

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 8 July 2021 12:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Global Food Systems Summit Independent Dialogue of Farmers' Organizations
CONVENED BY	World Farmers' Organisation (WFO), Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), Pan African Farmers' Organization (PAFO)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/31514/
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

241

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

1 0-18 36 19-30 120 31-50 68 51-65 16 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

130 Male 108 Female 3 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

156	Agriculture/crops	3	Education		Health care
9	Fish and aquaculture	5	Communication	3	Nutrition
6	Livestock		Food processing	2	National or local government
3	Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets		Utilities
4	Environment and ecology		Food industry		Industrial
2	Trade and commerce	2	Financial Services	46	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

2	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	3	Workers and trade union
	Large national business		Member of Parliament
1	Multi-national corporation	1	Local authority
57	Small-scale farmer	6	Government and national institution
55	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
28	Large-scale farmer	21	United Nations
29	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
15	International Non-Governmental Organization	1	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
1	Indigenous People		Consumer group
3	Science and academia	18	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Convenors organised the Dialogue with full respect and commitment to the UN Food Systems Summit principles of engagement. Inclusivity has been the guiding criteria adopted: all perspectives and farmers willing to express their vision and bring their voice to the Summit have been valued and welcomed. Efforts were made to involve farmers from across different geographies. Indeed, considering the complexity of food systems, it is essential to include everyone and leave no one behind. The occasion facilitated the identification of concrete actions aimed at developing strategies to be proposed within the Food Systems Summit in support of sustainable and fair solutions for all. The creation of a safe space in which attendees felt free to express their opinions, experiences and visions always with mutual respect among the presents was encouraged.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The organisation of this independent dialogue provided a comprehensive view of the context in which global challenges can be addressed and offered an opportunity to commit to the Food Systems Summit as a vehicle to act with urgency and embrace inclusivity. Attention was paid to representing the needs and expectations of each and every farmer in every corner of the globe, ensuring that a wide and varied audience was reached. At the same time, concrete solutions were provided based on the results of previous independent dialogues held by some of the farmers' organisations involved and which identified how to respond to existing challenges. One of the most important aspects on which the dialogue focused was the axiom that food systems are complex and one size cannot fit all solutions.

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

It is important to ensure the representativeness of all relevant categories. Also, it is good to consider that the list of registered participants reduces as some do not attend. Another aspect to consider: it is advisable to share in advance the topics on which the debate will develop so that participants can be more prepared and participate even more actively. In particular, if the topics addressed are specific, it is recommendable to offer the possibility of getting information in advance, in order to put the participants at ease during the dialogue.

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 Dialogue has been jointly organised by the World Farmers' Organisation, by World Farmers' Organisations, WFO, Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development, AFA, and PanAfrican Farmers Organization, PAFO. This Independent FSS Dialogue follows a series of previous dialogues held on a regional basis by different Farmers' organisations with the ambition of identifying solutions to facilitate the transition to sustainable, just, inclusive and empowering food systems.

One round of break-out sessions was organized under the following themes:

- 1) What Farmers expect from the UN FSS to support them to overcome this challenge? What the world should stop doing to address this challenge?
- 2) What Farmers are already doing to contribute to address this challenge?
- 3) What kind of partnerships/coalitions Farmers need to establish?

Each of these questions referred to different thematic areas such as

- 1) Resilience: Climate change, biodiversity protection, prevention and recovery from shocks
- 2) Rebalancing power in the food value chain
- 3) Access to finance: farmers, fishers, food producers

Every discussion that took place in the various break-out sessions was reported back to the plenary. At the end of this discussion, in the plenary session, strategies and visions were developed with respect to future steps that could be leveraged through the process.

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

- Policy needs to be more customized: farmers agree that it is vital to promote an enabling policy environment, tailored to farmers' needs and diversity of local communities, in order to meet current and emerging challenges. In this regard, it is essential to maintain policy coherence and reduce fragmentation in key sectors such as agriculture, health, education and the environment.
- Enable the provision of certain services to farmers such as access to production inputs, financial services, infrastructures, advisory services
- Governments have an essential role in ensuring that appropriate innovation and information systems are available and affordable to farmers
- Develop the capacities of farmers to access and use new technologies and innovation, including digital tools
- Farmers ask for greater recognition of their activity as a business and to be fairly rewarded
- Facilitate contacts and partnerships between food producers and other actors, such as private sector, credit and investment agencies, research institutes and academia
- Empowerment of farmers through their participation in farmers' organisations: strong farmers' organisations provide economic services at affordable terms to their members; help them to improve their livelihoods; offer easier access to markets, information, services, training; operate as intermediary to make the farmers voice be heard.
- Family farmers are the biggest food producers. Nevertheless, 80% of extreme poor live in rural areas. It is therefore necessary to support them through solutions that narrow the gender gap and more effectively include young people in the agricultural sector, improve social protection coverage and increase their income.
- Farmers are frequently exposed to extreme weather events and climate change effects. In response to this threat they have implemented several risk coping strategies which make their food systems more resilient. For this reason they want to be considered part of the solution, rather than part of the problem.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

Resilience: Climate change, biodiversity protection, prevention and recovery from shocks

On the issue raised, participants emphasized the importance of supporting policies that will result in access to natural resources, including land and seeds, access to technology, knowledge and facilities that are crucial to adapt to climate change events. An important part of this knowledge and resources should be directed towards restoring degraded ecosystems and protecting biodiversity. Some farmers are already implementing integrated diversified farming systems, which can effectively address the above mentioned challenges. Such systems are already helping to build soil health, preserve biodiversity and also store carbon in the soil. Another positive aspect deriving from these practices includes the reduction of chemical inputs and recycling nutrients. In order to do this, it is crucial to cut subsidies to GMOs, to chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and preventing the conversion of arable land to industrial use. In addition, there is a strong desire to stop using fossil fuels which worsen the effects of climate change, by replacing them with alternative energy sources. Finally, the last point regards the importance of building and strengthening partnerships. Partnerships between businesses, cooperatives and governments which lead to information sharing and learning exchange among farmers from different countries.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Rebalancing power in the food value chain

Inequality is the problem that afflicts farmers. Food value chains are unbalanced, which inevitably makes food systems unsustainable. Farmers' products reach the markets, but the benefits and gains do not reach them. This problem also relates to the need for greater integration and inclusion of women and young people in the agricultural sector. Agriculture needs to become more attractive, less labour-intensive and more profitable if young people are to start considering it as an alternative way of life. On the other hand, facilitating access to credit and land, including for women, is an inevitable step towards rebalancing the food value chain and reducing poverty. Hence, a recognition of risk and reward sharing and fairness in the value chain is needed to keep the whole system sustainable and avoid its collapse.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

Access to finance: farmers, fishers, food producers

The starting point from which the discussion began is the assumption that if farmers were adequately paid by the market, there would be no need for access to external financing. The real challenge of farmers' access to finance basically stems from the fact that prices are not really rewarding what farmers produce. This is one of the most relevant aspects that emerged from the discussion, reflecting the importance of recognising the farmers' activity as a business. Another obstacle mentioned was over-regulation, treating farmers as part of the problem instead of solutions. This implies difficult access to funding mechanisms, especially for young farmers, but also for women who do not even have the right to own the land. In terms of partnership, there is a need to work with governments, international financial institutions and insurance bodies to better protect them from all adverse events to which farmers are potentially exposed

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

All panelists and participants acknowledged the positions expressed and elaborated during this dialogue.

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