

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 11 March 2021 14:00 GMT +00:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Event #3 - UNFSS Champion Network Panel Series: "The Hidden Costs of Food Systems"
CONVENED BY	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food Tank, and Global Alliance for the Future of Food, and in partnership with the UN Food System Summit (UNFSS) Champions Network
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/36574/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/36574/</a>
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

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

999

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

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?

Dialogues were organized to incorporate, reinforce and enhance the principles by always including a diverse group of stakeholders, to ensure that multiple perspectives were acknowledged and able to communicate with one another. These dialogues also recognized the importance of collaboration between stakeholders, encouraging a complementary approach, which fostered new connections.

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

This dialogue facilitated respectful discussions between members of multiple stakeholder groups. The diversity of stakeholders was embraced, and various topics including Indigenous knowledge, cultural insights and science-based evidence were able to be explored as a result. Various speakers were able to voice their opinions about policy design options. These dialogues also recognized the complexity of food systems, by acknowledging that humans, animals, land, water, climate and the ecology and economic systems are all interconnected and fundamental to creating resilient, equitable food systems.

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

Designing sessions on the principles of diversity and inclusion from the outset helped to create dialogues that provided an opportunity for different stakeholders to connect across issue and sector silos, share perspectives and elevate areas of convergence and divergence.

# 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

Speakers in the live dialogues were enthusiastic and curious to connect with one another from their respective locations and subject matter areas. Aided by the facilitators, connections were made throughout the conversation in order to point to areas of convergence, while it was acknowledged that tensions would always exist and require further dialogue and engagement to further unpack the issues and perspectives at play.

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

Co-organized by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food Tank, and Global Alliance for the Future of Food, and in partnership with the UN Food System Summit (UNFSS) Champions Network, presented seven-panel discussions (running one event each month from January to June 2021) focusing on how to transform the world's food systems. Each virtual series explored one of the Global Alliance's seven Calls to Action and brought together more than 25+ UNFSS Champion speakers worldwide, including world-renowned activists, journalists, business leaders, farmers, policy and technical experts, and many others. Each conversation will help set the stage and identify critical pathways to create a better future of food and strengthen our global food systems for the upcoming UNFSS in September 2021.

This third event in the virtual series highlighted the Global Alliance's call to action, Recognize and account for the positive and negative environmental, social, and health impacts and externalities of food and agricultural system policies and practices to inform decision-making. This discussion overlapped significantly with Food Tank's Action Track #2: shift to sustainable consumption patterns. The panel brought together an international array of food systems leaders to issue calls for action on global food systems, elevate public discourse about reforming our food systems, and develop principles to guide stakeholders in leveraging food systems to support the SDGs. Speakers included were four UN FSS Champions Network members, who discussed the deep complexities of food and agricultural systems, and provided insights into pathways that can transform food systems to be renewable, healthy, inclusive, and equitable.

The event is part of a series of panels with themes inspired by Global Alliance's Seven Calls to Action to transform the food system. Moderated by Ruth Richardson, Executive Director of the Global Alliance and Danielle Nierenberg, President of Food Tank, each conversation features members of the United Nations Food Systems Champions Network.

The panelists brought a range of perspectives to help understand food systems sustainability. Joao Campari of the Worldwide Fund for Nature put the environmental stress created by agriculture in focus and called on consumers to make conscious choices in order to have a profound collective impact. Sandrine Dixon-Declève, Co-President of the Club of Rome, urged consideration for those who have less choice in the products they consume and to involve young people, who will be most affected by the impacts of climate change. Naoko Ishii, Executive Vice-President of the Center for Global Commons, University of Tokyo emphasized the need for effective communication and accurate measurement to improve understanding of the impact of current unsustainable practices. Finally, Michael Taylor, Director of the Global Secretariat of the International Land Coalition, explained the need to support smallholder farmers, women, and Indigenous peoples who are crucial to the global food supply.

### 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 panelists provided important insights about how Action Track 2 and the call to action can be realized:

- Food is a public good and it is essential. This point must override every conversation around the UN FSS and food systems transformation.
- Equity and inclusion are core principles for transformation. Women and Indigenous peoples are essential to sustainable food production and biodiversity preservation; however, land tenure systems make both groups particularly vulnerable.
- Not only do we need to recognize those who have no choice or “plate” at the table, we need to co-create solutions with them.
- A focus on social contract and moving beyond the economic system is necessary to think about food systems from a new angle, with priorities beyond profit and short-term goals.
- Finance can serve as a driver for change; however, the financial system needs to be overhauled by moving towards finance that prioritizes positive impacts. TCA can serve as a powerful instrument to drive change.
- Agroecology and regenerative agricultural practices are key. These ecological systems that are in harmony with the environment also have social benefits and need to be scaled-up. To facilitate this, more research is needed that highlights the benefits of these systems.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Below are ten key discussion outcomes from this panel discussion:

Agriculture is responsible for 70% of freshwater withdrawals, 80% of deforestation, and 52% of farmland that is degraded, among many other major environmental impacts.

The pandemic has had a direct impact on our food system and food value chains. It needs to be ensured that we are resilient to future crises.

Research on land inequality by ILC and other partners found that land inequality is 40% higher than previously thought. 1% of the farms in the world operate 70% of the land

Panelists also spoke at length about possible solutions and ways to move towards a more sustainable system. Key points from this discussion included:

On the policy front, there are 4 universal principles to promote: 1) Food choices that reduce environmental impacts, 2) Promote food choices that support production that protects and restores nature, called nature-positive. 3) Everyone needs to embrace flexible food choices that are healthy and sustainable, and 4) G20 countries need to curb their food related missions.

Finance can serve as an important lever, but the financial sector also needs to change. Instead of thinking about short-term gains, companies must re-prioritize and build shareholder value around long-term financial benefits, and link actions put in place to what is essential to humanity.

It is possible to shift subsidies and put that revenue into positive investments in the agricultural sector, specifically agroecology. The feedback loops between biodiversity loss, climate change, and the food system are substantial. We need to view our food system as a positive contributor to climate mitigation, rather than as part of the problem. Agroecology is one solution.

To achieve a sustainable food system, there needs to be a narrative shift, so that everyone along the supply chain feels a responsibility to make better choices, there needs to be a social contract. The current economic system isn't doing this as it focuses solely on profit.

Finally, panelists explained the necessity of including various disadvantaged groups in this conversation. Key points from this discussion included:

It is important to avoid vilifying the food system, especially producers such as smallholder farmers. Rather, everyone must recognize the benefits of the food system over centuries, and help facilitate the transition to a system that works for nature and people, by incorporating these hidden costs into decision-making.

Youth is the glue within communities. We need to forget how we envisaged youth in the past and move away from tokenism, as they are already a part of the solution. Youth are innovators; they need to be viewed as co-creators and enablers of the transformation we need.

70% of food is produced by small farmers, so the question really is what kind of policies can support the production systems of smallholder farmers? The current exclusion of these farmers is not a failure of the system because the system is deliberately designed to exclude them.

It's said that women feed the world, but we say that they feed us on somebody else's land. Women are 60% of the agricultural labour force, but own only 15% of the world's land. Women have less security and rights, and in emergency situations such as the pandemic, they are the first to suffer from the current food system, as they have little to fall back on.

Indigenous peoples also face major vulnerabilities, and this translates to vulnerabilities of their land as well – including the ecosystems, biodiversity, and the carbon storage they protect.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There was no significant divergence between panelists at this discussion. Conversely, there were many points of agreement. For example:  
Panelists agreed that current agricultural practices are unsustainable and need to be changed.  
While many consumers can be persuaded to change their consumption habits, some are unable to do so and need to be supported.  
Gender mainstreaming needs to be a part of any efforts to reform food systems.

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## RELEVANT LINKS

- **UN FSS Panel Series Summary**  
<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:d23b196f-b343-497e-9134-d2b73ca2b1c9#pageNum=1>
- **25+ Members of the UN Food Systems Champions Network**  
<https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/event/25-members-of-the-un-food-systems-champions-network>