

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 1 July 2021 11:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	EAFF Youth Dialogue on United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021
CONVENED BY	Eastern Africa Farmers Federation
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/29868/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

55

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

50 0-18 5 19-30 31-50 0 51-65 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

37 Male 18 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

29	Agriculture/crops	Education	Health care
0	Fish and aquaculture	Communication	Nutrition
26	Livestock	Food processing	National or local government
	Agro-forestry	Food retail, markets	Utilities
	Environment and ecology	Food industry	Industrial
	Trade and commerce	Financial Services	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	Workers and trade union
	Large national business	Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation	Local authority
33	Small-scale farmer	Government and national institution
19	Medium-scale farmer	Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer	United Nations
	Local Non-Governmental Organization	International financial institution
13	International Non-Governmental Organization	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People	Consumer group
	Science and academia	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Dialogue was organized in such way that we gave space for each participant to freely express him/herself and we respected all ideas

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Farmer organizations committed to follow up on the recommendations they suggested to ensure they are considered and acted up to the benefit of smallholder farmers in Eastern Africa

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

encourage convenors to be free in consulting their members for any other input to the discussions and to share them with EAFF for inclusion since not everything can be discussed during the online session.

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?

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Yes

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No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The dialogue focused the discussions on the following subjects:

Subject 1: Are agricultural policies favorable to the development of sustainable and innovative food systems?

Subject 2: What are the challenges in terms of access to quality inputs and means of production to ensure a sustainable and innovative food system

Subject 3: What are the main levers able to promote productivity in the face of the challenges of climate change and various shocks and stresses? What are the measures to be taken for a post-Covid 19 recovery?

Subject 4: How to ensure better access and security to / of agricultural land?

Subject 5: What are the challenges of agricultural financing and what measures should be put in place to improve the situation?

Subject 6: How to ensure better inclusion of women and young people in agriculture?

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

See section below on outcomes per topic of discussion

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 - 1/6

Agricultural policy: In relation to policies affecting agriculture, the youth mentioned that there is poor dissemination of information to users, that is, the government makes very good policies but unfortunately they are not shared with the beneficiaries or end users thus farmers are always caught off guard, that there is lack of a forum to report to government about youth influence or impact by the policies made, there is lack of access to information to understand or be able to respond to the opportunities available thereby hindering youth access among others.

In terms of proposed solutions, the youth suggested the need for governments to openly share information with the young farmers, to sensitize young farmers on available policies, the need to gather feedback from youth on effectiveness of provided policies and for the governments to prioritise youth inclusion in policy making and implementation. Also, agriculture should be budgeted for appropriately, there is need to streamline the mandate of government bodies on implementation of the budget and last but not least to create awareness and education for the political class regarding agricultural policies.

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 |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/6

Access to inputs and means of production: On this particular subject, the young farmers identified corruption, lack of awareness regarding agricultural inputs, limited implementation of quality control, and limited access of technical people as constraints to means of production. Others include COVID-19 restrictions leading to inaccessibility such as limitation in movement due to lockdowns, knowledge barrier for young farmers in terms of quality inputs, and the high cost of inputs in general.

On this issue, the youth suggested the need for government to do restructuring of service providers, the need to decentralise agricultural institutions, to do capacity building of agricultural personnel, to be more vigilant on counterfeit goods and to have increased awareness and education on agricultural products and services as part of the solutions or suggestions for way forward.

ACTION TRACKS

- ☒
- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

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KEYWORDS

- ☐
- Finance

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/6

Resilience: The participants noted that in terms of constraints, there was a challenge of unpredictable weather patterns, issues of deforestation, lack of proper research on seed varieties and a disconnect between research findings and the actual data on the ground. Further, the adoption of GMOs has led to altered production rates and in other cases there is growing cases of pollution that has led to making land unproductive. In terms of solutions, it was proposed that there is need to invest in regenerative agriculture concerning organic farming to cushion farmers in relation to unhealthy food production, there is need for proper dissemination of research data and statistics, it is important to involve young farmers in feasibility studies and the need for reliable and accurate information regarding weather patterns among others. Further, there is need for more capacity building for young farmers, need to begin conserving the indigenous seeds for better productivity, we should adopt proper disposal/ reuse/ recycling of plastic waste and push for reforestation and tree planting for improved ecosystems.

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/6

Agricultural land: The youth noted that land is inaccessible to them, there is poor land documentation especially regarding issues of succession in the case of death of old parents, conflicts have become common for example in Uganda due to increased population density, there is shortage of agricultural land in most countries coupled with issues of fragmentation among others.

The members proposed that there is need to break cultural barriers regarding land ownership, there is need to have proper documentation and laws regarding land ownership and succession, idle land should be made accessible to youth for farming purposes, and there is need to look into ways of managing human conflicts occasioned by population explosions. In addition, farmers should be encouraged to adopt new technologies such as hydroponic farming and the governments to improve on data management especially concerning households to improve on planning.

ACTION TRACKS

- ☒
- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

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KEYWORDS

- ☐
- Finance

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/6

Agricultural finance: Several issues were considered as constraints to farming in the region in connection to agricultural finance. These include lack of sensitisation on interest rates for lending to youth, lack of awareness on the issues on the loans or allowing for negotiations for youth to be able to access funds, failure for concessions or grace period for agricultural borrowers, and not allowing youth and farmers access to loans at the rates the National bank allows for them thus hindering them from progressing in agricultural pursuits. Also, the agricultural products most banks are offering have a very high insurance rates and when farmers face challenges they are not compensated, this is coupled with interest rates for agricultural products being very high. In terms of recommendations, the young farmers suggested the need for microfinance organisations to improve on their products and tailor make them for youth, the need to revise interest rates and insurances and also to consider concessions or grace period for loan repayment.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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- 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 |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/6

Conclusion: It was observed that most people in rural settings do not have access to digital technology, the cost of technology is prohibitive and the youth are not involved in processes of policy making. Further, the youth and women are often left out of discussions affecting land distribution or matters touching on agriculture yet they are critical players.

It was suggested that, in order to overcome such challenges, there is need to include youth in policy making, it is imperative to look at the cost of emerging technology and subsidise the same for the youth and also improve on distribution of digital infrastructure throughout the region not just in urban settings. There is also need to mainstream gender issues into agricultural discussions so that women's role in agricultural processes can be recognised and rewarded.

ACTION TRACKS

- ☒
- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all

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KEYWORDS

- ☐
- Finance

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

ACTION TRACKS

KEYWORDS

	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all		Finance		Policy
	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns		Innovation		Data & Evidence
	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production		Human rights		Governance
	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods		Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress				Environment and Climate