

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 6 July 2021 17:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	LEBANESE YOUTH FOOD SYSTEMS DIALOGUE: Water for Food Systems
CONVENED BY	Lebanon Youth Parliament for Water (LYPW) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/30743/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Lebanon

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

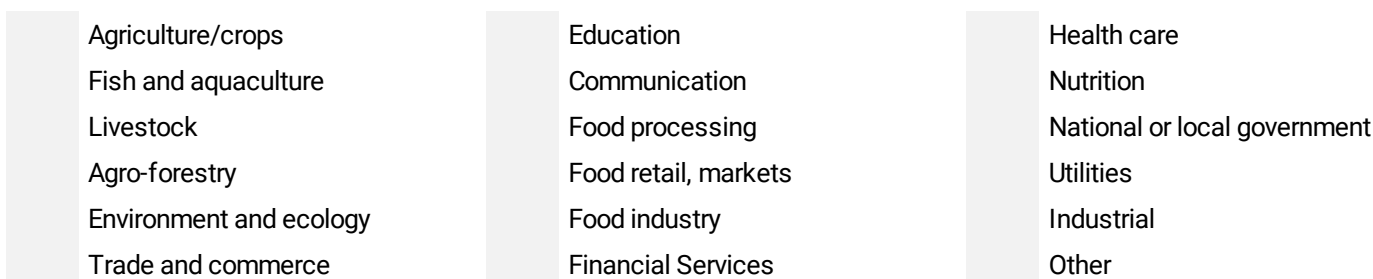
PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE



PARTICIPATION BY GENDER



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP



2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Dialogue was designed to incorporate, strengthen, and optimize summit engagement principles such as acting with urgency, committing to the summit, being respectful, recognizing complexity, embracing multi-stakeholder inclusivity, complementing the work of others, and building trust. Initially, a brief presentation was prepared to introduce participants to the UN Food System Summit 2021's goals and objectives, the various types of dialogue, key players, and the five action tracks, as well as Lebanon's current water status and major challenges. This was followed by an open discussion in which all participants were encouraged to participate. Furthermore, the Dialogue provided background information on the use of technology to improve water use in food systems, as well as methods to enhance/improve water quality to ensure food safety. It also heightened a strong desire to hold more dialogues in Lebanon. Key stakeholders representing youth from national organizations, universities, businesses, and others, as well as UN agencies, were invited to the dialogue to share their knowledge, ideas, and viewpoints, as well as to suggest game-changing solutions. All participants reinforced the need for urgent action.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Having a virtual dialogue necessitated the development of various approaches to eliciting active participation. The conveners of the dialogue encouraged everyone to participate. The use of the "Mural" application allowed for direct input from participants onto the board as well as voting on priority issues. The floor was open to any input to ensure that all points of view were considered. Questions were posed in order to elicit comprehensive responses from everyone.

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

It's recommended that the Summit objectives, vision, the various types of dialogues, key players, and action tracks be presented at the start of the session, along with some facts and evidence-based information related to the issue discussed. This may encourage further involvement from participants. Using a visual application that allows direct input from participants proved effective in gathering additional perspectives and discussing issues that may occur, like identifying responsibilities for each game changer suggested and prioritizing problems' relevancy.

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

Due to COVID-19 constraints, the dialogue was held as a 120-minute online meeting on Zoom. The dialogue mode encouraged active participation of stakeholders through the use of a variety of tools, such as an engaging online platform called "MURAL" where participants were encouraged to write their proposals live while broadcasting, as well as open discussions, to help participants identify game-changing solutions. Representatives from national organizations, universities, private sector and others as well as LYPW and ESCWA resource persons, were brought together to provide background information on how technology can improve water use in food systems and ways to enhance/improve water quality to ensure food safety. They also advocated for the start of other dialogues in Lebanon. Based on their experiences and the needs of the stakeholders, participants were asked to identify game-changing actions. The Lebanese Youth Dialogue on Food Systems: Water for Food Systems was divided into two parts: Part I of the dialogue provided background information on the use of technology to improve water use in food systems. Various technologies (e.g., AI, drones, IOT Sensors/robots, and so on) that improve water use and reduce water loss were highlighted, as was the critical need to provide farmers with the know-how (i.e. irrigation scheduling and efficient water use). The importance of smart water-saving technology, innovation, investment, crop diversification, and raising awareness was also addressed. Finally, there was a quick tutorial on how to access and navigate through the Mural application link, and participants then began navigating through the application and proposing game-changing actions based on their experiences and perceptions of the region's priorities. There have been suggestions for game-changers in how technology can improve water use in food systems. Part II introduced ways to enhance/improve water quality to ensure food safety. A presentation on water pollution was also provided, and it was linked to food safety concerns. Polluted irrigation (e.g., bacterial pollution, nitrate pollution, or toxins) results in contaminated crop produce, so it is critical to control pollution and safely reuse treated wastewater. Finally, using "MURAL," participants directly wrote their game-changing actions and thoroughly discussed them. There have been game-changing suggestions for improving water quality to ensure food safety. In both parts, participants were able to maneuver the "MURAL" application and suggest game-changing actions based on their experiences and perceptions of the region's priorities. Time was allotted for each of the two topics, and participants were aware of the Lebanon's major challenges and emphasized the importance of immediate action and implementation. Time was also set aside for oral discussions about the actions.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Participants in the open discussions addressed issues concerning the water-energy-food nexus and how to incorporate this nexus into agriculture. Furthermore, concerns such as proper solution adoption, resource availability, the collaboration among ministries and institutions, export of highly consuming crops, product markets, and reluctance to use treated wastewater for irrigation were highlighted. Other commentaries reiterated the input on Mural in regards to optimal irrigation scheduling, the use of low-cost sensors to monitor water quality, and the collection of data, particularly for groundwater. Finally, participants discussed issues such as small-scale wastewater treatment plants, identifying sources of wastewater pollution, and the use of treated urine, cyanobacteria toxicity, and quality monitoring program.

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

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy |
| <input 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"/> Environment and Climate |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The game-changing actions identified in each of the two topics discussed are:

(a) How can technology improve water use in food systems?

- Invest in technology
- Increase efficient use of available water sources in irrigation and optimize irrigation scheduling
- Adopt low-cost sensors to monitor water quality which is suitable for Lebanon's case.
- Raise awareness on the use of affordable technology and educate farmers on use of ICT to improve crop production
- Make available micro credits for farmers to use new equipment that improve agriculture
- Reuse of water and treated wastewater
- Decrease water consumption
- Research virtual water trade
- Ensure that water policies are implemented through tracking efficient irrigation in agricultural fields
- Collect data regarding water demand and supply and analyze the data to promote better use
- Promote the use of Renewable Energy in agriculture specially to reduce cost
- Promote collaboration between universities
- Mitigate climate change considering smart innovation systems and create future climatic scenarios to set agricultural calendars e.g. identify crops

(b) How to enhance/ improve water quality to ensure food safety?

- Map and identify main sources of water pollution and implement a comprehensive water quality monitoring program in the country in order to identify sources of pollution
- Encourage small scale wastewater treatment
- Implement proper treatment methods through WWTP to be used in agriculture. It is important to treat wastewater at source before discharging into water bodies that will be then used for irrigation
- Rehabilitate irrigation networks and ensure continuous maintenance of sewage networks
- Enhance governance, improve regulation and standards and apply new/strict policies/procedures to prevent/mitigate pollution at the source levels rather than looking for innovative or classical ways to treat pollution on a bigger scale
- Update related guidelines on water quality,
- Improve efficiency of use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Raise awareness on the importance of using treated wastewater, and educate farmers on safe use of treated wastewater and regulations to indicate type of crop and areas (farmers use polluted water but the notion of using treated water is still considered an outlaw)
- Increase investment in data collection
- Enhance the use of appropriate technologies to ensure water quality and safe food
- Test the water quality used for irrigation regularly
- Use of remote sensing tools
- Revitalize the role of local governments that can support exploring alternative solutions for using quality nonconventional water, at the same time take appropriate measures to prohibit misuse of fertilizers and pesticides

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

All participants agreed on the importance of all stakeholders in implementing game-changers. The participants were aware of Lebanon's challenges and emphasized the importance of immediate action and implementation.

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