

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 16 July 2021 08:00 GMT +07:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	The Second National Dialogue: Viet Nam Food Systems: Transparency - Responsibility - Sustainability
CONVENED BY	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/35195/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Viet Nam

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

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

1	0-18	13	19-30	169	31-50	53	51-65	10	66-80		80+
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PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

130	Male	113	Female	3	Prefer not to say or Other
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

13	Agriculture/crops		Education				Health care
	Fish and aquaculture		Communication		10		Nutrition
	Livestock	4	Food processing				National or local government
	Agro-forestry	13	Food retail, markets				Utilities
	Environment and ecology		Food industry				Industrial
	Trade and commerce		Financial Services		9		Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
	Large national business		Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation	26	Local authority
26	Small-scale farmer	39	Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer		United Nations
	Local Non-Governmental Organization	3	International financial institution
38	International Non-Governmental Organization		Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People		Consumer group
16	Science and academia	2	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Describe in under 2,100 characters including spaces The 2nd National Food Systems Dialogue in Vietnam was held in Hanoi on Friday 16th July. Over 240 participants from a range of sectors and stakeholder groups participated in a hybrid event. Approximately 50 high-level officials participated in-person in a COVID-safe venue, with the remainder joining online. The main objectives of the 2nd National Dialogue was to: 1. Report the synthesis of participant inputs from the 1st National and three Sub-National Dialogues; 2. Provide an opportunity for key stakeholder representatives to propose opportunities and communicate commitments; and 3. Communicate the Government of Vietnam's proposed vision and pathway to achieving responsible, sustainable and transparent food systems by 2030. Given the hybrid event, a small number of experienced senior participants that representative strategically important stakeholder and institutions were invited to participate and contribute to the Dialogue. Invited participants were provided synthesis materials from the 1st National Dialogue, prompt questions, and were each given opportunities for input. Other participants could also join online and contribute remote input into the Dialogue process.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The following examples demonstrate how Vietnam's National Dialogues reflected the seven principles of engagement: 1. Act with urgency: Vietnam's call for urgent action is evidenced by the adopting a broad goal that seeks to develop a pathway towards more transparent, responsible, and sustainable food systems by 2030. In concrete terms this urgency has mobilized a series of two National Dialogues and three Sub-National Dialogues (in the Northern, Central, and Southern regions of Vietnam) in which almost one-thousand stakeholders have participated. 2. Commit to the Summit: Firstly, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) has been nominated by Vietnam Government as the lead agency to prepare Vietnam for the Summit. In this lead role MARD has mobilized two National Dialogues and three Sub-National Dialogues in coordination with other supporting Ministries in preparation for the UNFSS in September. The opening address at the 2nd National Dialogue was given by Deputy Prime-Minister Mr. Phạm Bình Minh who outlined the Vietnam's bold vision and commitment of food system transformation. This high-level commitment was further emphasized during the closing address by Mr. Lê Minh Hoan, the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). Further commitment to the Dialogue process and the Summit is evidenced by commitment of Vietnam's High Level to represent Vietnam's role as a "responsible, transparent and sustainable" food supplier in the global food system at the UNFSS. Whilst the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for MARD will participate in the July Pre-Summit. 3. Be respectful: The Dialogue process has engaged and valued input from a wide and diverse range of food systems actors and key stakeholders. The Dialogue process has aimed to provide participants an opportunity to openly contribute their views and ideas to the discussions and play an active role shaping the future of Vietnam's and the global food systems. Despite the large online format, participants were provided multiple ways for providing inputs into Dialogues, including direct in

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

Some reflections that could be useful to Convenors of future Dialogues include: i. Provide synthesis and pre-reading materials to participants for prior to the Dialogue for their consideration. ii. Identify strategically important and respected participants from a range of representative stakeholder groups to participant. iii. Formulate question for key stakeholders to respond to and elaborate on during the Dialogue to provide more focused input. iv. Embrace on-line and hybrid delivery but engage professional technical expertise. v. Provide multiple modes for participants to provide input into Dialogues

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?

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Yes

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No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The 2nd National Dialogue had a broad and comprehensive focus on priorities, pathways, and commitments for developing transparent, responsible, and sustainable food systems in Vietnam.

The first area of focus for the Dialogue was for the Government of Vietnam, and MARD to present: 1. an overview of Vietnam's preparations for participation in the Food Systems Summit (FSS); 2. a summary of key outcomes of the 1st National and three Sub-National Dialogues; and 3. Present proposed priorities and pathways for food systems in Vietnam. The second focus area was an opportunity for key invited stakeholders to express their views, interests, and commitments for working together to achieve a transparent, responsible and sustainable food systems in Vietnam. These views were supplemented by inputs and comments from online participants.

The level of Government commitment attributed to the UNFSS process was evidenced by opening remarks provided by the Deputy Prime-Minister Mr. Phạm Bình Minh. This set the scene and provided an overview of Vietnam's vision and pathway for food system transformation. Opening remarks were also provided by Mr. Kamal Malhotra, the UN Resident Coordinator, and Ms. Carolyn Turk, the World Bank Country Director, who both chaired the 2nd National Dialogue together with the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Mr. Lê Minh Hoan.

The keynote presentation was provided by Mr. Lê Đức Thịnh, the Director General, Department of Cooperatives and Rural Development (DCRD), MARD. This presentation provided an overview of Vietnam's participating in the Food Systems Summit, a summary of the key outcomes from the synthesis of the 1st National Dialogue and three Sub-National Dialogues and an overview of some possible cross-cutting priorities and pathways for food systems in Vietnam. The synthesis of challenges and opportunities from the 1st National and three Sub-National Dialogues, explicitly addressed the five Action Tracks. The synthesis of stakeholder inputs was provided as a summary report to Dialogue participants. During the 2nd Dialogue, most stakeholder input addressed cross-cutting themes, links between various Action Tracks issues and key change levers. See findings and outcomes below.

Eighteen invited senior representatives from national ministries and provincial governments, county embassies, international research and development organisations, NGO's and senior experts express their view about priorities, areas of mutual benefit, potential collaboration and commitments to working with Vietnam to achieve responsible and sustainable food systems. See the summary of their inputs in the Discussion Outcomes sections below. Finally, concluding and closing remarks were provided by the UN Resident Coordinator, the World Bank Country Director and Mr. Lê Minh Hoan, the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

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

MAIN FINDINGS

The opening remarks of Deputy Prime-Minister Mr. Phạm Bình Minh and conclusions of Mr. Lê Minh Hoan, the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) respectively laid out the vision of Vietnam's proposed pathway for food system transformation by 2030 to ensure access to safe, nutritious and balanced food for its population of 100 million people, and become a transparent, responsible and sustainable food producer and supplier, making bold contribution to global food security.

Several initiatives and key interventions were proposed:

- i) Scale up farmer-market linkage innovations, especially those initiated and built up from the ground namely "our garden". This model is considered the best practice, which strengthens partnership between farmers and other actors, especially consumers, and promotes integration of multiple values in food value chains such as quality, culture, green, inclusiveness, transparency, accountability and sustainability through co-creation, co-ownership and co-responsibility principles. Such creative initiatives can serve as building blocks for all actors in the food system to share values, responsibilities, actions and benefits across economic, social and environmental dimensions;
- ii) Intensify research and development and transfer of technology in response to demands of businesses and requirements for the development of transparent, responsible and sustainable food systems; enhance cooperation and assistance in study, forecasting and building of disaster, disease risk warning, and integrated management systems with credit and livelihood support packages in the context of Covid-19, climate change and agricultural diseases and pests; Promote the digital transformation and develop the digital economy in agriculture by encouraging firms and farmers to apply digital technology to their production and value chain management processes, including agricultural services. The digital transformation will go hand in hand with the green transformation and will be closely linked to the institutional innovation process in order to develop integrated food systems with multiple values, including economic, cultural, social, landscape and environmental ones;
- iii) Strengthen domestic and international innovation networks. Specifically, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has been and will intensify its partnership with the World Economic Forum to promote the Initiatives on "Food Innovation Hub in Asia" and "100 Million Farmers Initiative: Transitioning towards net-zero, nature-positive food systems". MARD has also participated in "the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate initiative" initiated by the United States and the United Arab Emirates. In addition, MARD has made a joint statement on "Agriculture development and sustainable food system for the monsoon tropics" initiated by Japan together with some other ASEAN countries;
- iv) Viet Nam defines that its Food systems need to be transformed into "green", sustainable and low-emission direction. Due attention should be given to eco-friendly and climate smart agricultural production. Viet Nam aims at advancing low-emission and sustainable agricultural development, and strives to reach net-zero emissions. Viet Nam also considers this an opportunity to promote "green" growth/circular economy and the development of new "green" products, services and jobs;
- v) Formulate and update the national food balance sheet as the basis for production and distribution; at the same time, intensify education and awareness-raising to promote more healthy and nutritionally balanced eating habits for all, and reduce food loss and food waste, to shift to more healthy, sustainable, and responsible consumption patterns;
- vi) Enhance the collaboration and information sharing in sustainable management of natural and water resources, including trans-boundary water resources, marine resources and South-South cooperation.

At a high level, it appears to be strong alignment, between the Government's vision, pathways and priorities, and commitments of food system actors as well as other stakeholders. The most frequent and common issues to Viet Nam, raised by stakeholders includes the imminent seriousness of the climate change crisis, and the market viability. These form major challenges and critical impact on food security, sustainable livelihoods of smallholder farmers as well as poor people and other vulnerable groups. Inclusive and equitable transformation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and rapid transition towards a low carbon "green economy" whilst ensuring inclusive growth and protection of the environment and vulnerable groups was a repeated theme.

Another area of broad consensus was the importance for better inter- and intra-institutional and sector collaboration and coordination. Particularly between National and Provincial Government Ministries and Departments, but also with and between the private sector, research and development organisations and civil society. Vietnam recognizes the need to take concrete actions to promote cooperation, create additional external forces to support the formation and development of a smart food system adapted to climate change and sustainability, ensuring food security and nutrition not only for nearly 100 million Vietnamese people but also contributing to ensuring world food security. Particularly in the complicated context of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The food systems framework provides a multidisciplinary and multi-level cooperation approach in line with Vietnam's current action prog

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

Below are a summary views, ideas, and responses to the discussion questions about proposed food systems transformation solutions and pathways provided by National and Provincial Government stakeholders, industry associations and the private sector to the 2nd National Dialogue.

- The Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) outlined Vietnam's achievements towards Sustainable Development Goals 2030. The first national five-year progress report towards SDG goals (recorded prior to the outbreak covid-19) show that Vietnam is likely to reach five out of seventeen targets by year 2030. These include Goal 1 and Goal 2, which are directly related to the food and nutrition system. Whilst Vietnam has improved food production and national food security, reduced hunger across the country, and doubled income in rural areas a lot more work remains to be done. Better coordination between stakeholders is needed, along with financial support and technology transfer from development partners. The impact of COVID-19 is expected to increase the prevalence of extreme poverty. To withstand serious long-term impacts of the pandemic, it is essential to strengthen food production systems to ensure food security, especially for poor households, vulnerable people and reduce inequality in society. Increasing resilience to climate change, and strengthening orientation of small farmers towards sustainability, higher quality, and value of agricultural products are also priorities. Finally, the application of improved technologies, strengthening value chain linkages between producers and consumers, and better support farmer's organisations, particularly cooperatives is required.

- The Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) is committed to the development of transparent, responsible, and sustainable food systems in Vietnam. MOIT will work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and other Ministries, Departments, as well as businesses and industry associations to achieve these outcomes. A key development is a new agreement between MARD and MOIT signed on July 13. This facilitates greater coordination across the production, processing and export of agricultural products, with the broad aim to intensify production and promote Vietnamese agricultural products and brands in the domestic and international markets. A cross-Ministry task force will work on seven solution areas: 1. Agriculture intensification and modernization; 2. Promoting market-oriented production; 3. Removal of trade barriers and taxes; 4. Trade promotion of Vietnamese agricultural and fishery product brands to overseas markets; 5. Support for local production of specialized agricultural products; 6. Improve management of illegal markets, trade fraud and counterfeit goods; and 7. Improve quality and safety of agricultural products.

- The National Institution of Nutrition (NIN) within the Ministry of Health (MOH) described that in Vietnam today, uneven food distribution, rapidly changing consumption patterns and increasingly unhealthy diets are creating a serious double burden of malnutrition. This includes the persistent problem of undernourishment and micronutrient deficiency, particularly amongst children in mountainous and ethnic minority communities. The other problem is increasingly unhealthy diets amongst urban consumers, including increasing consumption of meat, salt and sugary foods which are driving up rates of overweight and obesity, particularly in children. Linked to this is the higher incidence of cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus and cancer, and associated deaths. In a new initiative MOH and MARD will coordinate to develop regional food balance sheets to identify local food accessibility and supply gaps to better coordinate local food production, rather than just focus on productivity.

- The United Nations key overall message from the UN Resident Coordinator was that the 2nd National Dialogue has shown the UNFSS is extremely important, timely and critical, and deserves the attention of Heads of State level in September. FAO and all other UN agencies will continue to support Vietnam's active participation in the Summit. Vietnam has an important contribution to make i

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

A summary of key views and outcomes from international bilateral and multilateral organizations represented at the Dialogue is provided below. There was broad and strong commitment to working with the Government of Vietnam, through a variety of modalities, initiatives, regions, and thematic areas towards the development of sustainable food systems.

- The United Nations in Vietnam is committed to working side by side with and providing support to the government of Vietnam in strong partnership with development partners and other stakeholders working on food systems. The UN is prepared to provide technical and financial assistance to support the development of inclusive and sustainable food, value chains and market systems, promote business opportunities for the rural population, and strengthen resources and markets to enhance linkages and economic transformation while improving employment and income opportunities and reinforcing sustainable livelihoods. The UN will support Vietnam in developing national pathways towards inclusive and sustainable food systems, and for Vietnam to use its scarce public resources to leverage responsible private investment to support this transformation in food systems.

- The World Bank in Vietnam offered full support as Vietnam moves forwards and faces multiple food system challenges. The World Bank can provide global technical expertise to some of these very complex problems. It can provide financing and knowledge work as needed working in partnership with other colleagues and development partners. The most urgent priorities for Vietnam's food systems were: 1. climate change mitigation; 2. climate change adaptation; 3. food safety and a focus on higher quality, higher value food, and; 4. challenge associated with changing demography, in particular the impact of an aging rural labour force, and outmigration.

- Canada is supporting food systems related initiatives in Vietnam through strengthening food value chains, increasing farmers' incomes through cooperative enterprise development, improving food safety, enhancing gender equality, and protecting the environment. The Food for Growth Project is working to improve food safety across select value chains in Vietnam. In addition, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency recently signed an MOU with MARD to support enhanced sanitary and phytosanitary measures and approaches in Vietnam. The Ambassador said that Canada remains committed to supporting Vietnam's efforts to transform its food systems and ensure that they are transparent, responsible, and sustainable.

- The Netherlands highlighted three ingredients for successful transformation of Vietnam's food systems: 1. strong leadership; 2. Multistakeholder involvement by ensuring provincial governments are participating and engaging their local expertise and by including farmers and the private partners; and 3. a strong interface between science and policy making to increase evidence-based decision making. The agricultural transformation program in the Mekong Delta headed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and supported by the Netherlands and several international partners was proposed as an illustrative model with these ingredients to enhance Vietnam's potential by moving from food chains to food systems.

- The United States mission to Vietnam extended an invitation for Vietnam to join the AIM for Climate initiative during the upcoming FSS. Announced by the United States and the United Arab Emirates during President Biden's leaders' summit for climate, the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate or "AIM for Climate" aims to increase and accelerate global innovation and research. And development on agriculture and food systems in support of climate action. AIM for Climate partners will mobilize new investment in climate smart agriculture and generate better coordination and cooperation. It was emphasized that sustainable food systems are critical to addressing climate change, and the need to promote the adoption of climate smart agriculture practices and other low emissions practices and food systems. Doing so will enhance resilience of food systems to climate change. The food

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Online participants were invited to submit their ideas, comments, and suggestions to the 2nd National Dialogue. The prompting questions were provided below to guide input.

How and where might your organization be interested in working or collaborating to support the transformation of food systems in Vietnam? "Where" in terms of thematic or action track areas, regions, or cross-cutting initiatives) and "how" in terms of role and modality - i.e. a funder, co-investor, technical collaboration, implementation partner, research and innovation partner. What might this involvement look like? What needs to be done? By whom?]

A list of research and development organisations and projects currently working on aspects of food systems submitted information and a description of their capability and area of work. Comments and suggestions from online participants also provided more emphasis in some key areas which had less focus in the main presentation. These included: better understanding of food safety risks and causes; causes and possible solutions to infant malnutrition in mountainous areas; importance of diversification and higher-value markets in large-scale, low priced food crops; importance of engaging SME's, particularly food processors to improve nutrition; importance for understanding trade-offs to identify practical food system solutions in poor marginalized communities; and need to improve skills, knowledge and market connectivity of cooperatives.

A key question going forward, is how can sharing of ideas, coordination and collaboration between these, and many other relevant stakeholders, organisations and projects working in the food system be improved and operationalised. What changes will be made to the current situation of fragmented institutional and project design and implementation. What concrete actions, mechanisms and initiatives will be implemented. By whom?

One area of divergence will be how Vietnam can both modernise food production and increase whilst simultaneously implement a rapid transition towards a low carbon "green economy", at the same time ensuring protection of the environment and strengthening resilience of vulnerable groups to risk and shocks, particularly from the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, climate change and natural disasters. Progressing this agenda, whilst also tackling persistent malnutrition in mountainous areas, and the rapidly emerging health and nutrition issues associated with unhealthy diet in urban areas, requires the serious transition from a food production to food systems focus. Only a food system approach can assist tackle this complexity and multiple trade-offs.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Feedback-form-VN-Dialogues-2021-08-15-Tuan-Tu-Final.docx>