

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 8 July 2021 09:00 GMT -03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Sustainable Food Systems: Proposals from Brazil
CONVENED BY	Government of Brazil
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/30834/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Brazil

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

201

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

08 0-18 29 19-30 105 31-50 50 51-65 9 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

64 Male 132 Female 5 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

30	Agriculture/crops	20	Education	25	Health care
0	Fish and aquaculture	0	Communication	0	Nutrition
2	Livestock	3	Food processing	33	National or local government
1	Agro-forestry	0	Food retail, markets	3	Utilities
3	Environment and ecology	6	Food industry	5	Industrial
1	Trade and commerce	0	Financial Services	69	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

2	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	11	Workers and trade union
5	Large national business	0	Member of Parliament
9	Multi-national corporation	12	Local authority
2	Small-scale farmer	36	Government and national institution
1	Medium-scale farmer	0	Regional economic community
5	Large-scale farmer	8	United Nations
15	Local Non-Governmental Organization	1	International financial institution
1	International Non-Governmental Organization	4	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
0	Indigenous People	4	Consumer group
21	Science and academia	66	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

In view of the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, the second round of the Brazilian National Dialogue on Food Systems took place by video-conference (VC4). The public was informed about the event through a dedicated digital platform in the Ministry of External Relations (MRE) web page, which included relevant reference documents, practical information and records of the first 3 video-conferences of the Brazilian National Dialogue. Information about VC4 was widely transmitted through the official social media channels of relevant government agencies. Participation was open to all interested parties, through an on-line registration form. In addition, the event was broadcasted through MRE's Facebook and Youtube channels for the wider public. The video file will remain available at the official National Dialogue website until the Summit.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The VC4 reflected the main guidelines contained in the Principles of Engagement. It allowed the participation of all interested parties from all relevant sectors involved in the Brazilian Food Systems debate. It fostered a comprehensive and cordial exchange of views about critical issues in the current international discussion and provided an opportunity for dissenting views to be heard. The opinions of all participants were valued, from those who used the floor as pre-registered speakers to those who sent comments on the chat box, in addition to the official guest speakers. Many relevant points were presented and discussed. The compilation of the various inputs reflects the diversity of ideas, concepts, and experiences related to the theme of the meeting - Sustainable Food Systems: Proposals from Brazil. The active involvement of participants was extremely important to enrich the discussions that took place in the video-conference.

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

Whilst the Principles of Engagement offer a useful template for the organization of the National Debates, they need to be adapted to the local circumstances. In view of the pandemic emergency, it was not possible to hold face to face meetings at local or regional level. Even though participation was open to all interested parties, indigenous populations, traditional communities and minority groups were underrepresented. As a way to further enhance the participation of all stakeholders, the publicity for the event should specifically take into account the situation of such groups. Due to budget and time constraints, it was not always possible to target specific groups or communities – many of which have limited access to facilities such as the internet, computers or cell phones.

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

The suggested methods of work were the basis for the debates in the second round of the Brazilian National Dialogue on Sustainable Food Systems, but they were adapted to local circumstances and to the virtual format used in the debates. The government prepared reference materials and made them available to all participants and stakeholders through the National Dialogue official website, including a substantive document to guide the debates. The first part of the VC4 was dedicated to thematic presentations from representatives of the main government agencies involved in food systems policy. The invited speakers to VC4 were Fernando Sardenberg Zelner Gonçalves, from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply; Teresa Barroso, from the Ministry of Citizenship; Paloma Abelin, from the Ministry of Health and Luiz Vicente Vicentin Aguiar, from the Ministry of Environment. Pre-registered participants were given the floor to present comments and views for 3-5 minutes each, related to the topic of the video-conference. The VC4 chat box was made available to all the participants since the beginning of the initial presentations. The moderator gave ample opportunity for all pre-registered participants to take the floor and invited written comments from all stakeholders. The panelists had the opportunity to respond to the comments made by the participants and were invited to make final remarks. The discussions played an important role in facilitating reflections on the future vision of food systems by the participating group. In addition, the questions and comments presented in the “chat” throughout the entire VC4 also helped guide these discussions and collaborated to various positions and opinions – which also bore points of divergence and convergence – to be expressed and debated. As mentioned before, not all relevant groups were able to participate actively in the discussion.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

On July 8, 2021, the fourth video-conference of the Brazilian National Dialogue took place under the theme “Sustainable Food Systems: Proposals from Brazil”. It addressed the Brazilian contributions to the development of sustainable food systems, highlighting responsible production and consumption, food safety and nutrition, dietary patterns, and the reduction of food loss and waste. Special attention was given to the effects of the current Covid-19 pandemic and the importance of sustainable and resilient food systems that promote the production of healthy foods, ensuring food and nutritional security (FNS) for all the population. It was emphasized that food systems should contribute to economic growth, the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as to social inclusion. The initial presentations sought to showcase different Brazilian proposals for sustainable food systems.

The VC4 presented contributions of the Brazilian experience in the development of sustainable food systems relevant to the current international debate on the topic, as well as identified the challenges of the multiple burden of malnutrition (coexistence of malnutrition and obesity), the relevance of Brazilian traditional diets and the positive effects of investments in research and development. While sharing best production practices, the discussions addressed the positive impact of free and fair international trade on prices and supply levels. Under the current pandemic, it became essential to improve and guarantee food security, despite the challenges at national and international supply chains. In this regard, it was emphasized the fundamental importance of the Brazilian agricultural sector in this debate, as it encompasses several agrifood systems coexisting in a sustainable way, such as agroecology, family farming and extractive systems, intensive and monoculture systems, which cover livestock systems, production of biofuels and planted forests. It was observed that modern agricultural methods are compatible with national and international standards for environmental conservation of rural properties.

The VC4 also pointed out the pivotal importance of formulating policies that respect cultural differences, ethnic, racial and gender specificities, young people and traditional communities. To that effect, it was deemed important to integrate policies that aim to guarantee food and nutrition security and the protection of the right to adequate food, together with environmental protection. The COVID-19 pandemic emphasized the need to promote public and private food distribution to vulnerable groups (in line with recommendations established by the Food Guidelines). Social policies aimed at water access are crucial to ensure human consumption in homes and schools and to foster food production, providing guarantee of FNS for low-income rural families living in areas with regular water shortages.

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

The debates in VC4 identified the need to foster collaboration among all (countries, governments, producers, consumers, industries, civil society, etc.) to make sustainable food systems a global reality in the shortest possible time-frame. However, it was also evident throughout the discussions that different challenges should be addressed to advance in the development process, for example, the implementation of the SDGs and compliance with the 2030 Agenda. In this sense, it is worth remembering that the extraordinary development of the Brazilian agriculture promoted since 1970's strengthened economic growth and contributed to the evolution of environmental regulations, social standards, and the well-being of rural and urban communities. State investment in agricultural research, innovation and development contributed to the sustainability of food production in the country and was essential to obtain robust and consistent results, in line with the Millennium Development Goals and later to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainable healthy food systems depend on permanent policies that integrate health, science, agriculture and social sectors. Climate change implies finding new solutions to adapt to problems such as droughts, pests and excess rain.

In order to ensure an adequate and healthy diet and to overcome the obstacles identified in this dialogue, healthy and sustainable food systems must be developed, based on the Food and Nutrition National Policy, the Brazilian food Guidelines and other relevant principles. They (não está claro a que refere "they") must also be supported by inter-sector public policies and protective measures that guarantee the access to food and promote a healthy and adequate diet.

For Brazil, the Summit preparatory process played a positive role. It contributed to identifying the challenges faced by national food systems, especially those that are closely related to tropical agriculture. In this context, it is necessary to highlight the importance of the governance and management policies, which should be strategic, coordinated, based on scientific evidence and on qualified information, allowing the country to transform part of its natural potential into effective production, incorporating technologies at their various levels in favor of sustainability.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Strengthening programs and institutions that deal with issues related to FNS and food production using the various production systems in place in the country and incorporating/adapting external technologies.

Increase support to local food production with active government policies, including credit incentives for small producers.

It is necessary to foster dialogue with civil society, with a view to encouraging the promotion of food and nutrition security.

It is also urgent to stimulate and enhance the dialogue among different classes of producers – exporters, small farmers, transformation industry - consumers, and researchers in order to find a consensual roadmap to promote public policies that connect the economic, social and environmental aspects of food systems in a balanced way.

The food system governance structures should be revised and strengthened, based on robust public policies that consider the principles and practices for the exercise of nutritional education.

The Brazilian food guides are of utmost importance to encourage healthier eating habits and to develop policies and programs that broaden the access of the whole population, especially people in situation of vulnerability, to healthy and adequate food, while respecting cultural circumstances and local realities.

Consideration of an environmental policy based on the tripod of sustainability: economically viable, socially fair (based on solidarity) and ecologically balanced.

Label information on the characteristics of marketed foods: short-term standardization. Transparency in clarifying the taxation of different types of food.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

During the VC4, points of divergence were identified in relation to the presentations made by the panelists, as well as to opinions expressed in the chat box and interventions shared by pre-registered participants who took the floor. Among the areas with greater degree of divergence, the following themes were observed: a) map of Hunger in the Amazon region; b) support for local food production; c) strengthening dialogue with civil society in order to encourage food and nutrition security; d) construction of a governance system for the food sector; e) construction of an environmental policy that strengthens the tripod of sustainability: economically viable, socially fair (based on solidarity) and ecologically balanced; and f) transparency in food labeling and taxation processes.

Although the discussion on the points listed above elicited divergent views, it was based on the common and shared concern with the dietary patterns available to the population in general. There is a convergence of opinions that the food and nutrition security policy must be supported by healthy eating originating from sustainable food systems, with low environmental impact, in balance and harmony with the environment.

Food must also be culturally acceptable and economically accessible, be adequately available and safe. In this context, in order to increase strategies to promote adequate and healthy eating and to minimize all forms of malnutrition, all parties that integrate food systems, from production and processing to storage and distribution, must be taken into account.

Brazil has encouraged actions aimed at promoting adequate and healthy eating, such as the establishment of food guidelines; financial transfers to municipalities and states for the purpose of structuring food and nutrition actions in the health area, especially in the current pandemic; incentives to the implementation of the Health at School and Healthy Growing Programs, among others.

It was also observed that the SDGs should underpin all activities related to food systems. SDG 12, in particular, which deals with responsible production and consumption, should be strengthened during the Summit discussions. It is necessary to consider the availability of adequate and healthy food, at affordable prices so that it does not hamper access to other essential needs, as well as stability in access and availability of such foods. Those are the pillars of food and nutrition security.

Finally, it is important to strengthen health-promoting food environments that provide healthy and sustainable food alternatives, as well as promoting education and food culture by encouraging the consumption of adequate and healthy food and by raising awareness about the importance of traditional diets.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Programme of Video-Conference 4 (Portuguese)**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/programa-preliminar-videoconferencia-iv-versao-4-7.pdf>
- **Basic Documento of Video-Conference 4 (Portuguese)**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/minuta-de-documento-de-base-da-vc4-rev-02-07-21-rev.pdf>
- **Basic Document of Video-Conference 4 (English)**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Documento-de-base-da-VC4-para-tradução_PO-EN.docx

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Brazilian official National Dialogue webpage**
<https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/cupula-2021-sistemas-alimentares-dialogos>