; and are champions who could share their experiences on promoting agriculture to their fellow youth in the community. The Dialogue also aimed to strike a balance for the participants from the youth sectors coming from the government and non-government organizations. The participants were also asked to describe what "good food" is to gather perceptions across all sectors.

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

Dialogue conveners should carefully integrate the principles in the design of their Dialogues. These would serve as reference or guidance on how the Dialogue should be executed to achieve the desired objectives. When convening Dialogues virtually with a huge number of participants, it would be a good strategy to conduct breakout sessions to better facilitate interaction and be able to tackle all issues given a limited amount of time. Moreover, developing a set of guiding questions, which are open-ended and focused on inquiry, would help in keeping the discussions aligned with the objectives of the Dialogue. Lastly, it is important to have proper documentation of the discussion in order to ensure that issues tackled and recommendations presented are considered and integrated into the planning and policy agendas of all the sectors concerned.

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

Given the country's aging farming population, the engagement of the youth in food systems is of predominant importance. Thus, the National Dialogue served as a platform to discuss mechanisms to encourage and motivate the youth to take the lead in transforming food systems.

Specifically, the National Dialogue aimed to: 1) Facilitate exchange of information on the best practices and initiatives aimed to provide access to knowledge and information to improve the skills of youth along the value chain; 2) Identify gaps and challenges, and determine areas of joint action in developing integrated approaches to advance the participation of youth in food systems; and 3) Translate this knowledge into policy-related actionable recommendations.

Youth as stakeholders in food systems are viewed as potential agents of change. Thus, there is a need not only to recognize but also to put into action the role that today's youth will have in the development trajectories and future sustainability of food systems.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

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

MAIN FINDINGS

The National Dialogue was structured to have two plenary sessions, which focused on 1) efforts and initiatives on engaging the youth, and 2) the role of youth in food systems.

Efforts and Initiatives on Engaging the Youth in Food Systems

In this session, several activities and programs initiated by both government and non-government organizations were presented, all of which are aimed at building capacities, providing opportunities, and setting the policy environment in order to advance the involvement of youth in food systems.

Although there exists a variety of interventions, it was highlighted that changing the mindset of the youth should start as early as childhood and should emanate from within their homes. Attracting the interest of young people therefore requires engaging their parents, teachers, and the community as a whole.

While there are efforts towards increasing the appreciation of youth in agriculture, success would only be attained if these are complemented by efforts to promote awareness of agriculture as a viable and rewarding career.

The Role of Youth in Food Systems

Building upon the discussions in the first plenary session, the second session focused on how the youth, given their capabilities, are taking part or could take part in transforming food systems. Hence, central to the discussion was the need for collective effort to establish the foundation and address key constraints on involving the youth in agriculture and the food systems as a whole.

In particular, the needs of the young people have to be addressed—among others, they should be given access to education and resources that would help them build their expertise and be equipped with the right skillset. Most importantly, youth must be given the opportunity to participate in various decision-making and agricultural policy-making bodies initiated by the government and private sector.

At the end of the Dialogue, the importance of having collaborative effort among government, private sector, and other agencies in changing the mindset of the youth towards agriculture was emphasized.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The following outcomes were based on the issues and recommendations gathered during the open forum as well as in the feedback form that was distributed to the participants at the end of the Dialogue.

Efforts and Initiatives on Engaging the Youth in Food Systems

1. Access to education was regarded as one of the most vital steps towards youth engagement. Under the Department of Education (DepEd), the following efforts are being pursued:
 - a. Agri-fishery as one of the components of its Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE). It also provides 23 specialized subjects related to agriculture for Senior High School.
 - b. Gulayan sa Paaralan Program, which aims to teach the children/youth the opportunities in agriculture and fisheries.
2. For secondary level education, the plan is still being shaped and surveys are being conducted from different universities for their inputs to make the curriculum attractive and enterprise-ready.
3. Agriculture should not be focused solely on the aspect of production; if the goal is securing the engagement of the youth in agriculture and food systems, then there should be opportunities for them to take up jobs across each component of the agri-food system.
4. Participants pointed out that opportunities for employment especially in the agriculture sector are scarce. Thus, there is a need to transform the curriculum into one that is employment- and enterprise-ready.
5. Parents and members of the local community play major roles in shaping the mindset of youth towards agriculture. If young people were to be taught as early as their childhood, then appreciation of agriculture will be inculcated towards adulthood.
6. There is a need to strengthen information, education and communication (IEC) campaigns to bring awareness and provide more information about these programs.
7. Engaging the youth should be a holistic approach; thus, there is a need to work hand in hand with other actors/agents of change in the food system such as the academe, the industry, and government agencies, among others. It was also acknowledged that the media play important roles in creating awareness on the value of agri-food systems.

The Role of Youth in Food Systems

1. To gather the views and perception of young people, prior to the start of the Dialogue, participants were asked to describe the role of the youth in the transformation of food systems. These responses revealed that there exists a certain level of awareness among young people on how important their role is in transforming food systems.
2. To realize the potential of young people as future leaders and agents of change, there is a need to address bottlenecks in every segment of youth engagement and involvement in agri-food systems. Participants were asked to identify the major challenges being faced by young people involved in food systems. The following responses revealed the importance of government in providing opportunities and ensuring access to support mechanisms:
 - Lack of knowledge and/or access to resources and government support
 - Lack of experience and employment opportunities
 - Lack of access to technology and financial support
3. There is a need to democratize, and be deliberate and intentional on youth involvement because young participants have different impacts in the agri-fishery industry. They need to be provided with the right platform, taking into consideration the balance in geographical location, age, gender, etc.
4. To promote the goal and strengthen the voices of young farmers and fisherfolk, the first step is for them to be recognized by the state legislators. Thus, a bill, entitled Magna Carta for Young Farmers Act, has been filed in Congress, seeking a Magna Carta for the youth to promote and protect the rights of young farmers.
5. Youth should be recognized as stakeholders. Thus, there is a need to ensure that the youth are given a voice in decision-making processes of the government and private sector.
6. There is a need to have a concerted effort among the public and the private sectors in promoting opportunities in agriculture (with the value chain in focus).

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

None.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **PH National Dialogue on Youth Official Poster**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/PH-National-Dialogue-on-Youth-Poster.jpg>
- **Screenshot of the participants, organizers and resource persons**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Screenshot-of-the-organizers-resource-persons-and-participants-of-the-Dialogue_YOUTH.pdf