

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 19 July 2021 08:08 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Unleashing innovation towards sustainable consumption patterns and reduction of post harvest food waste.
CONVENED BY	Mr Kudakwashe Zombe
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/35032/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Zimbabwe

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

19

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18

5 19-30

11 31-50

3 51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

11 Male

8 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

1 Agriculture/crops
Fish and aquaculture
Livestock
Agro-forestry

1 Environment and ecology

1 Trade and commerce

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

1 Health care
2 Nutrition
National or local government
Utilities
Industrial
9 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

1 Small/medium enterprise/artisan
0 Large national business
0 Multi-national corporation
1 Small-scale farmer
0 Medium-scale farmer
0 Large-scale farmer
2 Local Non-Governmental Organization
3 International Non-Governmental Organization
3 Indigenous People
1 Science and academia

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

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

ZCSOSUNA ensured that all the principles of engagement were observed in the independent food systems dialogue that it hosted. While acknowledging and recognizing the complexity of food systems it was hoped that common paths could be fostered based on common goals. The dialogue was conducted under a set of ground rules in order to build trust and ensure all participants freely gave their points of view to enrich the discussion. Additionally, to enrich the discussion multi-stakeholder inclusivity was fully embraced so as to get the different experiences of members who operate in different settings. In convening the dialogue there was a facilitator who moderated the discussion to ensure that every participant got a fair chance to speak and be listened to. Participants for the discussion were invited from various sectors among them consumer groups, industry, farmers and civil society. The main reason of bringing together a diversified group was to facilitate the engagement to identify the most powerful ways of unleashing innovation towards sustainable consumption patterns and reduction of post-harvest food waste. To ensure that the discussion was not dominated by individuals all participants were allocated time slots to share their own standpoints in relation to consumption patterns and food waste. The moderator requested that all participants would respect their counterparts' views and treat them with respect.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

In promoting safe space and trust the facilitator guaranteed participants that their names will not be captured for the purpose of attaching names to opinions that will be shared in the discussion. This guarantee encouraged participants to open up and share their views. Participants were also encouraged to respect each others views and to find polite ways of bringing out different opinions in cases of one having divergent views. Respecting one another built confidence in participants to share their thoughts openly and without fear. The network also ensured that the participants came from different backgrounds and are of different age groups with the intention of ensuring that the discussions would be in depth and insights on solutions to the food systems challenges would be drawn from various angles.

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

We found it important to set adequate time for the discussion so that all the participants had adequate time to air out their views without time constraints. It is important to emphasize the importance of all members respecting each other and appreciating the different points of view that different people have. These differences are what enrich the dialogues and will ensure that solutions to food systems come from all angles.

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 theme of this dialogue was “Unleashing Innovation towards sustainable consumption patterns and reduction of post-harvest food waste. Major focus of the discussion was on mainstreaming nutrition in agriculture to ensure that farmers and markets reduce the quantities of food that are lost after harvesting. Also, the discussion was focused on determining the factors that influence consumption patterns and how those factors could be used to influence healthier consumption patterns. Though the main focus on actions targeted action track 1 to 3, some opinions that emerged also addressed action tracks 4 and 5.

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

- 1) Promote the export of value-added food products in order to reduce post-harvest losses and raise export earnings
- 2) Implement measures that minimize post harvest and storage losses
- 3) Ensure that there is efficient infrastructure (road network) and temperature controlled vehicles to transport perishable/nonperishable food after harvest
- 4) Prioritize exportation or importation of nutritious food, reduce/increase taxes as a way of incentives/disincentives
- 5) Mitigate against huge post-harvest losses by adopting modern methods of food preservation
- 6) Farmers are the foundation of our food systems and have demonstrated time and again that they can rise to the challenge if they are equipped and supported to do so.
- 7) Processes such as bio fortification are key in contributing to nutrition and farmers are key in implementing this
- 8) Devise innovative ways of ensuring that left over food is not thrown away
- 9) Several factors influences consumption patterns and these include culture, economy, social construction, availability, affordability and desirability of certain foods. There is need to develop nutrition interventions that address behavior change targeting the above factors.
- 10) Advertising has a significant effect on food choices and so it is important for healthy foods to be advertised. There is also great need to make nutritious food desirable.
- 11) Recycle food packages in order to reduce or prevent land degradation and emission of toxic gasses to the atmosphere

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Most of the participants felt that there was urgent need for the adoption of new technologies in agriculture, the new technologies will help in improving crop management, pest control and disease management and may include farm automation, livestock technology, artificial intelligence, precision agriculture, block chain, vertical farms and modern green houses. This will contribute greatly to the consumption of diversified diets by the general populace.

Some participants felt that the nation has the capacity to produce sufficient and diverse nutritious food to meet national consumption and individual food preferences but new models to support farmers need to be employed. In addition the size of livestock herd should increase and meet export needs as was before if the nation is to return its status as the bread basket for southern Africa.

Other participants underscored the need to inform citizens on the need to consume nutritious diets and make nutritious food desirable. Citizen's food choices need to be informed and individuals should make food choices basing on general knowledge on nutritional value. Food manufactures need also to improve quality of food products such that they provide consumers with diverse nutrients they require for growth and development.

Participants views on areas that need urgent action.

- 1) In this era of climate change innovation in technology systems in the fields of agronomic and animal husbandry is key in ensuring that the nation produces adequate, safe and nutritious food. Innovation in information management through modern equipment such as ICT also plays a critical role in predicting future weather patterns and climatic conditions later on in future. Investing in early warning systems reduces the risk of crop and animal losses as a result of disasters. Lastly the nation needs to ensure that there is value addition to food produced as a way of reducing post-harvest food losses and there is an urgent need to build infrastructure for easy transportation of food products. Lastly the government was urged to ensure that modern methods of food storage are adopted compared to traditional ones which are commonly used in the country.
- 2) The nation needs to widely adopt modern methods of agriculture such as climate smart agriculture as a means of increasing productivity, enhancing yields and reducing carbon emissions.
- 3) There is need to enhance nutrition information sharing between professionals and the general public. Devise information sharing tactics that will influence people to make healthy food choices, preserve and prepare foods in ways that will preserve their nutritional value and yet meet food preferences of many people.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Some participants felt that the agriculture sector is mainstreaming nutrition at a slow pace and that there was need to improve synergies so that the sector plans with a nutrition lens. Other participants highlighted that farmers choices to plant food crops is normally guided by demand and market prices. They felt that prices for nutritious foods are usually associated with low demand and very high prices which many of the citizens cannot afford resulting in farmers not preferring to plant them. Some stressed out that food preparation methods influence food prices, methods used in preparing junk foods lead to them fetching low prices and the unregulated marketing of junk food is greatly influencing their food preferences

On domestic investments in agriculture most of the participants felt that government investment in the agriculture sector is more than enough for the country to produce sufficient food for the nation. Previous experience has shown that the ministry of finance invested a significant amount of the national budget in agriculture but the sector failed to produce sufficient nutritious food. Other participants hinted that the investment is being placed in old agriculture models and that there was need to conduct more research and ensure agriculture models have more benefits compared to investment being made by the government

Some participants felt that women with ownership and control over agriculture assets including land are not as productive as their male counterparts. Others felt that lines of credit mainly favor males hence it may seem as if they are productive when in fact it is because of the support they receive from government and other lines of credit. It was agreed that there is need for the government to continue mainstreaming gender in the agriculture sector.

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