

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 6 July 2021 14:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Transforming Food Systems through Agroecology: Learning from Evidence
CONVENED BY	CNS-FAO; WFSC, ETH Zurich; Bioversity International-CIAT Alliance; IRPAD; World Food Forum; FAO; IDDRI
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/31130/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

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

118

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

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

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

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

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?

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

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

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

In various UNFSS Action Tracks and Food System Dialogues, agroecology emerged strongly as a key concept for inclusive food systems transformation by fostering the diversity of knowledge systems, ecosystems and nutrition. There is increasing evidence that agroecology is a powerful approach to reduce trade-offs between productivity and sustainability.

The objective of the webinar was i) to identify and discuss knowledge and implementation gaps on agroecology in general as well as ii) to share knowledge and evidence on the role of agroecology to foster diversity in production, value chains and nutrition to improve resilience of farming and food systems. Each of the two topics was introduced by a short input followed by a panel discussion. The majority of the 118 participants (over 260 registered) work in the agriculture and environment/ecology sector for science/academia, NGOs, UN-Organizations, and national governments. The audience had the possibility to interact with speakers and panellists via chat and Q&A function.

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 discussion revealed that in a world characterized by continuous change and uncertainties, resilient agricultural and food systems are an important precondition for sustainable transformation. Diversity at different levels such as production systems, farms, landscapes and in how knowledge is shared and developed is an important prerequisite for resilience. Although results are mixed and further research is needed, a positive relation between agricultural diversification and diversified diets, is true for many different farming systems. Agroecology does not deliver immediate results. Different voices highlighted that despite the broad and holistic innovation strategy agroecology is offering, there is a need to address challenges such as the time lag between the moment when agroecological measures are implemented and the moment when the effects become visible or measurable. Currently, the focus of agricultural policies is often limited to a production-oriented focus with a particular emphasis on food security. However, such a perspective appears to be too limited. There was consensus that given the planetary boundaries, the large environmental footprint of food systems and the complex and manifold health challenges related to nutrition, the focus of policies should be extended beyond targeting food security only and include other key aspects in food systems such as land, nutrition, and environmental security. This calls for action on the way we create and share knowledge using participatory learning methods, bringing farmers and other food system actors, scientists, extension services and policy makers together. In order to allow a long-term perspective on food systems performance and resilience, policy targets need to shift away from high-input systems focussing on high yields, towards incentivizing diversity in agricultural and food systems.

Given the potential of agroecology in sustainably providing safe, nutritious food without compromising on environmental quality and ecosystem services of agricultural landscapes, there is a need for a policy framework bringing all these different roles together. To unlock the potential and the holistic nature of agroecology, new approaches are required to measure success and impacts of agriculture and food systems. The Side Event called on all actors that are supportive of agroecology, to get actively engaged in the respective action coalitions that are forming under the UNFSS, to ensure the momentum that has been built up around agroecology will be maintained after the Summit

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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KEYWORDS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy |
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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **One-Page Highlights Note**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/HighlightsNotes_SideEvent_Agroecology.pdf