

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Monday, 26 July 2021 12:00 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	FIRST NATIONAL DIALOGUE - DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS THROUGH INCLUSIVE VALUE CHAINS
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	MS Vedrana Ilic, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/34367/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/34367/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Serbia

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

72

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

4

19-30

54

31-50

13

51-65

1

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

39 Male

33 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

8 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

8 Livestock

Agro-forestry

2 Environment and ecology

2 Trade and commerce

5 Education

1 Communication

2 Food processing

1 Food retail, markets

6 Food industry

3 Financial Services

2 Health care

1 Nutrition

14 National or local government

Utilities

1 Industrial

16 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

14 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

3 Large national business

1 Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

1 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

8 Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

7 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

1 Local authority

13 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

10 United Nations

1 International financial institution

1 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

7 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The first Dialogue in the Republic of Serbia was held as online meeting which allowed engaging more participants and enabled them to submit questions and comments in the chat of the virtual platform. Also, a post Dialogue Survey was sent to all the participants to fill, and it served in data collecting process for further actions and decisions. The event embraced the Summit principles of engagement: Act with Urgency, Commit to the Summit, Be Respectful, Recognize Complexity, Embrace Multi-Stakeholder Inclusivity, Complement the Work of Others, and Build Trust. Therefore, comprehensive preparatory work has been done with dialogue participants for making sure that their engagement contributes to the Summit and to the elaboration of pathways to food systems transformation in adding value to SDGs. Pre Dialogue communication with participants and speakers was very intensive to clearly point out the vision, objectives and expected outcomes of the Summit. The so called "pre-dialogue" or preparatory communication helped to motivate the participants and created a respectful atmosphere as a foundation for a genuine dialogue and collective action toward the goal of the Summit. As a result, the multi-stakeholder dialogue envisaged during the event has turned to a "safe space" for promoting trust, encouraging mutual respect, and establishing an effective platform for debate, collaboration, consensus-building, and shared commitment making.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

First National Dialogue embraced multi-stakeholder inclusivity from entire food system value chain. The topics discussed during the dialogue were formulated in very clear manner with intention to increase the level of interaction/exploration amongst all participants as this dialogue combined the first two stages of dialogues, as per the FSS proposal, i.e. initiating national engagement in the Summit (Stage 1), and extensive explorations everywhere (Stage 2). Introduction topic was the explanation of the process for the Summit and it was followed by the presentations from facilitators who guided their specific topics. Participants were also very satisfied with the curation process, as it gathered information relevant to particular topics covered in this Dialogue. All the facilitators have had specific expertise on certain topics discussed and the key points were summarized by the curator. In addition, all the UN Food Systems Summit Principles of Engagement were met.

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

Clear set of rules should be set by the dialogue convenors in line with the Summit principles of engagement. It is also critically important to emphasize to the participants that there is no right or wrong answer or opinion and that everyone's voices and opinions count. This will ensure healthy discussion and richness of opinions and ideas. Be sure to give participants ample opportunities for questions and answers and make good use of the chat/inbox functions to provide opportunities for all participants to express their views-comments- questions.

# 3. METHOD

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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 first two-stage National Dialogue focused on identifying challenges to: (a) ensure the availability of safe nutritious food; (b) shift to sustainable consumption patterns (c) boost nature-positive production at scale; (d) advance equitable livelihoods; (e) strengthen capacities to resist vulnerabilities and the often changing economic environment; thus, building more socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable food systems in Serbia.

The discussions were broken into six main challenge areas aligned with the UN Food Systems Summit five “action tracks” as outlined below:

1. UNDERSTANDING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
2. TRANSFORMATION OF FOOD SYSTEMS
3. ADAPTATION OF FOOD SYSTEMS TO CLIMATE CHANGE
4. STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE VALUE CHAIN OF FOOD SYSTEMS
5. MODERNIZATION OF FOOD SYSTEMS
6. CONSUMER HABITS IN THE FOOD SECTOR

### 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

Transparency, inclusiveness and ownership were of fundamental importance to guarantee successful outcomes of the first Dialogue of the Republic of Serbia. Different actors across the entire food systems were identified and selected in the preparatory phase. The expertise, past experiences and knowledge of these actors were taken into consideration in order to develop a common vision for a long-term sustainability of Serbian food systems. In total six panel discussion topics were jointly identified in accordance with the dialogue procedures and targeting the challenges that the actors of Serbian food systems are currently facing. Each topic was presented by a selected representative of governmental, international or local organization and discussed involving all panel participants for a collective sharing of reflections on each of the topics discussed. Finally, the results and outcomes of discussions were synthesized to incorporate into main findings.

The most important output is that within the frames of this Summit a food systems' transformation action plan shall be developed to stimulate the emergence of new ideas. In addition, the experience and knowledge of the parties involved will enable to unleash hidden opportunities and develop modern food systems with joined efforts.

Structural change is necessary to address the socio-economic drivers behind malnutrition, inequalities and the climate and environmental impacts of food.

A major finding is the necessity of cooperation especially between the government and private sector actors for finding solutions in developing agriculture, taking into consideration environmental issues to build strong food systems. This is important for building strong agricultural production and healthy diets for the population and building sustainable food systems based on three main pillars: economic, environmental, and social.

Modernization and digitalization of primary production was also identified as one of the ways for improvement. Digital solutions in the field of agriculture, which is gaining momentum in recent years, are becoming much more affordable and cheaper and are finding their wider application. In the context of food systems, digital solutions can serve to connect producers and consumers (urban and rural), but they can also ensure that small market players are involved in food systems along the value chain in agriculture. They can also help keep trade channels open in crisis situations such as COVID-19.

Nutrition and Food Safety was identified as another major field for intervention, while food safety refers to routines in the preparation, handling and storage of food meant to prevent foodborne illness and injury, proper nutrition means different things in different countries, but it is common to promote a healthy diet, a diet that contains enough nutrients, regardless of age, and it is important to give more attention to these 2 topics in upcoming period.

Agribusiness companies' modernization in order to obtain value added products with standardized quality. Put additional efforts to make more complex cooperative structure, where the modernization and growth of companies will be followed with their respective linkage with venerable groups which may be included as their suppliers or half-processors.

As this First National Dialogue had and intention to increase the level of interaction/exploration amongst all participants, detailed Outcomes will be included in the Feedback Form after 2 subnational and 2nd National Dialogue.

### ACTION TRACKS

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

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- ✓ Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

### ACTION TRACK 1: ENSURE ACCESS TO SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR ALL

Increasing food safety was identified as one of main drive forces for this action track in Serbia, as Serbia already has A Directorate for National Reference Laboratories it is of most importance to keep supporting its further development regarding food safety analyses through education and equipment modernization. It is also very important to educate primary producers about food safety and educate them how to minimize risks in their production. Also, one of the questions regarding food safety was to find modern techniques and solutions for safe extend of products shelf life.

#### ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

### ACTION TRACK 2: SHIFT TO SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHY CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

As the consumer habits are changing and it is noticeable that people are more aware of “healthy food”, this means that production of food in Serbia has to adopt new trends and shift its focus to specialization of high quality and organic production. Participants agreed that there’s a lot of potential for improvement in this area, for instance, in Serbian markets, organic product are represented with less than 1%, while in some EU countries, their share takes in some countries more than 30%. Serbia is also a NON-GMO country, and all the mentioned gives the opportunity to focus more to production of “healthy food”.

It is also important to empower small scale producers to deliver healthy, safe, and affordable diets and support livelihoods and income in rural areas of Serbia. This would especially mean to support and educate marginalized groups to produce food of standardized quality and distribute it locally, but also, to promote cooperation with advanced companies which will create some types of hubs, where smaller producers can act as satellites and thus be included in large scale production.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

### ACTION TRACK 3: BOOSTING NATURE POSITIVE PRODUCTION

Participants agreed that it is necessary to move in the upcoming period on protection, sustainable management and restoration of productive system. Nature positive food system also covers the growing demand for food in a sufficient way and includes sustainable and healthy nutrition. Since land is the most important natural resource and we are witnessing many degrading processes (reduction of organic matter, acidification, classical exploitation...), special attention should be paid to it. It is needed to extend the measures of protection, regulation and more efficient land use.

One of the proposed and mostly welcomed measures was to promote regionalization of agriculture production in Serbia, which would mean harmonization of agricultural production with agro-ecological conditions that would include recommendations of certain areas of agriculture in relation to land, climatic conditions and altitude.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

### ACTION TRACK 4: ADVANCING EQUITABLE LIVELIHOODS

Raising the level of knowledge of farmers was identified as of highest importance. The average level of knowledge of farmers in Serbia, especially in relation to their competitors from Western Europe, is at an unacceptably low level. Therefore, the application of adequate agro-technical measures, from crop rotation to technologies of food, milk, meat, storage and processing technologies is insufficient. Serbia has significant scientific and professional institutional and personnel potentials (faculties, institutes, private advisory services...) which can cover most of the modern tendencies in the development of agriculture. These resources should be mobilized more efficiently in future together as well as the promotion of the importance of farmers associations and unions.

Some analyzes show that proper local adaptation of foreign technologies at all stages of agriculture production would increase its level by as much as 20% (without any other financial investments). Therefore, agricultural policy should provide quality education for farmers because it is a basic condition for increasing their competitiveness and sustainability of agricultural production in all areas.

Participants also suggested that production of value added food products might be a chance to employ more people rather than exporting primary agriculture products from Serbia. This would mean further modernization of food system in Serbia, tracking World trends and adaptation of Serbian production capacities to the world demand. This also means opening of new markets for Serbian products, which should be focused more on "healthy food" as stated in the part of this report regarding AT2.

#### 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

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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

### ACTION TRACK 5: BUILD RESILIENCE TO VULNERABILITIES, SHOCKS AND STRESS

While the impacts of COVID-19 are still unfolding, major disruptions of food supply chains due to lockdowns and restrictions triggered by government responses to the pandemic, but also a major global economic slowdown, resulted in lower incomes, and higher prices for some foods, making healthy diets even more unaffordable for many vulnerable groups. Participants agreed that small farmers are key to local and regional food systems, therefore, it is important to keep supporting them in all aspects as mentioned in outcomes for previous action tracks. Investment in their modernization and digitalization brings more power to Serbia to fight the shocks caused by unexpected pandemic.

On the other hand, climate change in Serbia opened a lot of vulnerabilities. Therefore it is needed to continue with adaptation and mitigation programs to provide enough water for the arable land and to keep development of protection packages for other natural disasters. Therefore, climate action, including climate risk reduction and management to prevent, mitigate, transfer and prepare for risks is a critical entry point for action.

#### ACTION TRACKS

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

### ACTION TRACKS

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### KEYWORDS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <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 |