

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 5 April 2021 10:30 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	UK National Food Systems Dialogue
CONVENED BY	Ananda Guha, Deputy Director, Food Exports, Promotion and Partnerships, Agri-Food Chain Directorate Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/30386/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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

987

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

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?

Although some of the dialogues took place in 2019, the Principles remained a key part throughout all of the UK's engagements.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

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

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

More information on the method of engagement can be found in the respective reports. The UK convened numerous sessions with food industry stakeholders which discussed industry collaboration with Government and the barriers faced in driving sustainability and/or resilience in the food system. Views on food system transformation were also collated from consultations by the Devolved Administrations of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and a multi-sectoral stakeholder engagement held by the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Global Food Security Programme. More information on the method of engagement can be found in the respective reports. Please note: We are not able to publish the Northern Ireland report but this will be supplied to the Secretariat.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The dialogues explored the whole food system, covering the areas of all action tracks.

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

Please note: This report represents the views of food systems stakeholders, it does not represent the official views of UK Government.

UK industry highlighted their enthusiasm for sustainability and environmental initiatives including Government and industry roundtables to drive sustainable supply chains for palm oil and soy, Courtauld 2025 commitments, the Red Tractor assurance scheme, commitments to the FAO Dairy Declaration of Rotterdam, achieving Net Zero in farming goals and the Climate Change Levy discount scheme. Further coordination between industry innovation schemes to share innovation and best practice was suggested.

Key barriers to achieving sustainability goals highlighted by industry were time, financial resource, and long-term policy and business trajectories. The need for applicable and enforceable sustainability and environmental goals on an international rather than national scale was noted as being key for success. More widely recognised and applicable sustainability and biodiversity metrics were also suggested.

Multiple industry attendees flagged the need to utilise lessons learnt during the Covid-19 pandemic to build resilience in the food chain and achieve sustainability and environmental targets. Most industry attendees appreciated the food industry and Government's close collaboration during the Covid-19 pandemic. Some attendees desired greater Government intervention in the future whereas others were more content to return to normal. Attendees noted that resilience should be an integral part of the definition of sustainability.

Adopting a whole-Government food policy framework that supports sustainable food production and healthy diets was suggested. Industry flagged that the impacts of new environmental regulations upon all actors within the food system should be evaluated, and highlighted the need for a greater alignment of wider legislation (e.g. recycling and packaging legislation) with food policy, to ensure that regulation is not a barrier to progress.

Attendees highlighted the need for enhanced consumer education on packaging, waste, sustainable food systems and food justice, to allow consumers to make more informed choices. Working with all members of civil society to build a social revolution promoting a sustainable food system was another key action identified.

More cohesive national and local strategies, e.g. recycling schemes, as well as a focus on local supply chains and supporting sustainability within local food businesses and enterprises were recommended.

Wider access to, and promotion of, healthy, seasonal and local food, with greater education on the links between health issues and food was highlighted. Legislation and taxation on unhealthy foods were mentioned by attendees.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Please see attached.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Please see attached.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Welsh-Food-Strategy-Dialogue-Report-1.pdf>
- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/GFS-Multi-Stakeholder-Dialogue-Report.pdf>
- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/UNFSS-Industry-report.pdf>
- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Scottish-Good-Food-Nation-Proposal-for-Legislation-Dialogue-Report-1.pdf>