

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 24 August 2021 10:00 GMT +06:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Bangladesh Independent Food Systems Dialogue
CONVENED BY	Dr. Md. Shamim Hayder Talukder, CEO, Eminence Associates for Social Development
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/34342/
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

31

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

15 31-50

12 51-65

4 66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

27 Male

4 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

5 Agriculture/crops
Fish and aquaculture
Livestock
Agro-forestry
Environment and ecology
Trade and commerce

4 Education
4 Communication
1 Food processing
Food retail, markets
Food industry
Financial Services

1 Health care
7 Nutrition
5 National or local government
Utilities
Industrial
4 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
6 International Non-Governmental Organization
Indigenous People
10 Science and academia

Workers and trade union
5 Member of Parliament
Local authority
6 Government and national institution
Regional economic community
United Nations
International financial institution
Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
Consumer group
4 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The dialogue was a day-long virtual event of five sessions on August 24, 2021, from 10:00 AM. to 08:30 PM organized by Eminence Associates for Social Development, and Bangladesh Civil Society Network for Promoting Nutrition (BCSNPN). A total of 31 participants attended the dialogue, which included the Food Systems Dialogue National Convener of Bangladesh, along with five members of parliaments, five government and national institutions high officials, six international non-government professionals, ten academicians. Four were from television and print media professionals. Each of these five sessions was consistent with an action track of the UN Food Systems Summit 2021. Therefore, all five action tracks were covered in the dialogue. Before each session, the dialogue's seven principles of engagement, five objectives, and some key milestones, et cetera was projected through a PowerPoint presentation. A concept note was prepared by incorporating the background, goals, principles of engagement and shared with the participants a week before the dialogue. Moreover, a reconfirmation email attaching the zoom link, guideline, and session presentation was sent two days before the main event. All these documents altogether had set up a pathway through which the discussions moved forward and ensured the incorporation, reinforcement, and enhancement of the Seven Principles of Engagement. The sessions are as follows: • Session One: How Can We Ensure the Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All? • Session Two: The Role of Women and Young People for Shifting the Diet Consumption Patterns towards Healthy and Sustainable Diets; • Session Three: Natural Food Production in Twenty-first Century: Obstacles and Opportunities; • Session Four: The Challenges and Chances for Decent Livelihood for the farmers and Other Food Workers in Bangladesh; • Session Five: Peoples' Engagement for Tackling Vulnerabilities, Shocks, and Stress to Make the Food System Resilient.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

In each of the dialogue sessions, all the participants admitted that it was urgent to act on the food system because we are only nine years away from the deadline to achieve the SDGs. In this historical moment, the summit was acknowledged as a big opportunity for connecting together all the actors of the food systems and beyond, as well as generating innovative ideas for transforming the food systems. In the dialogue sessions, some of the participants came to know each other for the first time, which made that dialogue itself a platform for connecting people from diverse backgrounds. The dialogue invited multiple perspectives – often opposing ideas that took place and debated– on the food system while accepting the fact that the food system is a very complex issue. All the participants made commitments from the dialogue to initiate more integrated actions from their respective sectors to transform the food systems into a sustainable ones. They shed light on the indigenous technologies and methods of preserving seeds and crops, nurturing the soil and water, conducting eco-friendly agriculture et cetera, and recommend fusing them with the smart technologies in a way that would not make any harm to nature and health. Finally, it was acknowledged that all would endorse trust and surge enthusiasm to participate in the summit by being evidence-based, transparent, and accessible in governance, decision-making, planning, engagement, and implementation.

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

The method of organizing an effective dialogue is projected in Food System Dialogue's gateway. Specifically, the convener's guidelines and the training modules are very impactful. I would recommend the dialogue conveners, who will be convening an independent dialogue, to go through these tools for a comprehensive understanding of the seven 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

As we have organized five different sessions of on five action tracks, our major focus split into five session-specific action tracks. Yet, the action tracks were often cross-cutting with each other.

Major Focus of Session One: (i) exploration of the structure and objectives of UN Food Systems Summit 2021, (ii) comprehensive understanding of hunger, undernourishment, resilience, healthy food, nutritious food, safe food, food access, food security, and food insecurity, (iii) discussion on decent price of food products and prevention of food wastage, (iv) exploration of the opportunities of engaging the youths with the food production system, (v) examining the prospects of ultra-poor population friendly food market system.

Major Focus of Session Two: (i) exploration of the outcomes of production and consumption of industrialized foods, (ii) understanding the concepts of food transformation and wastage prevention, (iii) exploration of the ways of changing the traditional diet, (iv) examining the constraints for soil and water health, (v) the process of strengthening the safe food system authority, (vi) emphasizing on capacity building and awareness of the women and young people, (vii) opening up the importance of reshaping the market system.

Major Focus of Session Three: (i) exploration of the adverse environmental and public health impact of using hybrid seeds, chemical fertilizers, and insecticides, (ii) examining the prospects of adopting modern technology in the food system, (iii) challenges and opportunities of industrialized food production, (iv) importance of reshaping the market system, (v) necessity of the civil society organizations' engagement.

Major Focus of Session Four: (i) decent wages and working hours for the food system workers, (ii) health issues and occupational hazards of the food system workers, (iii) food system governance, (iv) roof-top agriculture, (v) Artificial Intelligence Agriculture or 'Smart Farming', (vi) safe and hygienic equipment for the food system workers, (vii) use of IoT or Internet of Things in the food system.

Major Focus of Session Five: (i) major types and causes of shocks, vulnerabilities, and stresses, (ii) trade-offs and synergies in policy and action, (iii) capacity building to detect, adapt, prevent, and transform shocks, stress, and vulnerabilities, (iv) contextualization of the operational aspects, (v) role of the civil society organizations, (vi) climate-friendly policies and plans of actions, (vii) prevention of resource wastage, (viii) natural production.

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

By summarizing the discussions of all five sessions, the following finds are the key: of the dialogue:

- Ensuring reasonable price for the food products, determining ceiling for the food price, prevention of the food waste, and processing surplus food into nutritious food items can be a solution to ensure access to safe and healthy food for all in Bangladesh;
- A resilient market system is the cornerstone of a sustainable food system in Bangladesh;
- The role of civil society organizations is inevitable in ensuring safe and nutritious food, shifting diet consumption patterns, nature positive food production, decent livelihood, and resilient food system; therefore, their capacity strengthening and inclusive programming can be an impactful solution.
- As we cannot deny the reality of food industrialization and processed food in Bangladesh, focusing on the safe and nature positive environment in the industries and the urban food systems can be a game-changer;
- The regulatory authorities in Bangladesh, which are responsible for ensuring food safety, safe environment of the fields and factories, needs to be strengthened under the leadership of relevant ministries, i.e., ministry of agriculture, ministry of food, ministry of law, ministry of state affairs et cetera;
- Agriculture insurance has been proven as an effective solution for compensating the financial loss of farmers due to shocks, vulnerabilities, and stresses in the haor, char, hill tracks, coastal regions, and other hard to reach areas;
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) agriculture or "Smart Farming" is the future of agriculture in Bangladesh;
- The health issues and occupational hazards of the food system workers are neglected in national policies, which are to be addressed very seriously;
- More than 900 billion dollars will be required to meet the expenses of achieving the sustainable development goal in the next nine years, the majority of which must be mobilizing from national income rather than international aid;
- Finally, weak governance and legal system cannot bring any positive change in the food systems; therefore, strengthening the governance and legal system within the food system can be an effective strategy towards transforming the food systems in Bangladesh.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
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- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

Session One: How Can We Ensure the Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All?

- A resilient market system should be developed in Bangladesh to ensure reasonable prices for the food products and prevent the wastage of precious food items; a price-ceiling can be a solution;
- The food product should be traced from the beginning of its journey towards the consumers' kitchen to identify and mitigate food contamination and adulteration. The Bangladesh government should ensure the proper implementation of the legislation and improved awareness to end food adulteration in urban and rural areas;
- Early yielding, floating cultivation, saline resilient crops, et cetera. should be adopted to tackle climate change shocks;
- Agriculture insurance should be introduced to the farmers, especially in the haor, char, and flash flood areas, compensating them for any possible loss of crops, cattle, and fisheries resources;
- Civil society organizations and government bodies should take initiatives to develop and strengthen eco-friendly crop cultivation, environment for healthy food production, and value-added food processing industries in Bangladesh;
- Local resource-based regional industries, cold storage, and warehouses for perishable food items should be established locally;
- The market systems should be digitalized to ensure the flow of authentic information among the producers, dealers, and consumers;
- Ultra-poor friendly food market systems in slum areas should be developed to ensure safe and nutritious food for their families;
- Finally, we should merge all our activities and initiatives towards a sustainable and resilient food system in Bangladesh.

ACTION TRACKS

✓	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
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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 - 2/5

Session Two: The Role of Women and Young People for Shifting the Diet Consumption Patterns towards Healthy and Sustainable Diets

- The Bangladesh Food Safety Authority should ensure a healthy environment in the production, cultivation, storage, and supply of food products;
- Civil society organizations, youth organizations, and women organizations should strengthen their members' capacity to monitor food production, cultivation, storage, supply, and distribution;
- The ministry of education and the department of health education in Bangladesh should provide young people and women with knowledge about nutrition and healthy diet patterns;
- The government of Bangladesh should take commitments from the food industrialists, restaurants owners, fast-food shops, et cetera to engage in the production and distribution of healthy and nutritious food items;
- The professional chefs are to be mobilized and empowered to develop a new healthy menu for their food shop, restaurants, and the community people;
- The legislation system should be strengthened in Bangladesh to prevent contaminated and adulterated food production and distribution.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

Session Three: Natural Food Production in Twenty-first Century: Obstacles and Opportunities

- Legal and governance systems should be introduced in the Bangladeshi food system to ensure the quality of the food products, both traditional and industrialized production, and in the storage, supply chain, and markets;
- The food storage system should be modernized by fusing it with the traditional preservation system to make it efficient and eco-friendly;
- Knowledge and skill development programs should be conducted among the farmers, retailers, supply chain actors, and young people to provide them evidence-based knowledge about the appropriate process of applying chemical fertilizers and pesticides, adverse effects of inappropriate use, food contamination, land and water contamination, climate change et cetera;
- Adequate research initiatives should be taken to innovate, adapt, and upgrade safe technologies for the food system;
- The indigenous seeds and crops of Bangladesh should be preserved, and the extinct crops should be revitalized to ensure diversity in our food production;
- Civil society organizations and journalist forums should play a key role in monitoring the food systems and the agriculture, food, and other relevant ministries.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Session Four: The Challenges and Chances for Decent Livelihood for the farmers and Other Food Workers in Bangladesh

- The Bangladeshi food system workers' health and occupational hazards should be addressed seriously to ensure their safe and healthy lives;
- The Bangladesh government, private sector, and civil society organizations should give special attention to the food system workers' knowledge and skill development;
- A robust market system has to be developed which will be friendly to safe and nutritious food for the consumers and decent livelihood for the workers in Bangladesh;
- New innovative business ideas, like, rooftop gardening, smart farming, IoT in the food systems, should be adopted to make life easier for the food system workers;
- The farmers should be strongly discouraged from selling their lands; instead, they should be linked to make partnerships with the industries for industrialized agriculture;
- The livelihood of the food system workers should be linked with the minimum wage board;
- Food system governance and legislation should be strengthened to provide adequate support and improved policies for improving the livelihoods of the food system workers;
- Bangladeshi food system should consider entering the global markets in a more integrated manner with its unique products.

ACTION TRACKS

	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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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 - 5/5

Session Five: Peoples' Engagement for Tackling Vulnerabilities, Shocks, and Stress to Make the Food System Resilient

- Importance should be given to community mobilization and capacity building of the civil society organizations to detect, adapt, and prevent the shocks, stresses, and vulnerabilities and transform the food systems of Bangladesh when required;
- In the global forums, the Government of Bangladesh should raise climate change issues and their economic consequences and mobilize the international communities;
- The people of Bangladesh should stop wasting their resources and use them strategically;
- Eco-friendly modes of production should be adopted to prevent more destruction to nature;
- Cooperative farming can be restarted in vulnerable areas to make the food system resilient;
- The expansion of the non-agriculture sector in the food systems, i.e., processed food, should be considered;
- Agriculture insurance can be introduced to compensate for the economic loss due to shocks, stress, and vulnerabilities;
- Economic empowerment initiatives should be taken to improve the financial condition of the vulnerable people of shock and stress-prone areas, i.e., haor, char, hill tracks, coastal regions in Bangladesh.

ACTION TRACKS

	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
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KEYWORDS

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Divergence aroused in the question of whether or not cooperative farming should be adapted to effectively tackle the outcomes of shocks, vulnerabilities, shocks. In this question, opposing opinions are observed. Some participants emphasized the revitalization of large-scale cooperative farming, and others had given importance on strengthen individual capacity. They remarked that this question needs to be explored further. In the question of shifting the diet consumption patterns, discussions were mainly on the health and nutrition issues. However, the chair of the session aroused the market management agenda remarking that the market system needed to be prioritized over the other agendas, as it is the cornerstone of the distribution channel. When it came to the financing for the activities to achieve the sustainable development goals, the participants stressed the mobilization of national resources, national regulation, and national capacity over international aid. In the questions of natural food production, the participants demand further exploration of this concept and methods for producing food in a nature positive way. Moreover, in-depth exploration was demanded on the health issues of the food system workers and the landless conditions due to mechanized agriculture. Finally, the participants contested capacity strengthening of the civil society organizations and community people for their more effective engagement in the food systems in Bangladesh.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Report-Bangladesh Independent Food Systems Dialogue**

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Session One: How Can We Ensure the Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All?**
<https://fb.watch/7KIL0Zz8rw/>
- **Session Two: The Role of Women and Young People for Shifting the Diet Consumption Patterns towards Healthy and Sustainable Diets**
<https://fb.watch/7KIPy1of0V/>
- **Session Three: Natural Food Production in Twenty-first Century: Obstacles and Opportunities**
https://fb.watch/7KIR_eWMEE/
- **Session Four: The Challenges and Chances for Decent Livelihood for the farmers and Other Food Workers in Bangladesh**
<https://fb.watch/7KITYMk9uJ/>
- **Session Five: Peoples' Engagement for Tackling Vulnerabilities, Shocks, and Stress to Make the Food System Resilient**
<https://fb.watch/7KIV51wjYU/>