

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 15 June 2021 09:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	National dialogue on sustainable food systems - NORWAY
CONVENED BY	Mr Widar SKOGAN, State Secretary, Royal Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/32548/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Norway

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

87

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

32 Male

55 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?

The meeting took place as an all-digital event over two and half hours. The opening session included a welcoming speech from the national convener. He described the preparations for the UN Food System Summit, key features of the national food system and underlined the importance of working together across sectors to build a sustainable food system. Six invited speakers, from the public and private sectors representing research, the agriculture and aquaculture industry, youth, civil society and indigenous people (The Sami Reindeer Herders' Association) gave short comments explaining their role in and expectations to a sustainable food system. The participants were divided into eight groups to discuss themes relevant for a sustainable food system: Group 1: Food security and sustainable consumption Group 2: Sustainable use of natural resources Group 3: Sustainability in the food value chain Group 4: Food security preparedness in a changing climate Group 5: Access to updated, correct and necessary research, knowledge and competence Group 6: Economic and social sustainability Group 7: Various forms of production and production factors Group 8: Norway in the world

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The themes for the groups were presented to the participants a few days before the dialogue meeting. The participants were randomly distributed to the groups by the organizers. This ensured a mix of people with different, but relevant, backgrounds in each group. Each group had a pre-selected moderator and a rapporteur. The group discussions had a duration of 45 minutes. After the 45 minutes of group discussions, all participants came back to a plenary session for a summary of the breakout session. The group moderators reported back from their respective groups according to pre-prepared questions given to them by the organizers. At the end of the meeting the national convener made a short summary of the highlights from the discussions and the way forward to the UN Food System Summit in September.

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

The Dialogue focussed on a comprehensive exploration of food systems. In his summary, the National Convenor emphasized that the dialogue has shown us the complexity of these issues and that this kind of dialogue is important in our efforts to establish a common platform of knowledge. The ambitions in the 2030-agenda can be fulfilled only if we secure the same kind of competency throughout society for sustainable and incremental change. He also underlined that a 60 % increase in food production as such by 2050 is not possible. Food and nutrition security can only be achieved through concerted action for sustainable production, better distribution of food and a reduction of food loss and waste. In Norway, national and international food security is linked in a number of ways. We are a large exporter of fish and seafood, and a large importer of feed ingredients. International seasonal workers are important in national food production, especially in the production of vegetables. However, this production is equally dependent on the national resources in terms of land/acreage and production inputs. We need both to secure this part of the food system and cooperation is the key here and not something we can take for granted. SDG 17, on cooperation, is therefore fundamental to tackle the challenges within countries and across borders. Our main job ahead is not the preparations for the summit, but rather our efforts after the summit to achieve the SDGs.

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 discussions in the groups were varied and rich, and the dialogue was good. In general, there was broad consensus around many of the main issues and challenges as well as possible measures to ensure sustainable food systems. Key messages from the dialogue were summarized in a report under thematic headings as a more focused input from the dialogue and may serve as a guidance to the more detailed summaries from the groups. Both are uploaded as attachments to this feedback. However it was also stressed that the food systems and the understanding of sustainability are complex issues. Given the relatively short time available for discussions, the participants had limited time to delve into details of proposed actions or to elaborate on possible divergent views and priorities.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The discussions in the groups were varied and rich, and the dialogue was good. In general, there was broad consensus around many of the main issues and challenges as well as possible measures to ensure sustainable food systems. Key messages from the dialogue were summarized under the following thematic headings :

Sustainable management of natural resources
Important building blocks in the Norwegian food system
Blue and green food production
Skills, knowledge and competency
Research, technology and development
Consumers and the role of labelling
Sustainability in the entire food value chain
Production factors and production forms
Regulations and subsidies - the role of the state
Sustainability is context-specific

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- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| ✓ | Finance | ✓ | Policy |
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| ✓ | | ✓ | Environment and Climate |

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

In general, there was broad consensus on many issues. Despite this, some divergence in views were identified in regards to the following:

- The degree of urgency: some stress the urgent need for rapid change of the food systems, while others are of the view that changes should be gradual and step-wise. Some highlight the dilemma between the need for rapid transformation in food and agriculture whereas change in this sector is normally slow and incremental. There is broad consensus that changes and transformation should be knowledge based.

- The need for transformation: Some stressed that the challenges in Norway are different from other parts of the world and there is less need for transformation. Others highlighted the potential for improvement also in Norway and that e.g. more improved Norwegian food systems, including reduced import of feed and climate emissions, could also have positive impacts in the rest of the world. There is also a lack of consensus of what constitutes a sustainable diet.

- Possible options for transformation: some highlighted that there is huge potential for transformation also in Norway. E.g. large areas are used to grazing and more plant based diets could be more efficient land use. Others stressed the challenging topographic and climate of Norway, with limited potential to cultivate different crops. Broad consensus that public support and clear regulations are prerequisite for improved sustainability in food systems.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Report-national-dialogue-NOR-FINAL.pdf>
- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Annex-report-national-dialogue-NOR-FINAL.pdf>