

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Thursday, 22 July 2021 15:00 GMT +03:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Independent Dialogue on Food Systems in Lebanon
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	UN Lebanon
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/35072/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/35072/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Lebanon

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

124

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

20

19-30

40

31-50

40

51-65

24

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

47 Male

77 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

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

10 Education  
10 Communication  
10 Food processing  
Food retail, markets  
20 Food industry  
Financial Services

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

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

6 Small/medium enterprise/artisan  
2 Large national business  
Multi-national corporation  
Small-scale farmer  
5 Medium-scale farmer  
Large-scale farmer  
17 Local Non-Governmental Organization  
13 International Non-Governmental Organization  
Indigenous People  
20 Science and academia

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

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Independent Summit Dialogues are both an important avenue for Lebanese citizen engagement and a key part of the Summit process. Everyone with an interest in food systems, as well as all stakeholders were invited to attend Food Systems Summit Dialogues. A diverse range of stakeholders—including youth activists, smallholder farmers, scientists and business leaders—engaged in a lively discussion with a moderator for each subgroup, and ensured that our Dialogue identify the most powerful ways to make food systems more sustainable and equitable for all in Lebanon. Most importantly, the dialogue offered participants the opportunity to contribute directly to the Summit’s ambitious vision and objectives. The dialogue was organized by the UN in Lebanon, particularly FAO, WFP, ESCWA, UNIDO and UNIC Beirut.

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

The Dialogue brought together participants for a lively and constructive discussion on how to make the food system in Lebanon safer, stronger and more equitable especially amid the multiples crises the country is facing. It included a diverse array of perspectives, including stakeholders of the Lebanese Food systems, women cooperatives, research centres, students from the faculties of agriculture and food sciences, smallholder farmers and business leaders who brought to the table their expertise and suggestions to ensure sustainability of the food systems in Lebanon. Four separate discussions were conducted during the dialogue revolving around three tracks: ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all, advancing equitable livelihoods, and building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress and the role of youth in technology and innovation of the food systems.

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

It is important to reflect these principles in the concept note or the invitation to be shared with participants ahead of the dialogue.

# 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

Participants presented the main challenges of the food systems in the 3 different tracks in a comprehensive exploration of the food systems. They agreed on a number of ways that the food system in Lebanon can be strengthened including capacity building for farmers in agricultural operations. Participants examined solutions linking between different Action Tracks and levers of change.

### 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

In the short-term small farmers and the most vulnerable should be supported by vouchers for input, cash transfers, land reclamation. There is a risk of a major decline in total production as small farmers cannot afford the price of imported inputs, therefore production size will decrease. On the other hand, consumers are shifting to cheaper, less nutritious, products which are leading to malnutrition and obesity.

In the medium term, there is a need to promote more Lebanese produce and increase consumers' awareness of more local fresh food. The devaluation of the Lebanese pound might give a higher comparative advantage for the Lebanese agriculture production that will replace imports and lead to more export. This will attract more investment and thus increase production size. On the other hand, if consumers shift to locally produced foods, they would have chosen a healthier and more nutritious option.

There is a need to capitalize on the role of cooperatives while encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship in the food sector to decrease production cost, introduce sustainable techniques, and providing more job opportunities to women and youth. It was recommended to create innovative ways of managing farmers' markets to increase income.

Specific and advantageous production value chains for specialization increasing comparative advantage were identified.

Water harvesting in addition to using hydroponics farming as part of urban agriculture were prioritized. There should be more youth involvement in the sector and farmers should be directly connected to their respective consumers.

In the current crisis, the fuel shortage in Lebanon is affecting the food system. It was noted that the absence of appropriate and advanced technology in addition to the lack of financial support for farmers and investment in proper infrastructure is adding to the sector's vulnerability.

As far as youth are concerned, macro-level policies and regulations are needed to support innovation and technology. A mapping of all needed data should be made available. It was also recommended to scale up funding from food innovation enterprises. On the meso level, institutions should be enforced and partnered with international cooperation. Partnerships between the youth and private sectors should be maximized. On the micro-level, it is highly necessary to maximize the use of resources and raw materials for the industrial sector in addition to link green technologies and energy efficiency with innovation.

Fostering clustered approach leads to comparative advantage. Innovation should focus on more affordable cost-efficient produce that matches the local demand.

It was also recommended by most participants to promote high technology used in farming, to reduce costs and improve production.

### ACTION TRACKS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

### Short-term

- Small farmers cannot afford the price of imported inputs => reduce area planted, number of animals => major decline in total production
- Consumers are shifting to cheaper less nutritious products: e.g. bread, potatoes => malnutrition + obesity

### Recommendations for short-term

- ☐ Emergency assistance to small farmers to buy inputs (vouchers, etc.)
- ☐ Support to farmers' livelihoods
- ☐ Support to land reclamation to expand food production
- ☐ Cash transfers to poor consumers

### Medium-term

- Devaluation of LBP will enhance comparative advantage of Lebanese agriculture => higher production to replace imports+ more exports
- Reduced use of inputs through more GAP/IPM; shift to more sustainable crop mix
- More investments in farming by new comers and expansion by existing farmers
- Consumers shift to locally produced foods, including more nutritious fruits and vegetables and food legumes as a healthier source of proteins than animal proteins

### Recommendations for medium-term

- ☐ Promotion of high technology in farming to increase productivity and sustainability
- ☐ Promotion of GAP/IPM to reduce input use and enhance food safety
- ☐ Marketing through coops to bypass wholesale traders
- ☐ Increase consumer awareness to consume local fresh food, especially fruits and vegetables
- ☐ Encourage circular economy: composting, solar, etc.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Identifying specific and advantageous production value chains for specialization and that have comparative advantage for circumstances of farmers.  
Creating innovative ways of managing farmers' market to increase their income and reliance on middlemen  
Enhancing/increasing use of technology to reduce costs and improve production  
Building capacity for farmers in agricultural operations (pesticide use, irrigation methods, agricultural inputs)  
Enhancing role of cooperatives and organizing farmers' cooperatives or agricultural cooperatives  
Encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship in the food sector to decrease production cost, introduce sustainable techniques and providing more job opportunities to women and youth.

### ACTION TRACKS

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

### Vulnerabilities:

Absence of appropriate and advanced technology (monitoring)

In Lebanon, people are heading more towards the cities, leaving rural areas that contribute to food production.

Lack of financial support for research in nutrition and food systems

Lack of coordination between the different food systems (production, packaging...) and lack of standards, mainly in the Arab World

Lack of investment in proper infrastructure, specifically in Lebanon, that could sustain long term production and suffice local consumption

Export of all the best goods

Lack of support for farmers

No land tenure security

Absence of proper monitoring of expiry dates and prices of food products

Lack of proper investments and attention to the food sector, especially food production, in Lebanon

Lebanese politicians considered Lebanon a country that provides services rather than a producer

Fuel shortage in Lebanon is affecting its food sector

### Solutions:

Water is essential for farming. Water harvesting should be prioritized. This could be done through small dams.

Create programs that attract the youth to farming and the agricultural sector

Prioritization of farming

Hydroponics farming as part of urban agriculture

Connecting the farmers to their respective markets/consumers directly

### ACTION TRACKS

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

No areas of divergence were detected. The discussion was smooth and most of the participants were on the same page and had similar views and aspirations.

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