

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 31 May 2021 10:00 GMT +06:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Independent Dialogue on Farmers' Groups in Agriculture & Food System of Bangladesh
CONVENED BY	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Project SACP, MMI and HIHI
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/33968/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Bangladesh

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

110

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

92 Male

18 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

110 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
60 Small-scale farmer
37 Medium-scale farmer
8 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
5 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Prior to the virtual dialogue, a kobo-based structured questionnaire survey was conducted with 100 farmers representatives from 50 groups and 50 Upazilas. The survey was conducted by Upazilla Agriculture Officers under the guidance of Regional Additional Directors, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE). The survey data consolidated in kobo platform was analyzed by SACP and formulated a keynote presentation for the dialogue. The dialogue was structured in three stages: 1. Keynote presentation (Survey finding) 2. Three topical discussions in groups (Breakout session) 3. Plenary (Open discussion and concluding session) Expected Outputs and Outcomes Expected Outputs □ A documentation of the entire dialogue incorporating all the views and feedbacks received, which will feed into development of the consolidated country report □ Understanding of the specific challenges faced by farmers over the next twenty years and □ documentation of policy proposals that will help to overcome those Expected Outcomes □ Participation and contribution of a wide range of stakeholders in developing visions, policies, and actions related to farmers in the food system for the future □ Possible directions towards establishing sustainable food system addressing issues faced by farmers

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Considering the methodology to conduct the session, the breakout room session were the one which consisted most of the dialogues based on the themes. Following to which, we divided the rooms in three groups: 1. Theme-1: Food safety, food security, nutrition-sensitive and nature-positive production 2. Theme-2: Markets, equitable livelihood opportunity, scale-up farming/entrepreneurship 3. Theme-3: Environment, disasters, climate change, shocks, compensation mechanism

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

Theme-1: Food safety, food security, nutrition-sensitive and nature-positive production:

The group identified agriculture as the single largest sector of the economy in Bangladesh, and associated it to the employment generation, poverty alleviation, human resources development, and food security. It was discussed that in Bangladesh, high rates of population growth place increasingly more pressure on scarce land resources for food production. Cultivable land is declining due to urbanization and water erosion, but the total cropped area is increasing as a result of changing land utilization patterns (i.e., double and triple cropping). Despite many positive policy initiatives, Bangladesh's agriculture sector still faces challenges, such as rapid shrinkage of agricultural land, inadequate supply of agricultural inputs like fertilizers and seeds, climate change and variations, inadequate value addition, and lagging technology adoption. To maintain food self-sufficiency and food security, the government of Bangladesh has employed strategies to increase productivity and reduce yield gaps, foster access to inputs and technological improvement.

Theme-2: Markets, equitable livelihood opportunity, scale-up farming/entrepreneurship

Market challenges, opportunity and way forward against the challenges, food processing for building entrepreneurship and problems for market access to public institution and private sector company for getting affordable price.

Theme-3: Environment, disasters, climate change, shocks, compensation mechanism

The group identified major types of natural disasters faced by farmers, its impacts and means to manage the disasters.

Types of climate changes related natural disasters:

- Dry wind
- Flood (all over Bangladesh)
- Early Flood/Flash flood (Haor belt)
- Salinity intrusion (both soil and water in coastal areas)
- Lack of safe drinking water (most south and southern part)
- River Erosion (all over the country)
- Land inundation due to sea level rise
- Soil degradation (due to top soil selling to brick field)
- Raising temperature
- Over or no rainfall
- Long time draught
- Water logging (temporary and permanent in southern part)
- Cyclone
- High quantity of river siltation (Northern part and south western part most, overall whole country river system)
- Storm
- Thundering (more in Haor belt)
- Ground water level depletion (all over the country, Northern part most)

Human induced disaster:

- Excessive use of herbicide
- Excess pesticide use
- Excess chemical fertilizer use
- Poisoning in open water bodies
- Catching fingerling and Dimowala fish
- Selling top soil to brick field
- Excess maize cultivation (Northern part)
- Unplanned dam construction
- Unplanned shrimp and white fish cultivation (southern part)

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

Theme-1: Food safety, food security, nutrition-sensitive and nature-positive production:

Labour shortage, High rate of wages, Over use of pesticides, lack of awareness on healthy food among farmers and consumer level, Not available bio safety technology in remote area (Cox's Bazar). Bio safety technology is business viable as cost is high, Due to the small size of the land, smallholders don't get benefit from agricultural machinery. Safe and nutritious food for all is a challenge in Bangladesh considering context, production system, awareness, poverty and financial capability, Farmers' representatives opined that they managed daily full 03 meals for their household members, but they have not enough aware about safe and nutritious food, a significant smallholder struggle to manage daily full 03 meals in between two harvest.

Theme-2: Markets, equitable livelihood opportunity, scale-up farming/entrepreneurship

- The price offered by the Local Supply Depot (LSD) of the Ministry of Food is less than open market which discourages farmers to sell to LSD.
- Poor communication (road) network in southern part in Bangladesh impose difficulties in transporting agriculture produce for marketing.
- Challenges in accessing large markets (Dhaka, Sylhet, Chattagram) by farmers.
- Absence of monitoring agricultural prices results in exploitation of farmers by market intermediaries (charge 45-50kg weight per mond for different commodities)
- Lack of cold storage facilities for different crops pose challenges to handle vegetable for marketing.
- Difficult in accessing agriculture credit due to collaterals need.
- Lack of training for quality produce for marketing and marketing knowledge in farmers level.
- Absence or limited access to processing, packaging and labelling facilities for different commodities to extend their shelf life and access export market.
- Need for marketing facilitation at Upazilla level was highly recommended
- High price volatility

Theme-3: Environment, disasters, climate change, shocks, compensation mechanism

- Loss in production,
- Soil fertility reducing due to soil degradation
- Reducing crop land
- Flood due to overflow of river for rapid siltation
- Transportation problem due to damage of road during flood
- Infrastructure damage due to flood
- Soil acidity increasing (Northern part)
- Canal and other water bodies silted up
- Death increasing due thundering especially haor belt
- Damage of crop due to early or flash food in haor belt
- Lack of irrigation water
- Increasing irrigation cost
- Arsenic contamination increasing
- Sanitation problem (Char areas)
- Increasing fallow land during rabi season due salinity and lack of fresh water (Coastal belt specially)
- Damage of infrastructures, crop field, houses and lives (human. Livestock) due to Cyclone, storm and high tidal bore
- Water pollution
- Soil degradation
- Open water fish production decreasing
- Decreasing soil fertility due maize cultivation

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

Theme-1: Food safety, food security, nutrition-sensitive and nature-positive production:

Increasing farm mechanization and engage youth, Engaging women labour especially in harvesting and vegetable production, Adapting bio technology, Increasing awareness on safe, nourished and healthy food, Promoting bio safety technology with government subsidy, Expansion of appropriate agricultural mechanization for small and marginal farmers , Introduce collective farming , Social safety net program of the government, Investment in agriculture through distributing seeds and fertilizers among smallholders, Financial support to farmers from Upazila Parishad and different NGOs, Distribution of vegetable seeds with appropriate technology at farmer level, Ensuring marketing the extra produce at reasonable price, Initiating maximum utilization of land for farming following the directives of Honble Prime Minister.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Theme-2: Markets, equitable livelihood opportunity, scale-up farming/entrepreneurship:

- The public institution Local Supply depot (LSD) under Ministry of Food offer the rice price for farmers is less than open market in country so farmers are less interested to sell their rice to LSD. Government need to rethink for the rice price review.
- Weak road communication in southern part in Bangladesh and lack of available transport so that farmers face the commodities transporting in distance market. The parliamentary member under government can improve the situation.
- Farmers cannot access direct to big districts markets like Dhaka, Sylhet, Chattagram markets, so they sell their product in local intermediaries and get low price
- Most of the areas in Bangladesh, market intermediaries take 45-50kg weight per mond (1 mond=40Kg) for different commodities instead of standard 40 Kg for selling their products so that farmers loss 5-10Kg product in the market. The government market monitor can stickle monitor to address the issue.
- In Bangladesh, there is not cold storage except potato so that different perishable commodes like tomato, carrot and green chili sell very minimum price in peak harvesting time. In this case, government can arrange the cold storage in bigger district level so that farmers will get benefit.
- Farmers cannot access to low interested loan (2-6% interest, special loan) which are offered by the different Bank due to Bank needs different mortgage if any farmer want to take loan. Farmers cannot manage the mortgage so that they cannot get the loan for quality produce production for marketing. The government can advise to Bank to flexible the issue.
- Lack of training for quality produce for marketing and marketing knowledge in farmers level.
- Farmers sometime cannot access to private processing or exporting company due to farmers have lack of knowledge so that they do not meet the buyer demand. Farmers shared the Mung bean as an example. DAM, DAE or any NGO can facilitate the issue shared in group recommendation through forming Farmers field School (FFS) or promote any other initiative.
- Commodities drying is an issue specially for rainy season, farmers cannot arrange drying facility so that farmers sell their produce in low price with high moisture content. Rice, maize, mung bean, sunflower seed are an example.
- Farmers face the postharvest loss issue, establish cold storage in local level, demand based production and training on postharvest loss can reduce the loss
- Farmers especially women farmers engage food processing for tomato, green mango, olive, chalta (elephant apple), Ambra etc. but they cannot get market and cannot continue their business. Different company produce the similar type of food processing so that farmers cannot compete with of those companies due they have different promotional activities in the market. Farmers said, government or any other organization could provide the training on food processing, packaging, levelling and give them some equipment for quality food processing and marketing and ensure low interest loan.
- One-market personnel can hire under the Upazila Agriculture Office for providing the marketing supporting for the farmers. In current, stuffing structure under Upazila Agriculture Office, they work mostly on production side.
- Farmers do not get market information from big market like Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna so they cannot bargain with traders to set their product price consequently they do not get good price.
- Price volatility high in the market and if supply is more in the market then quickly go down the market price. Storage system in market can reduce the problem.

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 - 3/3

Theme-3: Environment, disasters, climate change, shocks, compensation mechanism:

- Raise embankment level and construction planned-wise
- Permanent embankment
- Proper maintenance of sluice gates, inlet and outlet structures to keep those functional
- Community participation for proper O&M
- Close coordination of different govt. agencies at Upazila level like central or district level
- River de-siltation
- Excavation or Re-excavation of silted up canal, pond and other water bodies
- Rain water harvesting
- Dug well
- Increasing facility of early warning system regarding cyclone storm and tidal bore
- Watch tower in haor
- Thundering tower
- Cyclone shelter
- Crop diversification
- Short duration, draught tolerant and saline tolerant crop cultivation (Tree plantation (plum, Hijol)
- Subsidy to agri. machinery (irrigation, ploughing, harvesting etc.)
- Liming to reclaim soil acidity (Northern areas)
- Community awareness build up and capacity strengthening to cope with disasters
- Sorjon system cultivation
- Increase organic fertilizer use
- Need assistance in vermi-compost use
- Increasing seed storage facility
- Market management development
- Control in fishing, awareness
- Increase awareness to cultivate rabi vegetables
- Scope for duckling
- Increasing of mechanization/harvesting tools
- Sustainable crop management
- Gher-based crop cultivation promote (Southern belt)
- Wide pond banked crop cultivation practice (Southern belt)
- Infrastructure & transportation support (horse card, cow card in northern belt)
- Introducing cold storage facility

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		✓	Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation | <input type="checkbox"/> Data & Evidence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Governance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade-offs |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate |

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Report on the Independent Dialogue on Farmers' Groups in Agriculture & Food System of Bangladesh**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Final-Draft-Report-on-UN-FSS-Dialogue-SACP.MMI..HiHi_.docx