

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 6 July 2021 09:00 GMT +08:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Member state dialogue
CONVENED BY	E. Bolromaa, Economic and Development policy Advisor
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/30618/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Mongolia

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

86

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

46 Male

40 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

10 Agriculture/crops
Fish and aquaculture
Livestock
Agro-forestry
Environment and ecology
Trade and commerce

10 Education
Communication
10 Food processing
Food retail, markets
22 Food industry
Financial Services

31 Health care
Nutrition
National or local government
Utilities
Industrial
13 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

23 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
10 Science and academia

31 Workers and trade union
Member of Parliament
Local authority
Government and national institution
Regional economic community
United Nations
International financial institution
22 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?

For the organization of the Dialogue, the handbook for member states dialogue was used, adapting it to the local context. To contribute to the vision, objectives, and final outcomes of the Food System Summit, the dialogue was structured around the 5 Action Tracks, integrated into three main Thematic Areas. The Dialogue was convened by the Senior Advisor of the Prime Minister of Mongolia. The participants were from different backgrounds and invited based on their expertise and role in the food systems of Mongolia. Particularly, the government officials and policymakers from the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Road and Transport, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Internal Affairs. The main facilitator of the dialogue was the National Development Agency, UNRCO in Mongolia, and the UNFAO in Mongolia.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The dialogue aimed to reflect all the Principles of the Global Food Systems Dialogue. Act with urgency, recognizing the complexity, being respectful to the local context and culture, embracing multi-stakeholder approach in all thematic sessions, building trust, committing to the global summit values and principles through covering the action tracks and complimenting the work of others working in the food systems in Mongolia.

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

Providing good background information to the participants through various documents for reading, presenting the current context of the food systems at national level through presentations before the breakout room discussions were helpful in starting from the common point. Therefore, very good pre-summit preparation is crucial in conducting a successful dialogue.

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

The main goal of the national dialogue was to envision the kinds of national food systems that will be needed by 2030 and how to shape the pathway towards a sustainable food system in Mongolia. The dialogue was designed to encourage participating stakeholders to explore what actions should be taken for all people in Mongolia to be able to access sustainably produced food in ways that contribute to equitable, resilient livelihoods and provide healthy, nutritious diets for the whole population while adapting to and mitigating climate change. Specifically, the national dialogue envisaged the following objectives:

1. Raise awareness of food systems' centrality to the entire sustainable development agenda, and the urgency of transforming food systems, particularly in the wake of a global pandemic;
2. Recognize the need for inclusivity and innovation in food systems governance and action; and
3. Develop principles and identify concrete pathways and solutions that can be implemented by the government and other stakeholders in Mongolia.

Specifically, the dialogue followed the same Action Tracks as the Global Food Systems Summit, localizing the action tracks into three thematic areas:

- 1) Ensure access to safe and nutritious food and promote sustainable consumption
- 2) Advance equitable livelihood and value distribution
- 3) Boost nature-positive production and build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.

Each thematic session had detailed guiding questions such as:

Under the thematic session 1:

1. What policy do you propose and what measures need to be taken at what stage of the food value addition chains to provide the population with safe and nutritious food accessibly?
2. How to optimally form knowledge, concept and behavior for proper nutrition and food consumption of the population?
3. What policies should be pursued and what measures should be taken to ensure mutually beneficial partnerships between the stakeholders of the food systems so that they perform their functions better?

Under the thematic session 2:

1. What policies should be pursued and what measures should be taken to sustainably preserve food producers' jobs and improve their livelihoods?
2. What policy do you propose and what measures need to be taken within the framework of changing and improving food value addition chains to improve the lives of young people, women and vulnerable groups and their access to food?
3. What policies should be implemented and what measures should be taken to ensure food security in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Under the thematic session 3:

1. What policies do you propose and what measures need to be taken to increase investments aimed at strengthening the production and business capacity in animal husbandry, agriculture and small and medium-sized enterprises?
2. What policies should be pursued and what measures should be taken to form a food system that made it possible to preserve the sustainable state of natural resources and their rational use and protection?
3. What policy do you propose and what measures need to be taken to further improve the economic support and leverage provided by the state to food producers?

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

Through the National dialogue, following pressing urgent problems have been identified:

Under the Thematic Session 1:

- State policy on the food industry is unstable, lacks continuity and policy implementation is weak;
- The ability of rural food industry specialists and professional labor force is insufficient;
- Children of vulnerable groups are more exposed to malnutrition;
- Research work on the peculiarities of Mongolians and food consumption, different by seasons is insufficient; loss of product quality during transportation, distribution, storage a lot;
- There is no joint fund for registration and information on ingredients and input of domestic and imported products;
- Control over unhealthy food advertisements on social media is weak.

Under the Thematic Session 2:

- Primary food production is seasonal, subject to natural risks;
- Knowledge and information of small producers (herdsmen, farmers, small and medium-sized enterprises) about the food system is insufficient and their participation is weak;
- Total social assistance reduces the interest of vulnerable groups to work; implementation of state policy and legislation is insufficient;
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, food prices are rising, supply and quality are declining, and food production jobs are being cut.

Under the Thematic Session 3:

- Most agricultural producers are small, their capacity is weak, productivity is low, technological reform is insufficient, and there is no real investment;
- Access to finance is poor, interest rates are high;
- Overload and deterioration of pastures increases and the fertility of the cultivated areas decreases;
- The impact of cheap, low-quality vegetables from China on the vegetable market is significant; import dependence of greenhouse vegetables is high;
- The level of processing of food products of agricultural origin is low.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

Participants in the consultative meetings of the national dialogues offered the following general recommendations to address the above pressing issues:

In the next 10 years:

- Development and implementation of a national program on the formation of a sustainable food systems in Mongolia;
- Development and implementation of a national strategy that links further climate change and conditions with the future trend of food security;
- Formation of a policy and legislative environment to improve the food supply of the urban and rural population and its assortment and reduce its seasonal and import dependence;
- Updating and implementing social health policy;
- Comprehensive implementation of the international food standard system and rational habits;
- To carry out a coordinated policy for the comprehensive renewal of the food logistics network and for the development of common infrastructure and increase investments in this direction;
- Updating the system of vocational training professional workers in the food industry in accordance with market supply and demand and supporting training young successors of food producers, especially young herdsman and their sustainable work through the economic leverage;
- Increase in investments for enterprises processing raw materials and products of livestock origin and having an export orientation;
- Prioritize the development of smart farming and livestock breeding through foreign and domestic projects and programs;
- Cluster development of local small and medium-sized businesses engaged in food and support for its technological reform;
- Stimulate nature-positive organic agricultural production, and bring its share to 5% of the total cultivated area;
- Supporting nature-positive agricultural and food production through economic incentive levers of green credit;
- Formation and implementation of a rational mechanism for cooperation between government agencies, the private sector and scientific and non-governmental organizations for the effective implementation of food objectives of sustainable development.

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| ✓ | | ✓ | Environment and Climate |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

In the next 3-5 years:

- Comprehensive assessment of the implementation of state policy and legislation on food and improving the activities of the Food Security Council;
- Adoption of a separate law on trade and improvement of the regulation of food and nutrition services;
- Increasing the participation and accountability of local government institutions in the policy, planning and implementation of the food systems;
- Improving the system of statistical indicators that measure food security and the formation of a joint fund for registration and information on domestic and imported food products and its use in policy development and decision-making;
- Updating, development and application of national food norms, standards and methodologies in accordance with international standards for food quality and safety;
- Improving quality control at the stages of procurement, transportation, storage and sale of food products;
- Strengthening the capacity of foreign-recognized reference laboratories;
- Evaluation of the results of the performance of professional monitoring organizations functions and their further updating;
- Development of a network for the procurement of raw materials and products of agricultural origin based on herdsman cooperatives of somons;
- Conducting meat export management through a "one window" policy;
- Formation of sustainable pasture management and guaranteeing the right of herdsman to use pastures;
- Regulating the number of livestock in line with grazing capacity by increasing meat exports and effectively applying taxes on livestock;
- Guarantee relations of use and ownership of sown areas and their introduction into economic circulation;
- Clarifying the criteria for defining people of vulnerable groups and pursue a policy of transferring part of them from social assistance to employment (approximately 50 thousand citizens belong to them);
- Study and assess the impact of support and incentives provided to farmers from the Agricultural Development Support Fund and further increase their efficiency and direct them to adoption the environmentally friendly technology;
- Supporting private sector initiatives to develop and create enterprises that produce packaging products needed for food production and reduce imports;
- Development of enterprises for the processing of non-food raw materials and by-products of animal origin as a new industry;
- Supporting private sector initiatives to develop the habits of the population for sorting and disposing of food waste and the development of enterprises for their processing;
- Consider the issue of the development of dairy farms near cities and settlements as a priority direction and support them with loans and investment policies;
- Prioritizing support for producers of vegetables, berries, fruits and eggs through preferential loans and reduce import dependence on their procurement;
- Supporting the initiatives of professional associations and citizens to develop the movement so that every rural family and fence have a food greenhouse and especially to develop winter greenhouse farms;
- Development and implementation of a special educational policy to increase the knowledge and education of citizens, especially vulnerable groups, children, youth and women about the consumption of nutritious and healthy food products, proper nutrition and the reduction and use of food waste;
- Establishing an independent food research organization and improving the scientific evidence-based food policy development.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There has not been area of divergence in the main session and the thematic sessions. Participants were pro-active and very engaging to work together in tackling the pressing issues and offering solutions.

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