OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 20 July 2021 15:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Accelerating the transition towards sustainable Agri-Food Systems in the context of Climate Change: the contribution of the Climate-Smart Agriculture approach
CONVENED BY	Federica Matteoli - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) & Simon Leiva - Coordinator, Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/31946/
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.

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1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

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		Education		Health care
	Fish and aquaculture		Communication		Nutrition
	Livestock		Food processing		National or local government
	Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets		Utilities
	Environment and ecology		Food industry		Industrial
	Trade and commerce		Financial Services		Other
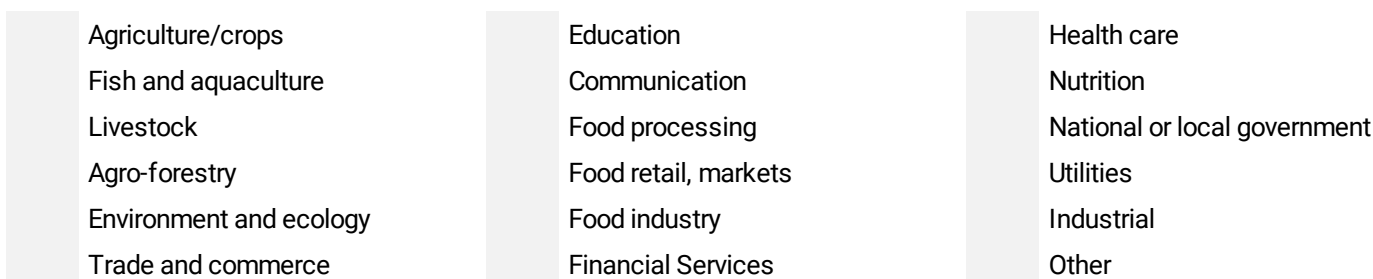
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

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

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2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

This Dialogue was in line with the Food Systems Summit and discussed ways to accelerate the transition towards sustainable agri-food systems. Wide outreach on the event ensured participation from a diverse range of stakeholders. Participants were encouraged to share their views during the plenary and breakout rooms. Facilitators and presenters actively listened to inputs and clarified technical aspects where necessary.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Commit to the Summit: The Dialogue's breakout rooms were centered around guiding questions with a forward-looking tone, such as 'How can research and institutions support knowledge transfer among different stakeholders?'. New connections were fostered by bringing together various stakeholders in the breakout rooms. Be Respectful: Facilitators and presenters actively listened to inputs and clarified technical aspects where necessary. They left space for participants to discuss diverging points of views. Recognize complexity: climate-smart agriculture as an approach recognizes the complexity of reaching sustainable agri-food systems. The need to recognize potential synergies and trade-offs was discussed. Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity: the Dialogue benefited from outreach through the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture, a multi-stakeholder platform. Participants from a wide range of stakeholders joined the event. Guiding questions for the breakout room sessions included questions on how best to engage women, youth and indigenous peoples in the food systems transition. Complement the work of others: The Dialogue presented work completed under a FAO project on climate-smart agriculture, to inspire others to build on this work related to project implementation and creating knowledge products. Build trust: Speakers and facilitators were asked to encourage participants to openly share their views. This feedback report includes views expressed during the event, however these views are not attributed to single individuals, as per the Independent Dialogues Principles of Engagement.

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

Inviting participants to speak during the breakout rooms as well as plenary sessions, to ensure those who would like to share their views can do so.

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3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

✓ **Yes**   **No**

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4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The dialogue focused on the contributions of the climate-smart agriculture approach in accelerating the transition to sustainable agri-food sytems. Climate-smart agriculture Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an approach that includes three pillars: sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes, adapting and building resilience of people and agri-food systems to climate change, and reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions where possible. CSA has grown from a concept into an approach implemented throughout the world, by all types of stakeholders.

The event, hosted under the Independent Dialogues Food Systems Summit banner, organized by the Global Alliance of Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB), provided stakeholders with an opportunity to exchange knowledge, raise awareness, and share good practices implemented in projects aiming to accelerate the transition towards sustainable Agri-Food Systems while adapting to - and mitigating -climate change and sustainably managing natural resources. Examples of CSA projects were shared with the audience and particular attention was given to projects empowering women, young people and indigenous peoples.

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

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MAIN FINDINGS

The event re-established the value of knowledge sharing between a diverse range of stakeholders working to promote the implementation of CSA practices and make agri-food systems more sustainable. It highlighted FAO's work on CSA and its three pillars: sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes, adapting and building resilience of people and agri-food systems to climate change, and reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions where possible.

Speakers emphasized the importance of transforming agri-food systems to reach the SDGs and address the climate crisis while eradicating hunger. They recognized agri-food systems as being central to addressing many interlinked challenges. From the three parallel sessions, the following key messages were derived:
• Technologies, tools and practices are important but a holistic approach is needed to involve all stakeholders to also involve political, research/knowledge and extensions aspects.
• CSA knowledge needs to be translated into something practice that puts farmer at the center of what we want to achieve.
• The importance of the policy-farmer interface, how to translate CSA policy into something that is understandable and attractive for farmers
• Language is a barrier in the policy-farmer interface. It is also important to understand who farmers listen to e.g. policymakers or other farmers.
• Cost-benefit balance for farmers to implement CSA is an important factor.
Main findings from specific parallel breakout rooms include:

1. Need to mainstream CSA into other relevant and existing national policies, plans and strategies related to e.g. climate change, food security and agriculture strategies, sustainable development and adapt to local context.
2. Need to create an evidence database to support the implementation of CSA policies and programmes that includes all relevant data, composing e.g. climate and geographical data, socio-economic data at household level, prices and market data, agricultural sector data, greenhouse gas emissions
3. Enhance finance to ensure sustainability of CSA programmes as well as link with existing climate and agricultural finance and thereby creating linkages to other country and regional initiatives and programmes geared towards food security to enhance synergies, reduce overlaps and potential trade-offs.
4. Need to understand cost-benefit balance for farmers to invest in CSA practices. This will help support and guide policy decision making.
5. Need to overcome barriers with regards to bringing knowledge on sustainable agriculture and other capacities to farmers, and the need to explain what CSA is. Channels to reach these objectives may include policy-farmer and farmer-farmer interfaces, such as various types of schools as well as cooperatives.
6. Fear was recognized as a barrier to women's participation.
7. Various actions were suggested to help overcome this barrier, including workshops on leadership, legislation, involving women in projects, sharing information, women's participation in policy implementation, technologies and economic activities.
8. Need to develop more user-friendly platforms on FAO projects in order to deliver ad hoc information on ongoing projects.

FAO expressed an interest in conducting a stock take on what actions have been taken on CSA and what benefits they have brought to farmers, to understand the cost-benefit balance of implementing CSA.

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KEYWORDS

✓	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
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✓	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
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1. Role of CSA knowledge to increase capacity building especially for achieving the SDGs

What are the barriers to sharing knowledge in this context?
• Lacking support from governments to convince farmers to adapt CSA practices.
• Lack to access to information and knowledge, technology
• There is a need for farmer-to-farmer sharing, collective action and policy that is flexible enough to address various context-specific climate challenges.
• Fear that change will increase poverty. Investments by farmers. What are the cost benefits and no guarantee on return on investments
• People don't know what CSA is. What is CSA and what is not? Importance of being able to give examples that are relevant for local audiences.
• Better analysis on who gets the information, and what type of information is communicated, local or national rainfall indications for example, while finding solutions to potential information gaps and unequal information dissemination is needed.

How could policy and governance facilitate overcoming these barriers?
• Difficulties operationalizing existing policies and frameworks.
• There is clear need for the translation of knowledge into practice and understanding of the benefits
• There is a need to understand who farmers trust most. There is also a need for farmer-to-farmer and policy decision making interface
• Small farmers access to information on how to adapt to climate change e.g. use of fertilizers
• Making farmers central to knowledge exchange. Who do farmers trust? Bringing farmers and agronomists together e.g. through farmer field schools. Taking into account gender considerations in scaling up CSA practices.
• Farmer needs are to be sensitized and engaged throughout the policy processes and stimulate ownership by the farmer
• Complicated documents, national m/eetings but the farmer who cannot invest in tools. Bring farmers to the table and help them access knowledge and invest in techniques.
• Despite convincing advancements, questions around how to successfully move from case study findings to scaling up practices and understanding which type of policies and institutions best support climate-smart farming, persist.

What is the role of platforms in facilitating knowledge sharing? What added value can they provide? (e.g. networking, building synergies among various actors within the value chain)
• Cooperatives are important in increasing knowledge sharing to farmers as well as technology transfer. Example of village level meetings. Education and literacy.
• Making farmers literature about weather and climate and the consequences of climate change is important. E.g. climate services, information on rainfall.
• Including the technology and principles in schools.
• Technology should be developed with and by the farmer. They know what their needs are
• There is need to understand the cost and benefits of CSA practices from the farmers point of view, this will help support and guide policy decision making
• Social networks and group action need to be supported and promoted. These platforms support farmers for example with labor throughout the season, or the group jointly trials and tests a few selected climate-smart practices reducing individual farmers' risks

What capacity development approaches work for CSA?
Transformation must be country-owned, sustainable, scaled up, and scaled out. There is need to get an understanding of what are the national and subnational capacities across people, organizations, institutions, networks and policies that need to be enhanced and how will countries be supported in this process.

How can research institutions support knowledge transfer among different stakeholders?
• In the context of climate change, new models of knowledge production with an emphasis on generation of societal outcomes are needed.
• New models of knowledge production needs to be developed, not only at the level of individual researchers or research projects, but also to be institutionalized to effectively address systemic limitations.

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2. Role of indigenous women and youth in agroforestry

The breakout room was opened by a presentation on Ecuador shared by Izamar Valarezo, young indigenous leader and President of the Network of Cocoa Associations of the Napo Province, and followed by guiding questions on the role of indigenous women and youth in agroforestry. Inputs from participants are noted per guiding question below.

What are the barriers on involving women, youth and Ips in this context?
• The main problem is the fear to be questions or rejected. We have worked with capacitation on leadership so the don´t have fear to partipate in the problems.
• The culture is one of the main cause of fear. Historically women didn´t have the rigth to participate or even talk, women have to make decision, they are in charge of the families

What examples of projects/case studies where these barriers have been overcome? And How policy and governance could facilitate the overcome these barriers?
• Workshops on leadership so women can overcome the barriers.
• Legislation, women rights.
• Involve the youg women in projects.
• Web site with all the information needed.
• The workshops help to let women know that they won´s be critized by their communities.
• In Africa the policies encourage women that they are implementad with women 50% of participants are women, that helps to put more effort.
• Technologies.
• Economic activities, are trying to generate income in the house to envolve women.

How platforms or services such as extension services could overcome these barriers?
• Agroecology involving women in Uganda, lady farmers are the bigger exporters, there is a video about it.

How that training and a fair access to information are key in involving women, youth and IPs? What would you suggest improving?
• They can improve agricultural practices.

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KEYWORDS

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✓	Innovation		Data & Evidence
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3. Climate-smart livestock and crops practices
Key questions:
What are the obstacles/barriers that prevent the adoption and wide spreading of CSA practices in livestock and crop farming systems?
How policy and governance could facilitate the overcoming of these barriers? Can you share today some good examples of projects/case studies where these barriers have been overcome?
How can livestock and crop sectors be more interconnected and build synergies between them (such as with a circular economy perspective)?
Answers by participants:
• Lack of awareness of various type of stakeholders, in primis the governance and the farmers, on CSA practices and the benefits that they can bring to local level. This barrier can be overcome through the implementation of dedicated trainings and capacity building activities addressed to specific categories of stakeholders.
• Lack of exchanges between the research sector and the local governance, for instance with reference to the adoption of improved varieties obtained from breeding to face climate change. Local research centres have already produced new varieties resistant to drought. Nevertheless, these new varieties are not available to farmers due to the lack of intervention from the local government. The seeds of these improved varieties shall be made available and accessible to farmers. To overcome this barrier, it is important for farmers to organize them in consortia and associations.
• Lack of knowledge, education and capacities of farmers about these practices, especially in the case of indigenous people. This condition is further worsened by a lack of affordability of input and means used to implement the CSA practices.
• The price of agricultural produce is not stable on local market and this could expose farmers to financial risks. To overcome these barriers an intervention from local authorities is required to improve the access of farmers to inputs (e.g. seeds of improved varieties, machinery fleet) and technologies needed to implement CSA practices. Most of the times the very limited size of local farms prevents the adoption of CSA practices, because these requires to switch to new tools and technologies, with unsustainable depreciation of investment cost.
Experience of FAO in Sudan and South Sudan:
• Lack of knowledge of local authorities about CSA practices constitute the main obstacle to the adoption of these practices by local farmers.
• lack of community engagement in the implementation of CSA project: this component is absolutely needed to succeed in mainstreaming CSA practices at local level, as well as the enhanced accessibility to improved varieties and sustainable livestock trade. Consortia and farmers producers organizations can play a key role to improve the access of farmers to the market.
• Lack of infrastructures and to the long distance existing from the livestock raising place to the market place.
• The lack of access to the market prevent farmers to achieve good economic return from their activities: they are obliged to sell their product in the village, where other farmers do the same activities and produce the same type of product, and this reduce the value of the produce on the market. Policy and decision makers can play a key role to facilitate the overcoming of barriers, but first of all they need to develop a wide and deep knowledge of the local environmental, social, economic conditions, including type of soil, traditional practices, local challenges, such as conflicts. He explained that the adoption of CSA practices both in the livestock and in the cropping farms must be adapted and fine-tuned to the local context.
Experience from Viet Nam:
• Need to consider the agricultural and livestock value chain in a circular economy perspective. Farmers should be enabled to make the best use of the waste and residues produced from their activities. Good practices implemented in Viet Nam: each livestock farm, even if having a reduced size, is equipped with an anaerobic digester which allows to produce clean energy for cooking and, at in case of farms of bigger size, also energy to power local houses or water pumping for agricultural purposes.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There was a discussion in the chat on the linkages and divergences between regenerative agriculture and climate-smart agriculture, with some participants emphasizing differences between these approaches, and other highlighting synergies.

There were also comments in the chat on the differences between CSA and agro-ecology.

One participant notes that "leading farmers haven't been invited to the UNFSS table. The input and presence stats clearly show this."

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