OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 26 April 2021 12:00 GMT +08:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Report of China's National Dialogue on Food Security and Sustainable Development for the United Nations Food Systems Summit
CONVENED BY	Ma Youxiang, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/33962/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	China

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 107

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-18	12	19-30	51	31-50	39	51-65	5	66-80	0	80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

62	Male	45	Female	0	Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

10	Agriculture/crops	9	Education	6	Health care
2	Fish and aquaculture	12	Communication	22	Nutrition
5	Livestock	6	Food processing		National or local government
2	Agro-forestry	3	Food retail, markets		Utilities
7	Environment and ecology	4	Food industry	7	Industrial
3	Trade and commerce	3	Financial Services	6	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

9	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	2	Workers and trade union
3	Large national business	0	Member of Parliament
1	Multi-national corporation	7	Local authority
9	Small-scale farmer	15	Government and national institution
2	Medium-scale farmer	0	Regional economic community
1	Large-scale farmer	11	United Nations
4	Local Non-Governmental Organization	1	International financial institution
1	International Non-Governmental Organization	6	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
7	Indigenous People	5	Consumer group
20	Science and academia	10	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Ever since the UN called on its members to convene extensive Food Systems Dialogues in the lead-up to the Food Systems Summit, China has given priority to organizing the Dialogue, acted with urgency, and made preparations according to the following principles: 1. The theme and topics of the Dialogue are based on Chinese realities and are consistent with the aims and five action tracks of the Summit. Themed "Promoting Sustainable Development and Safeguarding National Food Security", the Dialogue reviewed development achievements of China's food systems, faced up to challenges and problems, looked into the future, and mapped out sustainable development pathways for Chinese food systems in the next decade. 2. As with size, the Dialogue seeks to be as inclusive as possible to respond to the appeal of the Dialogue's convener, so that viewpoints and needs of different food system stakeholders can be covered while designing pathways for China's food system transformation.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

On 26 April 2021, China held its National Dialogue, with Vice Minister Zhang Taolin as the convenor. Over 100 representatives from related UN agencies, international organizations, ministries and departments of the central government, subnational governments, research institutions, universities, businesses, financial institutions, farmers and media attended the Dialogue. During 5 sessions on Chinese food system transformation and policy support, food production and sustainable development, food loss and shock response, food security and equitable livelihoods for urban and rural residents, and sustainable food consumption, experts from these fields delivered 10 keynote presentations and had 5 open discussions. They reviewed the development and progress of China's food systems, examined the current status of those systems, and analysed potential challenges, and discussed solutions in open discussions, which are important inputs to draw upon in designing sustainable development pathways for China's food systems.

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

A national dialogue shall take into consideration the thoughts and needs of various stakeholders, encourage the engagement of different groups related to food systems, and call upon the whole society to participate as a part of its efforts towards inclusiveness and contribution to the sustainable development of food systems around the globe.

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

Under the theme of "Promoting Sustainable Development and Safeguarding National Food Security", this event brought together various stakeholders to assess food systems from different perspectives. Through dialogues, they discussed the directions, goals, approaches and pathways of China's food system transformation, on the basis of which a national roadmap to sustainable food systems in China by 2030 can be developed.
The Dialogue addressed five topics, namely China's food system transformation and policy support, food production and sustainable development, food loss and shock response, food security and equitable livelihoods for urban and rural residents, and sustainable food consumption.
The Dialogue reviewed China's achievements and international contribution in safeguarding food security, eradicating absolute poverty, and implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The Dialogue also discussed the problems and challenges facing China's food systems now and into the future and China's coping strategies. Topics covered are as follows: 1) direction and challenges of China's food system transformation; 2) stakeholder engagement and the government's role in the transformation; 3) ways to ensure universal access to energy-sufficient and nutritionally diverse foods; 4) ways to reduce food loss and waste; 5) ways to improve farmer resilience to natural risks; 6) ways to leverage science and technology in catalyzing food system transformation and sustainable development.

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

After seven decades of development, China has embarked on a path of food security with Chinese characteristics. It has scored remarkable progress in food production capacity, sustainable development and people's health and nutritional status as well as a complete victory in the fight against extreme poverty, offering an example of good practices to the international community. Nevertheless, as China's economy shifts to a stage of high-quality development, its food systems face several challenges in transformation. First, resource constraints. As a populous country, China is already in lack of sufficient arable land and water resources. Worse still, rapid urbanization and industrialization are to further reduce the land and water available to agriculture. Second, vulnerable smallholders in the market. Chinese farmers, typically smallholders, suffer from adverse selection due to information asymmetry, and are hence disadvantaged in modern market competition. Third, climate change. Heat waves, droughts, floods, hail, pests and diseases, which are becoming more frequent and prevalent under the impact of climate change, are gravely threatening food security and farmers' livelihoods. Fourth, stress on food supply. Population growth and rising urbanization leads to higher demands for food. Besides, with higher incomes, consumers who used to be satisfied with mere food sufficiency increasingly desire nutrition, health benefits and safety from foods. What's more, Chinese people face the double burden of undernutrition and overnutrition.

To take on these challenges, China will uphold a new development philosophy featuring innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared growth and boost sustainable agriculture. First, China will increase grain production through farmland conservation and technological progress. Second, China will help farmers reap higher profits while holding local governments and party committees accountable for food security. Third, China will continue to develop its market system and value chains. Fourth, China will improve its macro-economic control and set in place full-fledged laws and rules. Fifth, China will stay committed to opening up and international cooperation.
To achieve the sustainable development of food systems, China proposes to: first, take into consideration both grains and other foods when addressing food security; second, enhance food production capacity; third, foster innovation in agricultural science and technology; fourth, uphold sustainable development; fifth, facilitate access to development benefits by the whole society; sixth, open up wider to the world and undertake further international cooperation.

ACTION TRACKS

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✓	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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

The discussions were conducted mainly on two aspects: (1) emerging trends in China's food security and new policy orientation, (2) reforms and policies on promoting the transformation of China's food systems.
The participants identified three emerging trends in China's food security: (1) shift in consumer demands. Since the basic living needs of the Chinese people have been met, their demands for food products have evolved, resulting in the shift of the country's focus in food supply to satisfying food consumption preferences. (2) new challenges in production. Since the growth of agricultural production in China is constrained by high labor cost and small production scale, it is thus essential for China to lower costs and expand production scale. (3) future policies should aim to boost agricultural productivity. China should take stronger actions to improve soil fertility, develop high-quality farmland and improve irrigation facilities, and grant critical policy support to technology innovation and extension in such fields as varieties, infrastructure, mechanization, digitization, food preservation, storage and processing.

With its commitment to safeguarding grain security unchanged, China is transforming its food systems to increase value addition, achieve sustainable agricultural development, and promote the transfer of excessive rural labor force to non-agricultural sectors. The fundamental drivers for such transformation include institutional innovation, technological advances, market reform and agricultural investment. The participants agree that future policies should focus on the following aspects. (1) institutional innovation. A new leading group should be set up to better coordinate policies and investments of various departments, advance reforms in rural land system and other relevant fields, and support the development of competitive farmers' cooperatives. (2) innovation in polices. China should adopt strong and innovative measures to ensure food security through technological advances and deepen market and supply-side structural reform. It should also further develop agricultural insurance and its social security system, and support the efforts to improve food systems with digital technologies. (3) innovation in investment. China should apply new approaches for farmland protection and stewardship to increase grain production and invest more in technology and human capital.
Food systems across the globe are rather fragile due to unbalanced development, natural disasters and shocks of COVID-19. Therefore, countries should step up international cooperation, particularly multilateral cooperation and south-south cooperation, to jointly tackle changes in global food systems and make them sustainable, healthy and resilient.

ACTION TRACKS

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

	Finance	✓	Policy
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	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

The session on Topic 2 focused on food production and sustainable development as well as recommendations for promoting green and sustainable agricultural development.
Participants agreed that China has implemented a wide range of measures and achieved tangible outcomes in green agricultural and rural development, including integrated approaches for agricultural resource utilization and conservation, improved environmental protection in agricultural production, continuous restoration of agricultural ecosystems, and development of green production systems. The Chinese government has made agricultural and rural development a top priority in its work and launched full-ledged efforts to advance rural revitalization, thus offering historic opportunity for green development in agriculture. Besides, scientific and technological innovation has also been fueling green development in agriculture. The participants identified that waste recycling is the key to green and low-carbon development in agriculture, and recognized that further progress in the recycling of agricultural waste is necessary for China to achieve its goals on emission peak and carbon neutrality.

The participants presented a series of recommendations, namely enhancing resource conservation and utilization, strengthening environmental and ecological protection in agriculture, implementing the program of variety development, quality enhancement, brandname building, and production standardization, as well as encouraging innovation in green agricultural technology.
The participants also recognized three crises facing the world: the climate crisis, degradation of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity, and pollution and waste. These three crises are interconnected with each other, and all closely related to food security and sustainable development. To effectively respond to these three crises not only requires scientific and technological progress, but also strengthened regulation of technology.

ACTION TRACKS

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

	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
	Human rights	✓	Governance
✓	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

Topic 3 focused on food loss and shock response. Participants discussed critical approaches to effective prevention of and response to food crisis. Participants believed that China's endeavor to reduce post-harvest loss has been underpinned by a wide range of support policies and programs.
On the one hand, the government has pooled substantial research resources to investigate and assess post-harvest loss, making almost parallel research progress with FAO and western developed countries.
On the other hand, various food research institutes and businesses in China have mounted collaborative innovation efforts on the R&D, extension and application of post-harvest technologies and equipment. China's National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration has spared no effort to implement the strategy of developing the food sector through technology innovation and human capital development. It has also established post-harvest service centers under the national quality grain project, i.e. Action Plan on High-quality Chinese Grains and Edible Oil. With investments from both state-owned and local enterprises, the centers have produced positive outcomes. Over 4000 such service centers have been set up nationwide, leading to a drop of 4 percentage points in food loss at storage and drying stages alone. In addition, President Xi Jinping has launched an important initiative for China to host the International Conference on Food Loss Reduction in due course, with a view to facilitating experience sharing and enhancing global food security.

Participants also analyzed the technological, economic and policy factors that cause post-harvest loss in China, and concluded that four questions need to be answered before food loss can be effectively lowered.
1. Why is it important to drive down food loss?
2. Who seeks to reduce food loss?
3. Who has the capacity to cut food loss?
4. Who shall take up the work on the ground?
At present, the meteorological disasters that affect China’s major food crops and the temporal-spatial pattern featured have evolved over time, making climate change adaptation tailored to the local situation an essential approach to sustain agricultural output. Many measures against meteorological disasters in agriculture have been adopted, but systemic theoretical research and application demonstration is still lacking. More efforts are needed in disaster early-warning, selection breeding and cultivation technology.

In addition, participants noted that food is lost throughout the food supply chain in both the form of food waste and inevitable loss. To cut food loss, the government must quicken the pace of legislation, upgrade technology, equipment and facilities, and enhance public education. As an effective conduit for cutting loss, e-commerce businesses should be promoted to standardize farm production and marketing activities, driving down food loss while creating value addition and higher rural income.
Participants also proposed the following measures to strengthen shock response ability of the food supply chain. First, supply chain technology needs to be improved to prevent food loss. Second, concrete actions should be taken to step up legislation, improve law enforcement and strengthen guidance on public opinion. Third, food reserves and logistics needs to be improved. How long food reserves should be stored is a question of considerable importance in the international community. In a word, efforts should be launched on the supply chain to reduce loss and waste, so as to increase supply, better ensure food security and consumer health, and improve resource sustainability.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
	Human rights	✓	Governance
	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Topic 4, food security and equitable livelihoods of urban and rural residents, highlighted the livelihood and development issues facing people in the food systems. China has accomplished its poverty reduction goal under the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 10 years ahead of schedule, providing Chinese wisdom and a Chinese approach to reducing poverty on a global scale. Since the reform and opening up, the incidence of poverty in China has dropped from 97.5 percent to zero and extreme poverty has been eradicated.
In poor rural areas, people have seen their income grow rapidly, with ever-improving living conditions, infrastructure and public services, and fundamental changes in rural governance. China's success in eliminating extreme poverty can be attributed to strong political leadership, consistent anti-poverty actions and the policy of reform and opening-up.
China's experience include: 1) Poverty alleviation programs are led by governments and participated by various stakeholders; 2) China has remained committed to a targeted poverty alleviation strategy; 3) China has inspired poor people with the motivation to fight poverty; and 4) China has mobilized private actors to build a strong synergy in the fight against poverty.

Two principles need to be followed to ensure equitable livelihoods during food systems transformation. First, the voices of workers and professionals whose jobs are relevant to food systems must be heard so as to help the food systems grow in a sustainable manner. Second, to build resilient food systems, people involved in food systems development must be empowered based on the principle of putting people first.
Special attention must be paid to the ways of benefiting smallholder farmers worldwide through food systems transformation and reform. It is important that these 500 million smallholder farmers gain from this process as they contribute to 75 percent of global food production. Measures include strengthening the farmers' organizations, so that farmers will be better able to utilize digital technologies and e-commerce platforms, which give them easier access to the market and at the same time create more job opportunities for women and young people in rural areas. In addition, it is necessary to ensure fair investment in order to promote green technology and help farmers in remote areas access the market.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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			Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

Topic 5 focused on sustainable food consumption in the transformation of China's food systems. What China needs is to foster nutrition-oriented consumption patterns. It faces three major challenges. First, China's food production and supply fail to serve its upgraded domestic consumption. Second, food production and processing technologies fail to meet the new demands of consumers. Third, public perception of healthy diets fails to keep pace with new consumption patterns. Sustainable food consumption requires a shift in dietary structure and improvement of dietary patterns. Measures include: First, it is important to realize that sustainable food consumption is more than sustainable production. It is also about nutritious and healthy food.

Second, nutrition and health need to be factored into China's top-level planning and built into policies. The goal of carbon neutrality should be taken into account while formulating nutrition guidelines and recommendations. The Chinese government needs to promote institutional reform to enhance its governing capacity for making the complex food systems more effective, eco-friendly, inclusive and sustainable.
Third, China should prioritize technology innovation, especially R&D on agricultural technology. China should pursue innovation in nutrition-oriented production technology, and improve nutritional standards for agricultural products. It should also advocate moderate and targeted processing, so as to reduce loss and improve efficiency during the processing process.
Fourth, China should promote education on and share knowledge about food nutrition and health, and provide guidance on food consumption. It should raise awareness of recycling so that all the byproducts of consumer goods can be recycled.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
	Human rights	✓	Governance
	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

None.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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- Innovation
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- Policy
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- Governance
- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **China's Natinal Dialogue Feedback**
  https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2_Natinal-Dialogue-Feedback-English.pdf

RELEVANT LINKS

- **China's Natinal Dialogue Feedback**
  http://event.31huiyi.com/2020811664