

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 29 June 2021 14:00 GMT +08:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Advancing Innovations and Science-based Farm Production Systems: The Role of State Universities and Colleges in Modernizing, Industrializing, and Professionalizing Philippine Agriculture Food Systems
CONVENED BY	Hon. Secretary William D. Dar, Ph.D.
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/33167/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Philippines

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

604

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

266 Male

312 Female

26 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

339 Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

155 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

108 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 dialogue was organized to inform the stakeholders on the role of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in developing and providing available innovations and technologies contributory to a sustainable and resilient food systems, specifically: 1. To present salient contributions (technologies, innovations) of the SUCs on agri-fishery sector 2. To establish the roles of the SUCs in agri-fishery major strategies and the food systems framework 3. To initiate potential partnerships among the SUCs, Department of Agriculture (DA), and the private sector in pursuit to modernize, industrialize, and professionalize the agriculture and fisheries sector Furthermore, the conduct of the symposium ensured that outputs focused on the following: 1. List of generated technologies and innovations of the SUCs aligned to agricultural modernization, industrialization, and professionalization 2. Recommendations and agreements to further define the roles of the SUCs in the modernization, industrialization and professionalization strategies 3. Possible collaborations of the SUCs with the DA and the private sector.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The symposium was held to highlight the current role and initiatives of various State Universities and Colleges in the Philippines in shaping the country's agriculture food systems. Furthermore, the symposium was strengthened by the presence of the invited resource speakers from the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) and the State Universities and Colleges-Association of Colleges of Agriculture in the Philippines (SUC-ACAP), and the participation and insights from the DA national and regional offices, private sector partners and key experts. The recognition of urgency to sustain and formulate actions to reach the respective 2030 Sustainable Development Goals was highly considered in this symposium. Specifically, the symposium was designed and conducted to focus on the role of SUCs in advancing the innovations and science-based farm production systems. The symposium directly contributes to the fulfillment of the Food Systems Summit vision, objectives, and final outcomes. During the plenary session, the Presidents from PASUC and SUC-ACAP were able to effectively represent the current and ongoing initiatives of SUCs in the country, highlighting their research, development and extension (RDE) programs, and the technologies they have developed which can be of contribution for the modernization and industrialization of the agri-food systems. The current modalities and initiatives to develop the agriculture and fisheries sector were also highlighted in their presentations. This greatly aligns with one of the Food Systems Summit outcomes of highlighting existing solutions towards brave, bold, and new actions for transforming reshaping food systems. The open forum of the event allowed an inclusive multi-stakeholder process. During one of the discussions, perspectives from the private sector, technology generators/developers, etc. emerged as various issues and concerns arose from the discussion.

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

None.

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 symposium focused on the role of State Universities and Colleges in modernizing, industrializing, and professionalizing Philippine agriculture food systems.

Technologies and innovations play a key role to achieve and realize DA's goal to modernize, industrialize, and professionalize the agriculture and fisheries sector. One of the enablers in creating such technologies is the academe, particularly the SUCs. With the mandate, technical expertise, and facilities to conduct RDE programs, the SUCs are major partners of the DA in its pursuit to steer agri-fishery growth and transformation toward a modern and industrialized Philippine agriculture through its strategies under the Food Security Framework.

Under the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), the DA along with the other government agencies are mandated to support and prioritize the research and technology initiatives, tools, and facilities of SUCs for the latter to develop innovations. The SUCs in the country have been partners by the government (e.g. DA, DOST, CHED) and the private sector in developing and providing available tools and technologies in various segments of the value chain such as crop varieties, animal breeds, farm inputs, production and post production package of technologies, decision support tools for precision agriculture, machineries development, and value added food products.

Providing these available opportunities for SUCs adapting innovations in food systems, it is important to provide a venue for the SUCs to increase their awareness and strengthen their collaboration through possible partnerships with the private sector; hence this webinar.

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 |

MAIN FINDINGS

The major findings of the symposium during the open forum are the following:

1. With the full devolution of the Agri-Aqua R4DE to the LGUs starting 2022 and with the start of the Mandanas-Garcia ruling, SUCs should initiate close partnership with Regional DA offices for better R4DE linkages (with possible funding) and synergy of relevant agri-aqua initiatives. There is also a need to strengthen the Agri-Business Incubation Centers for promising AB technologies (with the inclusion of other government offices such as the DTI aside from the DA and DOST). Further, with the pilot implementation of the Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System (PAFES), SUCs will have an excellent partnership platform to be actively involved with DA and LGUs Agri-Aqua programs. SUCs are in the best position to be an important contributor to local area transformation.
2. Private sector, consumers, and farmers, as the next and end user of technologies, should now be fully involved during the early stages particularly in technology development process to establish the needs based and demand driven approach.
3. There is a need to revise parameters or indicators to measure the activities being conducted for research for development (R4D) within SUCs. Rather than an output-based statement (i.e. number of projects/research generated, number of research projects presented, etc.), there should be a focus on the number of technologies transferred or adapted/scaled and commercialized by the end users/clients/farmers/fishers. This can also be addressed by more impact-driven substantive evaluation methods.
4. The labor market in terms of their needs in modernizing and advancing towards the needs of the 4th industrial revolution in agriculture was also recommended to be looked upon. It was raised that entrepreneurial initiatives for the students are timely and significant; hence the need to focus on the business orientation/aspect aside from the employability aspect. This will have a great impact on the review of the agriculture and fisheries curriculum in the country. Furthermore, this will also have implications to the Philippine Qualifications Framework for Agriculture.
5. The current reward system present for university/college researchers is supply-oriented or supply driven. Publication is the basis and serves as an incentive to develop technologies. The rewards or incentives for university researchers are based on the number of technical publications and reports. The symposium recommended to have this revisited and reshaped to further strengthen the roles and responsiveness of the SUCs on addressing the needs/demands of the agriculture and fisheries sector.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The outcomes of the forum are recommended priority actions that can contribute to the narratives along the five-point action tracks.

- 1. Research for development should aim for use and impact by the next user(s). To do this, it is suggested to involve the intended users from the planning process not only when the R4D has been already developed. The application of an inclusive approach in the agriculture and fisheries industry pertains to the involvement and participation of key stakeholders during the early stages of research planning and process. Through this participatory planning and consultations, prior to jumping into any R4D investment, technologies will be suitably developed based on the needs of the intended users. Also, resistance to the adoption of the technologies will be less. This method also opens a wider network of collaboration between the developers and the adopters of technologies, which are in this situation, the farmers and fishers.
- 2. There is a need to revisit and revise the reward system to university researchers who are the developers of the technologies. Specifically, there is a need to focus the criteria on the application of technologies being generated within their respective industry. As an initially proposed solution, the need to have intellectual property modalities and tools were emphasized to increase application of generated technologies in the agriculture and fisheries sector. However, some private sector representatives expressed that patenting might only hinder the scaling out to farmers.
- 3. There are numerous technologies being developed by SUCs. The need to follow up on a study on adoption and impact of these technologies on stakeholders was emphasized. There is also a need to validate and verify if the private sector or other significant groups are adopting or commercializing these technologies. It is also necessary to identify ways to further boost or develop these technologies for these to be adopted or commercialized.
- 4. There is a need to further involve the private sector, consumers, and farmers in the early stages of the technology development process. The challenge pertains to including or ensuring the involvement of key stakeholders before the start of any R4D activity. The assumption is that an industry or a taker should already be part of the endeavor beforehand. With this, an R4D investment should also have an immediate return on investments.
- 5. The financial gain for new products and technologies may be a very good incentive for technology developers.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There is not much divergence observed during the symposium proper as well as during the discussions of the open forum. One main divergence observed from the symposium emanates from the technologies developed by the SUCs. Some of the participants disagree that technologies being developed by SUCs are being fully utilized by the industry, specifically in the agriculture and fisheries sector.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Program Briefer for UNFSS SUCs Online Symposium**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Program-Briefer_UNFSS-SUCs-Online-Symposium.pdf