

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 6 April 2021 13:00 GMT +00:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Event #4 - UNFSS Champion Network Panel Series: "Developing Sustainable Fiscal Policy for the Food System"
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	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/36581/
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 fourth event in the virtual series highlighted the Global Alliance's call to action, Direct public sector finance and fiscal policy across the value chain towards ecologically beneficial forms of farming, better and healthier food, and resilient livelihoods and communities. This discussion overlapped significantly with Food Tank's Action Track 1: ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all. The panel discussed how the public sector can improve food access through not just production and subsidies, but also through various parts of the supply chain, externalized impacts of the food system, and taxes and procurement policies. 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 three UN FSS Champions Network members who discussed the central role of fiscal policy to 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.

Gabriel Cuevas Barron, Member of Parliament of the Mexican Congress, talked about the importance of having a long-term perspective when it comes to food systems sustainability and to improve cooperation between countries and the involvement of women. Lasser Bruun, Global Director of 50by40, highlighted the negative health impacts of current food policies, including obesity and malnourishment. Finally, Vijay Kumar of RySS pointed out the ways in which government programs such as subsidies can have undesirable consequences and the need for policy to take into account regional and local needs.

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 1 and the call to action can be realized: Laws, budgets, and oversights most important tools when thinking about the long-term success of a food system, and to meet the needs of community members. It is parliamentarians’ responsibility to work with the people they represent in the communities because at the community level is exactly where change is happening.

Conversations about food systems need to be held at a global level because it is a matter of humanity and sustainability, and it is vital that these conversations include different perspectives. To be more resilient and ‘build back better’, we need to shift ideals to focus on sustainability, and how to build a sustainable planet.

The problem is not just finances; but preparing communities. Finance and public policy must be combined with action, science and evidence.

Food issues can be connected to free trade agreements, and it is vital to be able to balance international commitments with national needs.

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

There was extensive discussion about the uses of fiscal policy to promote food security and sustainability. Key points from this discussion included:
Laws, budgets, and oversights are important tools when thinking about the long-term success of a food system. It is parliamentarians’ responsibility to work with the people they represent in their communities because at the community level is exactly where change is happening.

Food issues can be connected to free trade agreements, and it is vital to be able to balance international commitments with national needs.

Budgets also contribute to the sustainability of food systems, when it comes to fighting hunger, and developing stronger health systems, it is important to first understand it as a very comprehensive approach. Allocating budget to specific areas of the system is not sustainable in the long run because the system will no longer be symmetrical.

Public procurement plays an important role and there is often a discrepancy between how public procurement is carried out at a sub-national level. There is a need to ensure a stronger alignment there.
Panelists also spoke at length about the need for policy to consider equity and social justice concerns. Key points from this discussion included:
When looking at the sustainability of our food systems it is important to look at problems through a gender lens. We can not continue thinking that women can be left behind because women and girls are an indispensable part of our economies, politics, and agriculture. In fact, there is data that shows if women are included in food systems we can have 30% growth in the sector. There need to be more policies that support women financially, such as taxes and subsidies to get women involved.
Economic inequality leads to different issues in food systems around the world, including problems such as obesity, even in the Global North. Different countries around the world have different capacities to implement sustainable food systems.

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

There was no significant divergence between panelists at this discussion. Conversely, there were many points of agreement. For example:
Panelists agreed that governments have a role to play in creating more sustainable food systems through policy, taxation, and incentives.
They agreed that gender mainstreaming needs to be a part of discussions about sustainability.
All highlighted the need for international cooperation on food systems sustainability.

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

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>