

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Thursday, 22 July 2021 11:00 GMT +09:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Identifying Pathways to Sustainable Food Systems in Palau
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Environment
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/36231/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/36231/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Palau

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

86

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

17

19-30

42

31-50

20

51-65

7

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

46 Male

40 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

17 Agriculture/crops

1 Fish and aquaculture

4 Livestock

2 Agro-forestry

16 Environment and ecology

1 Trade and commerce

2 Education

3 Communication

3 Food processing

1 Food retail, markets

4 Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

2 Nutrition

29 National or local government

1 Utilities

Industrial

Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

5 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

2 Large national business

Multi-national corporation

23 Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

17 Local Non-Governmental Organization

2 International Non-Governmental Organization

74 Indigenous People

3 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

43 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

2 United Nations

1 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?

Principles of Engagement were localized to be culturally appropriate. 1) The concept of urgency was prevalent given Palau's climate and NCD crises. Discussions used 2030 as a reference while also seeking areas for immediate action. 2) Palau has already committed to achieving the outcomes of the Summit by tasking the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment to become a "Champion" and to pursue partnerships to sustainably increase production with benefits for indigenous fishers, farmers and aquaculturists. 3) Palau modified materials to be cognizant and respectful of social and cultural norms. The Dialogue was in 3 parts to reach different parts of society. Pathways mainstreamed society, economy, culture, and environment. 4) Palau recognized complexity by breaking the Dialogue into pieces, using an existing body of work, convening participants from multiple sectors, and recognizing connections in a food system model. 5) The Convener and a diverse working group (representing Finance, Environment, UN, and NGOs) recruited participants who were inclusive of multiple stakeholder groups (in terms of expertise, gender, and sociopolitical capital). The design of the three-part Dialogue, with small groups and facilitation, a separate opportunity for technical experts and producers plus a unique leadership briefing, and incorporation of previous assessments provided by stakeholders, was purposeful to allow for input from all sectors of society. 6) Palau's Dialogue purposefully complemented the work of others by drawing on the existing and extensive body of work on Blue Foods (nearshore and offshore fisheries and aquaculture) and using it to frame questions and reduce gaps in understanding of the agricultural food system. The Dialogue also identified successful initiatives with scalability. 7) To build trust and accountability, the Dialogue was marketed as a partnership platform and materials were shared publicly for transparency with no single entity taking credit for work done.

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

The Palau Dialogue modified aspects of the Action Tracks to reflect the principles. For instance, Palau modified the action track on "Nature-Positive Production" to reflect culture. All references were to "Nature- and Culture-Positive Production," so that production would have positive impacts on environmental processes and cultural processes. This reflected multiple aspects of the Principles: for instance, food production is an (1) urgent matter for cultural resurgence, protection, and preservation given the modern world's demands for uniformity and efficiency. By framing production as a cultural issue applying broadly to the entire society in addition to an environmental issue, this increased participation in the Dialogue and thus (2) commitment to achieving its outcomes. Modifying the Action Track espoused (3) respect for cultural practices in food production while also being cognizant of the needs of diverse families. This change also reflected the inherent (4) complexity of food production, which has economic, environmental, social, and environmental aspects that vary based on land and sea. Validation of these complex objectives in the Action Track (increasing production, steady and diverse nutritious and safe products, and maintaining or restoring biodiversity and ecological, social, and cultural systems) required active recruitment of (5) inclusive stakeholders with environmental, cultural, nutrition, and social expertise.

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

As with gender mainstreaming, incorporation and appreciating the Principles requires taking a step back during the planning process to analyze the work done. Breaking the Palau Dialogue into pieces offered several opportunities to do this, because planning included pauses to think objectively about how the Dialogues were coming together and whether they were representative. In addition, as with all SDGs, localization and specification at the country level will help with achievement. By localizing the Action Tracks to reflect the local circumstances and priorities, and by specifying the Action Tracks with specific, discrete objectives, Palau could more easily operationalize the Dialogues to lead to actionable outcomes.

# 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

The Palau Dialogue was not a stand alone event and was not the first systems perspective applied to food. Thus, Palau's Dialogue built on existing initiatives while still following most aspects of the Convenors Reference Manual. Notably, the Palau Dialogue grew out of the findings from the 3rd National Environment Symposium, held in August 2020. The 2020 Symposium, convened during the country's Covid-caused border closure that brought a standstill to tourism, brought together diverse stakeholders to identify "new opportunities" for building economic and food resilience, thus taking a systems perspective. Findings of that Symposium included 1) increasing and commercializing production in offshore fisheries, aquaculture (all marine in Palau), agriculture, and livestock; 2) diversification to build resilience; and 3) strengthening Palauan communities and culture. Following the symposium, stakeholders commenced in-depth systems analyses of aquaculture (e.g. "Aquaculture Industry Map" and "Aquaculture Business Strategy"), nearshore fisheries ("Tekoi era Omeged" and "2020 Gender Natural Resource Study"), and offshore fisheries ("Offshore Fisheries Policy Brief"), among many other analyses. This recent body of work further expanding on many years of investment into sustainable Blue Food systems, most notably creation and management of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary, its associated Domestic Fishing Zone, and the Palau Protected Areas Network (PAN). The National Convener created a small working group of diverse stakeholders to plan the Dialogue. The 2021 Food System Dialogue first complemented the body of work on Blue Food by filling the gap with a systems analysis of agriculture. The first part of the Dialogue was held on June 8 specifically to add agricultural information to a concept model about Palau's food systems that included economic, social, cultural, and environmental sectors. Agricultural actors were recruited from Palau's four production sectors (vegetables, root crops, fruit trees, and livestock) with expertise in discrete parts of the process cycle (production, processing/added value, distribution, and consumption). Discussions, held in small groups with a facilitator, also included system-wide questions about waste and transportation. A second part of the Dialogue was held on July 15 to assess the food system model based on Action Tracks, which Palau combined and localized: 1) Safe and Nutritious Food, and Healthy and Sustainable Consumption; 2) Nature- and Culture-Positive Production, and 3) Equitable livelihoods and Value distribution. Participants identified gaps and barriers, opportunities and successes, vulnerabilities, risks, and areas for resilience, and suggested priorities and pathways. Findings from the first two parts of the Dialogue were curated for an Executive Leadership Discussion on July 22, where high level agreement and commitment were sought. Points of divergence and convergence were both able to surface.

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The goal of Palau's Dialogue was to examine Food Insecurity from a systems perspective and to determine pathways for achieving Food Security. After confirming the problem - due to reliance on imports, preferences for unhealthy food, and challenges with affordability for high-nutrients foods, Palau is NOT "Food Secure" - the Dialogue set a goal to "better understand Palau's food system in order to build resilience and improve the livelihood, health, nutrition, and consumption patterns of Palauans." The first part of the Dialogue examined products and processes to create a conceptual model of food flows throughout the country. The focus at first was on societal, economic, cultural, and environmental factors on production, processing/adding value, distribution, and consumption, and to identify where wastes are generated and where food is transported. The model revealed that societal and economic factors have the greatest influences on the food system, highlighting the essential need for a cross-sector approach. Previously, much of food system focus has fallen to the environment sector and has focused on environmental production limitations. The Dialogue identified the need for a drastic shift in thinking.

Thus, the second part of the Dialogue purposefully focused on cross-sector issues using Action Tracks as guides. Based on stakeholder input and a review of the existing body of work on food and especially Blue Foods, the second part of the Dialogue focused on achieving specific objectives to reach the goal of Food Security:

### Diet and Nutrition:

- 1) Zero hunger (sufficient food),
- 2) Access and consumption of nutritious, healthy, and safe food by all

- A definition of nutritious foods was established: Healthy, nourishing food that meets vitamin and mineral needs; rich in micronutrients, fiber, and high-quality proteins and high-quality fats. Non-nutritious foods include those with high levels of added salt, added sugar, and saturated and trans fats.

- Unsafe foods were defined as those contaminated with toxic chemicals, metals, residues, bacteria, or pathogens; or that cause foodborne illness.

- Gaps in knowledge were acknowledged: a push to convert consumption from nearshore reef fish to offshore pelagic fish needs to consider safe mercury levels by gender and group; this has not been established in Palau.

### Nature- and Culture-Positive Production:

- 1) Increasing the amount of sustainable production
- 2) Steadily/continually offering a diversity of nutritious and safe products, and
- 3) Maintaining or restoring biodiversity and ecological, social, and cultural systems

Participants were asked to think broadly about locally-produced and processed nutritious foods, not focus solely on Palauan traditional foods.

### Equitable Livelihoods and Value Distribution:

- 1) Stable livelihoods (jobs, income, and sociocultural stability) for families and businesses from participation in the Food System, enabling a quality of life on par with other peers,
- 2) Fair and transparent transfer of values among users in the Food System value chain.

To reach these objectives, participants focused on Gaps, Barriers, and Challenges (factors, processes, places, things, that stop achievement of Food Security) and then on Opportunities, Solutions, and Scaling up (actions that are already being taken, working, and ready to be scaled up to achieve objectives). Participants were then asked to take a step back and focus on Resilience. This included first identifying vulnerabilities ("those parts of the model that, when stressed, may lead to poor achievement of objectives"), then areas of resilience ("the ability of any part of the model (person, thing, process, place) to maintain functionality in the face of change, thus ensuring continued access to adequate, healthy, nutritious, and safe foods, livelihoods, and values").

After sharing findings based on objectives, the Dialogue then examined links between Action Tracks and objectives in an effort to guide a whole-of-society response.

## 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

### Systems Perspective

The overarching finding from the Food Systems Dialogue is that Palau must apply a "Systems Perspective" to food in order to reduce the multiple cross-sector factors contributing to food insecurity. This requires elevating food insecurity to the level of a national emergency with a whole-of-government response. This also means integrating the short- and long-term cross-sector impacts of climate change into Palau's Blue and Green Economies. Taking a systems perspective requires a coordinated government response plus the partnership of civil society and the private sector.

### Partnerships for Production

The dialogue confirmed the immediate need to increase, innovate, and commercialize production of offshore fishery, aquaculture, agriculture, and livestock products through "Partnerships for Production", particularly Private-Public Partnerships but also those that facilitate technical innovation.

### Education and Policies to Transform Consumption

At the same time, education is needed to drive demand and consumption of healthier, locally-produced foods. Investment into training on processing and diversification will further improve resilience, especially in the face of natural, climate, and economic disasters. A "Buy Local" initiative, backed up with a shift in government buying power to support local pelagic fish, sustainably produced aquaculture, and agricultural producers, would contribute to improved nutrition, production, and livelihood objectives.

### Modern Market Connections

The Dialogue also confirmed the continued need to improve connections between subsistence and smallholder fishery and farming producers to local businesses and markets. These connections should rely on Palau's culture of cooperation to reduce and spread financial and environmental risks, but also modernize to take advantage of technology to find new markets and improve efficiency. Within the Fisheries sector, transitioning to a more resilient Blue Economy requires more efficiently utilizing, connecting, and marketing Palau's National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS) and Domestic Fishing Zone to achieve joint food (healthy proteins), tourism livelihood, fishery income, and conservation benefits.

### Cultural Values

Finally, Palau maintains its commitment to increasing production in line with its cultural values.

## 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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/4

### Increasing Efficiency of Initiatives like PNMS

A primary priority for increasing nature- and culture-positive production is scaling up and commercialization of existing successful initiatives at sea and on land to make them serve multiple purposes (food security, conservation, and tourism marketing) and thus be more efficient as the basis for a more sustainable Blue Economy. Palau's National Marine Sanctuary, for instance, has provided proof of concept that setting aside an area of the EEZ for domestic production led to increased Palauan participation in the offshore fishery including through cooperative business models. Tying the initiative to culture increased pride and knowledge about offshore fishery products which led to an increase in consumption of healthy, locally-produced pelagic fish. Expanding on this initiative with Private-Public partnerships to increase supply and diversify products offered will further improve resilience and drive consumption. Sustaining and expanding on Palau's Blue Economy (pelagic fishery and tourism-based) will support growth in the Green Economy (agricultural innovation).

### Decentralization through Private-Public Partnerships for Production

Similarly, Palau has proof of concept for clam and rabbitfish aquaculture, and in fact is a global innovator in the science of endangered giant clam aquaculture. Scaling up these successes will be most fruitful through decentralization (physically to outer States as well as logistically away from the national government) and by transferring and supporting production by private parties. Commercialization of agriculture on land requires Private-Public Partnerships to expand and secure public lands available for agriculture while enabling private businesses to operate them efficiently. Existing decentralization of actors in the PNMS's Domestic Fishing Zone has shown proof of concept.

### Support for Modernization

Modernizing Palau's system away from smallholders to cooperative systems of fishers and farmers needs specialized training, access to improved technologies, mentoring and assistance with relationship-building and networking, and planning to identify and manage risks and stabilize supply. Local and global technical and trade partnerships would facilitate modernization.

### Cooperation and Financial Shifts

An additional recommendation of the Dialogue is to reduce subsidies and giveaways across blue foods and agricultural products and instead support cooperative fishery and agriculture associations and corporations negotiate reduced prices for inputs and guaranteed buys (secured at first with a shift in government spending away from imports).

### Innovating Food Waste

Simple, highly successful programs such as the Koror State Collection and Composting Program can easily be scaled up to reduce food waste and provide a lower-cost nutrient input for agriculture (fertilizers) and aquaculture (feed). Technologies to do this are available, and would be most efficiently applied through technical and business partnerships. Better coordination of available materials would drive down the cost and temporal instability of many inputs.

### Business Incubation

Investment into small, cooperative processing centers combined with business incubation services would allow for small business development leading to processing of more fishery and agriculture products into a diverse selection of foods.

### Data and Profiles

Improving data collection and analysis is necessary across all parts of the blue food system (offshore fisheries, nearshore reef fisheries, aquaculture) and the agricultural system (livestock and crops) to better understand the supply chain and to understand how the profile of producers and consumers has changed in modern times.

### Shifting to Local Labor

Finally, Palau should actively develop a plan for increasing Palauan indigenous citizen participation in production while utilizing foreign labor more strategically.

## 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



## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/4

### Changing Consumption

The focus for improving nutrition and health needs to be on consumption. Food preferences lean heavily towards imported, unhealthy foods, both because of historical tendencies and misperceptions. Changing consumption means changing the story about healthy food, with a focus on education and outreach and cross-government aligned policies. Healthy foods are abundant in Palau, both in the sea and on land, but are not appreciated by the populace.

### Aligned Government Policies for Nutrition

Government policies needed to transform healthy eating include aligned government buying policies (by reducing spending on unhealthy imported foods to instead support local producers of healthy fishery, aquaculture, livestock, and agricultural products), aligned educational policies (and implemented simultaneously by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education), and aligned infrastructure and investment policies (such as modernizing food preparation and storage facilities in government facilities to reduce the need for canned foods and improve safety). There are few consumer protection policies, which when combined with improved tracking and feedback systems would improve safety and decrease negative perceptions associated with food safety. A coordinated government plan to connect healthy consumption with increased sustainable production needs to be championed by a "Nutrition Champion." Private-Public Partnerships could be drivers of a shift in consumption and could be utilized to modernize public facilities to ensure safety while also offering business opportunities in the food system.

### Partnerships to Modernize

As in other sectors, nutrition approaches need to be modernized and to rely on partnerships, for instance by partnering with media experts to create social media trends and using popular technology platforms (such as YouTube) to increase knowledge about nutrition. Localizing food guidance, for instance identifying healthy levels of tuna and taro consumption, are also needed as targets. Successful programs ready for scaling include the Airai State Elementary School Farming and Cooking Training Program. Proof of concept is abundant and families and children are willing to shift their consumption to healthier foods if they grow it or catch it themselves.

### Affordability through Production and Policies

Increasing production of fishery, aquaculture, and agricultural products will increase supply and therefore increase affordability, which remains an issue. Additional financial mechanisms to make healthy, locally-produced foods more affordable and attractive may be needed, such as taxing imports and unhealthy foods and using those streams of income to offset the costs of small batch locally-produced healthy foods. As in production, rebalancing and reducing subsidies and free handouts is needed: handing out free agricultural and fishery tools does not appear to reduce food insecurity as well as training, cooperative negotiation, and discount programs.

### Data and Profiles

Finally, as with production, improved data collection and analysis is needed to fully understand the food system and how it relates to nutrition and health.

## 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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/4

### Recognizing Hunger

Hunger remains a problem in Palau, particularly in rural areas. The first step to reducing hunger is to recognize that hunger exists, both through government recognition and planning and cultural recognition. Experts on hunger at the Dialogues strongly advocated for the definition of hunger to include "nutritional hunger", especially for families who cannot access healthy fish and agricultural products due to distance or affordability issues. Increasing and commercializing production through "Partnerships for Production" will increase the supply of healthy foods and help improve its affordability. These partnerships can also bring new actors to the food system, especially in rural areas. Targeted outreach could also help change the perspective about food and increase willingness to eat healthy foods that are growing locally.

### Cultural Networks to Reduce Food Waste

While there is hunger in Palau, there is also significant food waste, often arising from customary events, government facilities (schools), and larger retail outlets. Most of this food waste goes to the landfill. Scaling up successful programs such as the Koror State Collection and Composting Program, ideally with a Private-Public Partner, could divert this food waste and use it to further improve production. Closing this gap between hunger and food waste is a priority and there are cultural networks in place to connect food waste to producers. Palau's youth and their high technological savvy could be better utilized to make those connections.

### Reprioritize Policies

Dialogue participants suggested a review of government policies to address hunger and to align approaches with nutritional guidance. School lunches remain important to minimizing hunger, but school facilities need investment to ensure food safety and waste minimization, and updated school food policies could be promoted more to meet nutritional standards and encourage more students to shift to healthier foods.

### 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

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/4

### Producing as an Essential Profession

The majority of food producers - from fishers to farmers - are smallholders with limited access to markets and limited business acumen to achieve profitability, yet they must operate in a cash economy with global influences. Using education to change the mindset of production from one of a part-time pursuit to a full-time essential job, combined with specific training in how to plan for and navigate Palau's tourism-oriented cash economy, is needed to commercialize these professions. Social and behavioral marketing is also needed to make these foreign-labor dominated essential industries "trendy" for Palauan indigenous citizens. Given Palau's high-end tourism market, "Farm-to-Table" and "Dock-to-Dish" programs that track and tell the story of producers and their products would also boost respect and production.

### Sustainable Blue Economy

Palau's large ocean resource offers enough natural resources to support sustainable livelihoods in a variety of sectors (food production, tourism, industrial fishing, conservation), yet it is underutilized and constantly shifting due to climate change. Cross-sector planning that incorporates climate adaptation into diversified livelihoods will help stabilize and expand on Palau's Blue Economy, which will then contribute to expansion of a sustainable green economy.

### Stabilizing Supply and Demand

Driving demand for locally produced and diverse products is essential to improving income for offshore fishery and agriculture producers, and requires a cross-sector approach (school education, tourism markets, government mandates and buying policies, certifications and branding, and access points). Increased demand will secure increased production and provide stability to these industries, thereby securing livelihoods. There is also room for diversified fishery and agricultural products, and indeed demand exists but supply is unstable. Investment into training and small-scale added-value processing facilities are needed to enable diversification. This will also enable better livelihoods for women producers and other vulnerable groups. Efforts to drive demand, however, should be aligned with nutritional guidance, especially in the case of tuna sourced from the PNMS. Technology is underutilized and could more efficiently drive demand. Low use of technology in Palau's food system means that producers are missing out on opportunities for distribution and consumption and thus losing value along the supply chain. Similarly, producers struggle with inconsistent inputs (such as breeding stock in aquaculture and livestock production) that would also benefit from improved use of technology to connect supply and demand.

### Private-Public Partnerships for Production

A successful program that is ready for scaling is the Ngjwal Taro Program, which utilizes a Public-Private Partnership to increase production and share profits. However, expanding on this program to make private lands available for public farming with profit-sharing would require policies to ensure that local labor participates and benefits.

### Reducing Risks through Diversification and Cooperation

Current systems make smallholder producers take on the highest levels of risk. Cooperatives can help reduce these risks and help stabilize supply. Putting securities in place, such as guaranteed government buying programs, designating a clear buyer and market buying mechanism (such as the 10% purchasing rights offered under the PNMS through a private-public Partnership), and helping to set up networks of buyers and producers can reduce risk and improve the sustainability of livelihoods in the food system. Diversified career training for women and vulnerable people, especially in processing and adding-value, would further increase profitability and resilience of food system livelihoods.

## 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

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

### Differing views on scale and priority objectives

Dialogue participants had differing views on the scale of future investment. Some participants felt that investment should be prioritized towards fewer but larger commercial fishing companies and farms. For other participants, investment should be prioritized towards Palau's many artisanal fishers and smallholder family farmers. Focusing on larger farms could increase nutrition and health, whereas focusing on smallholders could secure more livelihoods.

### Production versus Consumption

There were divergent views about the drivers of nutrition objectives. Some participants argued that increasing production would lead to improved nutrition outcomes, whereas others argued that a focus on education to shift consumption away from preferred unhealthy foods should be a higher priority. There were also divergent views about existing school lunch programs. With limited budgets, the current school lunch program ensures a minimum amount of food for all (thereby reducing hunger), but sometimes relies on unhealthy and inexpensive imported foods. Some participants argued that government buying power should be shifted to healthier foods, whereas others argued that prioritizing hunger reduction should remain the focus.

### Production and Food Waste

Some participants argued that food should be used more efficiently before increasing production. They note that high amounts of food go to waste, especially in schools, arguing that production is currently high enough to meet the current demand. Others argued that food waste is a matter of distribution.

### Foreign Labor

There are divergent views on the role of foreign labor in the food system. With a small local indigenous Palauan population, the local labor pool is limited. Some participants felt that maintaining or even increasing foreign labor is necessary to scale up production, especially for pelagic fishing operations and labor-intensive agriculture. Other participants felt that a contraction of the labor pool and a focus on Palauan labor could supply enough production to meet needs, if this production was more efficient and commercialized.

## 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

# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

---

## ATTACHMENTS

- **Palau "Whole-of-Government" Response**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Whole-of-government-response.pdf>