OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 7 July 2021 10:00 GMT -04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	The Critical Role of Research and Development in Achieving Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems
CONVENED BY	World Bank African Development Bank, African Development Institute, Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI), Alliance for African Partnership, USAID, Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/30120/
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 109

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

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

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

41	Male	35	Female	33	Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

	Agriculture/crops		Education		Health care
	Fish and aquaculture		Communication		Nutrition
	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
	Small-scale farmer		Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer		United Nations
	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
	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 hosted online as an invited side event to the UN Food Systems Summit (FSS) Science Days. The event was widely promoted through online communities of practice and through the communication networks of each of the co-hosting organizations to encourage participation among diverse stakeholder groups. The online platform allowed for anonymous sharing of questions for the facilitated Q/A session, as well as open comments and participant discussion throughout the event using the chat function. *Note, additional participant data is available but not reported in the categories proposed by this form.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The Dialogue was organized to incorporate, reinforce, and enhance the Principles of Engagement of the Summit. As an example, the Dialogue was organized to "Act with Urgency," as panelists and participants were asked to elaborate on pathways for actionable steps towards food systems transformation through agricultural research and development, with actions focused on policy changes feasible in the next ten years toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Recognizing the complexity of the agricultural research and development space, the dialogue brought together multiple stakeholders to identify actions across the system, including representatives from international and local private sector organizations, regional and international research and development organizations, and the academic community. Additionally, through broad public invitation and outreach to the virtual event, the conveners aimed to embrace "multi-stakeholder inclusivity," encouraging attendee participation through discussion, chat, and question and answer as well as sharing resources, including sharing divergent views and references.

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

The organizers carefully cultivated a panel with diverse representatives and perspectives to complement and expand the dialogue. In addition, in the formation of the questions and topics to be discussed, the organizers discussed potentially diverse and opposing viewpoints and took these under consideration to ensure a far-reaching dialogue during the event itself, in addition to taking questions from the audience.

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

As an invited side event to the U.N. Food Systems Summit Science Days, this event gathered leaders across the private and public research and development sectors to identify and discuss the key actions needed to advance adaptive agricultural research and develop an enabling policy environment to support the steady stream of technological innovations necessary for resilient and sustainable food systems. The discussion reviewed evidence of evolving economic transformation and progress towards resilience in sub-Saharan Africa from the Board for International Food and Agriculture Development (BIFAD)-commissioned Agricultural Productivity Growth, Resilience, and Economic Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa report; the World Bank publication Harvesting Prosperity: Technology and Productivity Growth in Agriculture; and the African Development Bank Group publication, Building Resilience in Food Systems and Agricultural Value Chains. Together, panelists and participants identified lessons learned from countries in which substantial investments in adaptive agricultural research and development and extension systems have shown the catalytic role of productivity-led agricultural growth in contributing to employment, resilience, and economic transformation. Panelists were asked to present recommendations for actionable steps towards addressing three key questions: 1) Investments in international CGIAR research and National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), do we have the right balance? 2) How do we best mobilize sustained political commitment in Africa for agricultural research, development, and extension? 3) Whose science counts, and how can we ensure that "science" is not appropriated by powerful actors that could potentially foreclose sustainable and accessible approaches to technical innovation?

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

A review of recent evidence (see links provided at end of report) shows the importance of technical innovation driven by research, development, and extension as drivers of agricultural productivity growth, and further, the catalytic role of agricultural productivity-led growth in poverty reduction, food systems resilience, and economic transformation. Investments in agricultural research and development generate among the greatest impacts on agricultural productivity growth and poverty reduction per dollar spent, though many African governments invest less than 1% of agricultural GDP in agricultural research.

Panelists from public and private sector, research, and development communities called for priority actions to ensure sustained support for agricultural research and development. Calls to action include:
Demonstrate sustained government commitment for national agricultural Research & Development & Extension (R&D&E) investments, leveraging and building on international donor and CGIAR investments.
Increase investments in locally relevant, adaptive national-level agricultural research and development, including the investments in improved institutional and absorptive capacity and ownership at National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and improved education for innovation actors, including on-farm actors.
Identify opportunities to further strengthen cooperation between national and international research systems and partnerships with the private sector.

Prioritize rule of law, governance, and more favorable enabling trade, policy, infrastructure, and security environments to drive productivity growth and support private sector investment.
Integrate inclusive, demand-driven, and adaptive agricultural research prioritization and technology development across all agricultural research and development efforts, including social sciences and policy research, ensuring R&D investments reflect choice and actively and meaningfully include smallholder farmers and innovators, women, and youth. Ensure that innovation systems are adaptive to environmental changes and local context.

Each of these are further discussed in the next report section.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

Discussion Point 1) How to mobilize sustained political commitment in Africa for agricultural research, development, and extension

Discussion addressed the need for governments to demonstrate sustained commitment for national agricultural research, development, and extension investments that leverage and build on international donor and CGIAR investments.

Panelists called for national governments to fulfill current commitments to investments in agriculture and specifically agricultural research and development. One example cited is the Maputo Declaration, in which African governments agreed to allocate 10% of government spending to agriculture, with targets for agricultural R&D. However, many are only at 2-3%. Additionally, discussion addressed the need for governments to prioritize rule of law, governance, and more favorable enabling trade, policy, infrastructure, and security environments to drive productivity growth and support private sector investments in agricultural research and development. As an example, at least one reference highlighted how the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) can provide expanded markets for African farmers and provide incentives for the adoption of farm technologies that increase productivity, noting also that those technologies need to be developed and adapted to the highly varied farming conditions in Africa in order to realize these benefits, again pointing to the importance of supporting the NARS.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Discussion Point 2) Investments in international CGIAR research and National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), do we have the right balance?

Panelists shared views and data supporting the idea that efforts to improve livelihoods across the board are now constrained by lack of progress in building national-level research and development capacity, particularly within NARS, and extension services. Given the highly varying farming conditions in the region, farm technologies and soil fertility management practices must be locally adapted to specific conditions. Strong NARS and extension systems are needed to achieve this. Technical innovation that is adapted to specific smallholder conditions is a precondition for sustainable and inclusive transformation of food systems. Panelists also recommended that smallholder farmers themselves be active voices and participants in this process.

The CG system has contributed and continues to contribute substantially to innovations in developing countries. However, these centers alone do not have the resources to reach millions of smallholder farmers with their specific and highly varied needs. Adaptive national level R&D&E is a crucial source of technical innovation of the food system.

Consensus was reached around the need for increased local and international investments in locally relevant, adaptive national level agricultural research and development, including the investments in improved institutional and absorptive capacity and ownership at National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), improved education for innovation actors, including on-farm actors, and incorporating indigenous knowledge and technologies.

At the same time, discussion touched on the need to identify opportunities to further strengthen cooperation between national and international research systems, marrying best international practices with locally developed and relevant technologies, and partnerships with the private sector.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

Discussion 3) How can we ensure that “science” is not weaponized by powerful actors that foreclose sustainable and accessible approaches to technical innovation?

Integrate inclusive, demand-driven, and adaptive agricultural research prioritization and technology development across all agricultural research and development efforts, including social sciences and policy research, ensuring R&D investments reflect choice and actively and meaningfully include smallholder farmers and innovators, women, and youth. Ensure that innovation systems are adaptive to environmental changes and local context.

Discussion addressed the need for the inclusion of the user community to understand what their needs are so that research can respond to these needs with emphasis on product life cycles, gender, and farmer choice. Emphasis on the entire product life cycle is important to respond to demand which leverages the whole innovation system and improves scalability. Women and men have differential perceptions, experiences, access to resources, and sources of information. Gender-responsive agricultural research, development, and extension systems are crucial to ensuring innovations meet the needs of women and men in the community. In the same way, inclusive agricultural R&D&E systems address the needs of youth and other communities that may otherwise be marginalized. Panelists also discussed barriers to farmer access and farmer choice. Inclusion in policy making and technology development should be at the center of agriculture R&D work and will be important as we look forward to the future of technology advances.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Through discussion, several points emerged as areas in need of further exploration, including:
How can we build more political commitment to agricultural R&D, recognizing it as a key success factor in agriculture-led transformation and agriculture itself as a core component of economies?
How can governments and international organizations invest in NARS capacity building while also leveraging the capacity of the international research community, private sector, and CGIAR system?
How can modern agricultural R&D be compatible with, and incorporate, traditional and indigenous knowledge? What needs to be in place to foster these exchanges?

Additionally, emerging from conversations during the planning of this event and from comments shared by at least one panelist and one participant, there was discussion about the importance of inclusivity and ideas on creating space for all kinds of knowledge, both modern and traditional. Views were expressed that technical innovation should not be limited to lab-based science, but also incorporate indigenous technologies and knowledge. Recommendations were made for future discussion with invitation to a broader panel, including agroecologists, to speak to the places of collaboration and overlap to avoid foreclosing on views, disciplines, or stakeholder groups.

The co-organizers of this dialogue—the World Bank, the African Development Bank/African Development Institute (AfDB/ADI), the Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI), the Alliance for African Partnership, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and BIFAD—are committed to championing and broadly disseminating these important themes and messages to policymakers, including at the UN Food Systems Summit, and in pursuing opportunities to continue and expand this dialogue with particular focus on inclusivity and seeking diverse stakeholder engagement for solutions-oriented discussion. This continued dialogue, exploration of evidence, and convening of stakeholders are expected to influence informed policy changes to increase strategic and targeted investments in agricultural research and development, including recommitment to existing policy frameworks. In the longer term, increased strategic investments in agricultural research, development, and extension are known to have catalytic and transformative impacts on food systems and broader development outcomes.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Event Flyer**
  https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/UNFSS2021_ScienceDays_RDforSustainableFoodSystems_flyer2021.07.07.pdf

- **UN FSS Science Days Side Event Summary Report**
  https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/UNFSS2021_ScienceDays_RDforSustainableFoodSystems_SideEventReport.pdf

RELEVANT LINKS

- **USAID Board for International Food and Agriculture Development (BIFAD) report, Agricultural Productivity Growth, Resilience, and Economic Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa**
  https://bit.ly/agriculturalproductivitygrowth

- **World Bank publication, Harvesting Prosperity: Technology and Productivity Growth in Agriculture**
  https://bit.ly/harvestingprosperity

- **African Development Bank Group publication, Building Resilience in Food Systems and Agricultural Value Chains**
  https://bit.ly/buildingresiliencefoodsys