

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Thursday, 15 July 2021 20:00 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Towards A Global Food System that Supports People and Planet: Recommendations from Mission-Led Food Businesses
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Food Tank (convener); Oatly (co-convener)
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/30846/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/30846/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Canada, United States of America

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

59

## 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

58 Food industry

1 Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

43 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

11 Large national business

4 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

1 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?

● **Act with urgency:** The Dialogue was framed within the context of an urgent need for action across the food supply chain to build and support a more sustainable and equitable food system, aiming to explore the role food businesses can play. ● **Commit to the Summit:** The Dialogue was to focus on moving forward in the lead-up to the Food Systems Summit, specifically considering how the U.N can better support sustainable food business and take broader food system lessons from mission-driven companies into its dialogues. ● **Be respectful:** We encouraged participants to raise their hand at any point to ensure that all voices were heard and respected, and we prepared the facilitators by emphasizing the importance of making participants feel welcome in the discussion. ● **Recognize complexity:** Participants came to the Dialogue with the understanding that there is not one solution to the complex challenges the global food system faces, and that the discussion would explore how all players are interconnected and interdependent. ● **Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity:** We carefully selected a diverse group of food business leaders to participate in the Dialogue in order to ensure that a wide range of voices were represented, heard, and respected. ● **Complement the work of others:** The Dialogue focused specifically on understanding what's already working on the ground in the global food system to help facilitate collaboration between organizations that may benefit from each other's work. ● **Build trust:** The Dialogue included structured time for participants to speak throughout the conversation, and we made it clear that the discussion would focus on collaboration, with participants' points to be included in our feedback.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The key principles our Dialogue focused on were Act with Urgency, Commit to the Summit, and Embrace Multi-Stakeholder Inclusivity. We developed this Dialogue with the intention to focus on concrete collaboration and action. The discussion was broken into three parts—challenges, opportunities, and ways forward—in order to emphasize the need to lean into what's working now and look ahead towards ways to overcome challenges. We recognized that many resilient and game-changing solutions came as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Dialogue was framed as a way to take these opportunities a step further. We deliberately focused on what's possible and what's hopeful in order to facilitate connections, coalitions, and collaborations between participants to lift each other up and amplify progress. Throughout planning the Dialogue, we worked to ensure participants brought a diverse range of perspectives to the discussion.

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

We recommend preparing the scope of the Dialogue with all speakers prior to the event to ensure the conversation reflects the agreed-upon goals and principles of engagement.

# 3. METHOD

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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

As the world comprehends the significant role our current food system has played in the planetary crisis, food companies around the world are quickly taking steps—some big strides, some early motions—to take responsibility and reduce the impact of their supply chains. But unlike big food, some mission-driven companies were conceived with the very goal of designing a new food system that's built for planetary and human health. This Dialogue convened those mission-driven players to share their challenges, opportunities, and visions for the future and collect their perspectives as input for the U.N. Sustainable Food Summit.

The Dialogue explored:

- **Challenges.** The major barriers facing new and established companies alike looking to embrace sustainability, whether that's changing consumers' attitudes towards food or adopting or developing new technology.
- **Opportunities.** How we make sustainable food more mainstream and what that will take on the part of farmers, companies, consumers, and governments.
- **Ways Forward.** How we can build a more resilient food system that is good for people and the planet and resilient to not just a pandemic, but other global shocks.

### 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

Participants emphasized cooperation throughout the Dialogue. There is an inherent interdependency in the food system, and each player impacts others' capacities to act. There is a need for more coalitions and collaborations not only between food businesses but across the entire food and agriculture system. Together, these individual players can have a much larger positive impact.

This interconnected nature should also be reflected within each food business model. Participants identified the need to move from a single stakeholder to multi-stakeholder approach to business, in which leaders value the planet, community, workers, and natural resources in the decision-making process. Leaders can further push the dial by building people-centered businesses that focus on advocacy.

Participants also spoke about the need to invest in women-led, Asian-led, and BIPOC-led businesses and organizations that are working towards sustainable solutions. Those that are closest to the issues facing our food systems must receive support to build culturally and locally appropriate solutions. Participants recognized that many food systems, particularly commodity-based, are legacy systems built around colonialism and deep-rooted unfairness, and that it's important to bring historically invisible and forgotten members of the value chain into decision-making.

Participants agreed that policy needs to catch up to forward-thinking companies' ambitions and the scientific consensus as to the impact of the current global food system on planetary and human health. The government has a big role to play in making necessary changes. Because policies support industrialized agriculture, affordability remains a main concern in scaling sustainable production practices, as well. Participants spoke about how better policies can support sustainable and regenerative systems by incentivizing farmers to experiment with different ways of farming. By supporting and scaling regenerative supply chains, farmers can make a living wage while companies gain better access to healthy ingredients and these products are accessible to all consumers. Policy may also reimagine how consumers interact with food labels and expand what those labels look like to include factors like carbon footprint and animal welfare.

Finally, the Dialogue centered on the theme that there is no one-size-fits-all for the food system. Rather than searching for a silver bullet, it's imperative that all players focus on supporting family farmers, sustainable agricultural practices, education, and other investments to help incentivize making a radical change towards a healthier future. Moving forward, sustainable food businesses must maintain this open conversation and continue to challenge each other.

### ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
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### KEYWORDS

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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

### Discussion topic: Challenges

Participants agreed that infrastructure is a major challenge across sustainable food businesses. While businesses have the initiative to make change, supply often isn't sufficient. For example, there is a disconnect between material innovation and the supply chains to support sustainable packaging. The waste industry doesn't have consistent or centralized infrastructure to keep up with private innovation aimed at reducing waste. Meanwhile, incapacibilities across recycling systems produce confusion at the consumer level, threatening their faith in available steps towards positive impact like packaging recycling.

Participants noted that focusing on scaling-up the circular economy plays an important role in helping the system catch up to the private sector's ambitions. Regenerative farming needs support so businesses can access healthier and more sustainable ingredients at scale. Making sure everyone has access to these foods can also ensure that there is an equitable and fair playing field for all companies developing these products.

Participants also agreed that policy has not provided enough support for those working to build sustainable and regenerative systems. Big dairy, meat, and seafood are pushing back against policies to support plant-based business, while current subsidies incentivize farmers to grow commodity crops using unsustainable methods. Without government and policy support, the onus falls on responsible food businesses to support these more sustainable food systems—and often, that higher cost of business reaches the consumer, making more sustainable food options less accessible to all.

The Dialogue also identified the challenge of communicating the interdependence of all food system players in a way that is easy to understand. At the consumer level, sustainable food businesses need to make it convenient and easy for eaters to think about eating not only for human health but planetary health. New labels, for example, can frame carbon footprints similar to calories on food packaging. Companies must find simple ways to show that their products are part of many solutions to a large, interconnected problem.

### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

### Discussion topic: Opportunities

Participants highlighted that sustainable food businesses have an opportunity to challenge the status quo. Multi-stakeholder business models that value the planet, community, workers, eaters, and natural resources can help move the focus from a singular devotion to profit. Large companies have the scale, resources, and ability to influence change that smaller businesses don't have. But as these smaller businesses demonstrate financial and cultural success and find ways to engage with larger multi-national food companies, they can influence how large companies operate, helping to create greater impact.

Participants also identified an opportunity for small and medium size enterprises to leverage shorter, more agile supply chains. A key component of sustainable food business is paying farmers a better-than-fair wage while also providing accessibility to consumers. Small and medium-sized businesses are at a disadvantage in terms of economies of scale, but they can reduce intermediaries in the supply chain to maximize return to farmers, allowing farmers to invest in sustainable initiatives such as reforestation efforts or pollinators habitats. In this way, small businesses can chart the path forward for larger, more established companies and supply chains.

While it was also noted as a challenge, the theme of interdependence was seen by participants as an opportunity. Participants continually pointed to the power of collaboration and coalition. This means not seeing other businesses as competitors, but rather partners in solving the complex issues of the global food system. Each sustainable food business's own success is positively correlated to the success of its competitors. Democratizing access to the tools necessary for radical food systems change will benefit all. The Dialogue emphasized an all-hands-on-deck approach to tackling the changes that are urgently needed.

Participants saw an enormous opportunity for government and policies to better support sustainable and regenerative practices. Many companies are investing in farmers, but a system-level shift is needed. Farmers can be given the freedom to be brave, take risks, and make mistakes in the transition towards a better system. Better policies can properly compensate farmers and farm workers while keeping the cost of sustainably and ethically grown food affordable to all.

Participants also note the opportunity for food business to involve more producers in key decisions, integrating them into the entire product development process. Well-intentioned initiatives and community projects, often based on public dialogue or the competition's projects, aren't always the best solution for farmers.

Throughout the discussion, participants shared their own solutions to the food system's challenges while noting that there isn't just one solution needed. Participants agreed that many of the necessary solutions do already exist, but investors are needed. There is an opportunity to bring more investors that value the planet as highly as profit into this space.

### ACTION TRACKS

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### KEYWORDS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

### Discussion topic: Ways Forward

Moving forward, participants focused on the need to shift core values not only for food business but the consumers purchasing from them. With simultaneous and interconnected planetary crises, it's not enough for companies to be less harmful; sustainability and equitability must be inherent in their core products or services -- not just side product lines -- and companies should find a way to include advocacy in their work.

Participants also spoke about marrying conversations surrounding sustainability more broadly. Often, food-specific discussions and climate-specific discussions focus on the same issues in separate forums. The food and agriculture system needs to be brought fully into the global conversation surrounding the climate crisis at forums like UNFCCC's COP. The industry should acknowledge its role in the global environmental, human health, and social justice crises, and also recognize its potential as a powerful solution for those same crises.

There remains a disconnect between the reporting on food and agriculture's impact on the environment and the action taken at a policy level. For example, there is global scientific consensus on the environmental impact of industrialized, commoditized agriculture. The U.N. and other global bodies have reported widely on that consensus but neither international bodies nor country-specific administrations widely include it in policy, either in regulating harmful systems or in promotion of positive alternative ones. Moving forward, policies can help make the good choice the easy choice for consumers, as well as incentivize growers to produce more sustainably. Participants spoke about the need to push current administrations to pass policies that better support both human and environmental health.

Participants also pointed to the importance of recognizing the extractive nature of many food supply chains. A more restorative system would invest in women and the BIPOC communities that are on the front lines of many of the issues that sustainable food businesses are striving to solve. Participants agreed that we must bring in the people and communities that are closest in proximity to these issues. Moving forward, different voices including historically forgotten and underrepresented communities need to be in conversation with food business. These conversations should focus on local and culturally appropriate solutions that serve all eaters.

Finally, participants emphasized the need to move forward with solutions, even if they may not be perfect. Being more vocal about the barriers facing the solutions already at work can help push the dial. Often, we learn more from failures rather than successes. Pushing forward with what's working right now, not what might work 50 years from now, should be the focus of the discussions.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There was a slight divergence in discussing how the food system measures the environmental impact of producing food. Some points of divergence occurred around:

- Carbon sequestration and the greenwashing of regenerative agriculture
- Need for further scientific evidence of the impacts of animal welfare and regeneratively raised beef
- Carbon credit systems and carbon farming

### ACTION TRACKS

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