

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 1 July 2021 09:00 GMT +08:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	National Dialogue on Models of Sustainable Agri-Industrial Business Corridors (ABCs): Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Further Innovation
CONVENED BY	Hon. Secretary William D. Dar
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/30738/
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

58

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

13

19-30

11

31-50

8

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

13 Male

19 Female

26 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

4 Agriculture/crops

5 Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

2 Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

2 Education

1 Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

2 Food industry

1 Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

12 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

1 Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

2 Large-scale farmer

3 Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

1 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

20 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

1 United Nations

International financial institution

1 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

29 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The National Forum on Models of Sustainable Agri-industrial Business Corridors (ABCs) was structured as focus group discussion but embraces multi-stakeholder inclusivity with diverse set of stakeholders that brought in different perspectives. Participants were thoroughly selected to ensure that they represent various stakeholder groups belonging to different sectors of society. The models presented were likewise diverse in nature, scope and landscape. One dealt with an island economy under the auspices of the local government unit of one of the island municipalities of the country. Another tackled a sustainable partnership between the private sector and the community where a sustainable aquaculture investment operates spanning across coastal communities along one of the fisheries management areas of the country. The last model discussed the importance of seed system innovations in food security and rural development, providing an overview of the national seed landscape in the Philippines and the key role of the National Seed Technology Park as an ABC model in boosting the agriculture sector performance.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The Forum, as a sub-national activity geared towards preparations for the National Food Systems Dialogue, focused on the context of showcasing existing or potential agri-industrial business corridors that can be replicated to gain more support and help contribute to the attainment of the vision of the agriculture and fisheries sector, i.e. a food secure and resilient Philippines with empowered and prosperous farmers and fishers. As such, it committed to the principles of engagement as well as professionally contribute to the attainment of the vision and objectives of the UN Food Systems Summit and its anticipated outcomes relative to the achievement of the SDGs. In addition, apart from embracing multi-stakeholder inclusivity among its participants, it respected and promoted food production and consumption policies and practices that strive to enhance resilient livelihoods and communities and promote good stewardship of natural resources, while respecting local cultures, contexts and spatial dimensions. Showcasing various models from island economies of an archipelagic country up to models of national scope and reach in terms of stakeholders recognizes that issues related to food systems are being addressed through several governance processes. At the same time, it encourages bold and innovative new thinking and approaches that deliver systems-level transformation in line with the Summit's principles and objectives.

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

Convenors should ensure that the food systems dialogues, whether individual or state-initiated, truly engage all stakeholders along the entire food value chain systems, including those who typically are not included in the discussions. Direct alignment with the principles and methodologies of engagement is of paramount importance to ensure a meaningful engagement where stakeholders not only share perspective in dealing with issues and concerns affecting their lives or livelihood, but also in exploring ideas together, encouraging their creativity, and empowering them to emerge as one but more powerfully through network connections that may be built in the process. Moreover, to maximize the opportunity of engaging a multitude of participants, dialogues or forums should be initiated not only to come up with palliative solutions to persistent issues. Rather, is should draw up comprehensive actions, intentions and commitments of stakeholders to once and for all work together and shape national pathways that lead to sustainable food systems in line with the common aspirations towards achieving the SDGs.

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 Forum directly focused on the identified models as existing prototypes of promising Agri-Industrial Business Corridors (ABCs) that can serve as mechanisms for a) promoting sustainable agricultural development through value chains within agricultural clusters along existing infrastructure corridors, b) establishing transformative multi-sectoral public-private partnerships, and c) providing catalytic financing to attract capital from domestic and international, public and private sources.

The ABC is actually one of the key strategies of the ONE DA reform agenda in transforming Philippine agriculture and fisheries, specifically under the major category - Industrialization, that will guide the DA in pursuing major programs and activities that can pave the way towards attaining a modest agriculture and fisheries sector growth.

The main objectives of ABCs are a) to disperse agri-based industries to the regions and decongest highly populated urban centers, b) to entice the private sector to invest and to allow greater application of modern farm technology and knowledge that aims to dramatically raise agricultural productivity, c) to integrate smallholder farmers by providing them access to resources, including state-of-the-art production technology, capital, and value-adding facilities, and d) to help address employment challenges in the “new normal” or post-COVID-19 environment.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

The major findings of the forum based on analysis conducted during the workshop includes the strengths and vulnerabilities as well as replicability of each ABC model:

Small-Island Economy: The Case of Bantayan Island

Among the strengths of this model includes being able to capitalize on the biosecurity aspect given its characteristic as an island with a natural barrier that protects it from human or man-made-induced spread of pests and diseases. Likewise, the leadership of the current local administration proves to be a formidable force towards developing the island's economy through the crafting of a local agri-fisheries comprehensive development and investment plan linked or coordinated with the Department of Agriculture's programs to maximize the rich resources of the municipality. Finally, being an island municipality of the Province of Cebu which is a "magnet" for tourists with high propensity on consumption of seafood, demand for fisheries and aquaculture products will surely increase ensuring ready market that will ultimately help boost the economy of the island.

Vulnerabilities of the model are hinged more on the existing capacities of the local fishers (including women) who need to be trained on the business and technology aspects of production and value adding as well as ensuring sustainability of programs and projects in case of change in administration which might shift the priorities of the LGU.

In terms of replicability of the business model, the island economy model is viable and may be replicated depending on the political will and receptiveness of other island municipalities to open up their areas for commerce.

Possible options and opportunities for change involves the participation of the private sector especially in the development of nurseries (hatcheries – specifically for milkfish and rabbit fish) and in capacitating the local fisherfolk in the island particularly in the non-capital intensive industries, such as seaweeds, mussels etc., and in the development of aquaculture and ecotourism industries. Corollary to this is enforcement of policies for marine protected areas in partnership with the marine police to prevent destruction of fishery habitats and other possible production areas.

Small Brother-Big Brother Partnership: Clustering Sustainable Aquaculture Parks

The strength of this model includes full support of enabling laws such as the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) Law, Build-Operate-and-Transfer (BOT) Law, Local Investment Code, Guidelines and Procedures for Entering into Joint Venture (JV) Agreements Between Government and Private Entities, the DILG-PPPC Joint Memorandum Order 2019-01 or the LGU P4, etc. This entails a whole-of-society approach with high degree of replicability, hence, a good model in generating jobs, income and ultimately in addressing food security.

Perhaps, the perceived vulnerabilities along this model are more on the need to establish the required infrastructure and logistics component especially in rural areas. This is where government may come in to catalyze the growth of agribusiness and pouring in of private sector investments by providing the needed infrastructure support.

Possible options and opportunities for change available in the context of this model are the available credit facilities for micro, small, medium and large enterprises through banks (like Land Bank and Development Bank of the Philippines) and other financial institutions as well as programs offered by concerned agencies like Agricultural Credit Policy Council and Cooperative Development Authority.

Seed System Innovations: The National Seed Technology Park (NSTP)

The NSTP is probably the most definitive model of a component of a budding ABC in one of the growing industrial hubs of the country. Its strengths are inherently built in its infrastructure component that can serve as one stop shop accessible to farmers. Technology innovations through the establishment of the NSTP can definitely be sustained which consequently serve as an incubation hub of technology.

Vulnerabilities of this model are budget-related, especially in its fledgling stage to ensure sustainability. As such, and similar with the Clustering Sustainable Aquaculture Parks, it should take advantage of the provisions of existing enabling laws.

Possible options and opportunities to address its vulnerabilities include a) Strengthen the seed industry through the establishment of an Office to handle/steer the Seed Industry Development Program, b) Integrate the functions of DA agencies, academe and other concerned agencies in seed development, c) Replicate the National Seed Technology Parks in other parts of the country; d) Strengthen and provide financing to the Seed Industry Council, e) Continuously provide capacity building activities, farmers training facilities, and shared service facilities, and f) Revisit the existing laws and regulations on seed industry to amend provisions that constrain or hamper its growth and development.

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

Outcomes of the forum are recommended priority actions that can contribute to the narratives along the five-point action tracks.

For the small island economy model, there is a need to include in the national fisheries and aquaculture commodity industry roadmaps the development of small island economies as a major strategy. This is not only to ensure improvement in the economy and ultimately in the lives of people in the island municipalities but also to shield this development intervention from local politics that may shift priorities when there's change in local administration.

To further sustain this model, participation of the private sector especially in the development of nurseries (hatcheries) to put up with the requirements of the island is of paramount importance. There is also a need to capacitate the local fisherfolk as well as women in the island especially in value-adding of fish products to create more jobs in the community.

Finally, to prevent the possible entry of pest and diseases in the island, an "all-out, no-in" policy in ensuring biosecurity should be considered.

For the Clustering Sustainable Aquaculture Parks, one strongly recommended priority action is the identification of platforms for replicability in the local level wherein the LGUs are more capacitated to adopt the Big Brother–Small Brother (BB-SB) partnership, considering the following:

- Group readiness to adopt the partnership
- Transparency (farm gate price, long term agreements)
- Production incentives
- Credit access and financing programs
- Collaboration with intermediaries
- Policy support
- Gender-responsive

Another is the establishment of a strong market linkage based on the whole-of-society approach through the inclusion of CSOs, NGAs, LGUs and private companies through the conduct of roadshows, widening up of the collaborative mechanism among cooperatives such as "Coop Kapatid Program", and the utilization of information technology and social media platforms for market expansion.

In the case of the NSTP, the identified options and opportunities for change were likewise considered to be the priority actions to be considered.

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

There is not much divergence of perspectives among the participants since the facilitators were adept at steering the discussions towards consensus building. Among the areas of divergence that cropped up is the role of LGUs in ensuring sustainability of potential ABCs. While some argued that projects or initiatives that are inherently good and promise a high ROI are intrinsically shielded from politics, others countered that this may not be true most of the time depending on the culture of governance and priorities of elected local leaders.

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