

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Thursday, 10 June 2021 13:00 GMT +00:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Event #7 - UN Food Systems Summit Champion Network Panel Series: Enriching and Diversifying Diets
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food Tank, and the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, and in partnership with the UN Food System Summit (UN FSS) Champions Network
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/36606/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/36606/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	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

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### 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

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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**

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 final discussion highlighted the Global Alliance's Call to Action: Promote nutrient-dense, whole food diets underpinned by diversified food production adapted to different microclimates and socio-cultural contexts. Moderators Danielle Nierenberg of Food Tank and Ruth Richardson of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food opened the discussion by contextualizing it within the inequities and weak points of food systems highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Richardson stated that a shift towards resilience is required to prevent further such shocks to food systems. This panel discussion had key focus on Action Track 5, which aims to work to ensure the continued functionality of sustainable food systems in areas that are prone to conflict or natural disasters. The Action Track will also promote global action to protect food supplies from the impacts of pandemics.

Panelists echoed these calls for change but presented differing ideas of what kinds of change are needed. Dorit Adler of the Israeli Forum for Sustainable Nutrition identified the western diet as a causal factor in the prominence of diseases including hypertension, diabetes, and COVID-19 as well as the environmental destruction of industrial agriculture and advocated for the subsidization of nutritious staples of the Mediterranean diet instead. Rick White of the Canadian Canola Growers Association pointed out the need to ensure that farmers continue to be economically viable and stressed the importance of government support for agriculture and nutritional education. Mike Nkhombo Khunga of the SUN Civil Society Network explained the need to make agriculture more accessible to youth, who are motivated to create sustainable food systems but encounter barriers to getting involved.

The discussion presented connections between food systems, diet, the pandemic, and national security, among other concerns, indicating a need for a systems perspective when creating solutions. Panelists explained the need to incorporate gender and local culture in decision making and to seek opportunities for collaboration between the public and private sectors. Most importantly, all three panelists agreed that food is a human right and that it needs to be made affordable, accessible, and appropriate to local cultural and environmental context.

### 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

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

## MAIN FINDINGS

The main findings of this discussion focused on the areas listed below:

1. For food insecurity in the past, we have mostly focused on yield, income, and very particular metrics, but we know that we also have to look at equity, health and access.
2. Youth are an important part of the conversation because they are pushing for diets to change in many ways. They are not willing to have the same sort of calorie rich but nutrient deficient diets that have been part of our global diets for so long.
3. With so many people falling ill from the COVID-19, unhealthy diets are contributing to pre-existing conditions that put them more at risk.
4. COVID-19 puts diets at risk through disrupted health and nutrition services, job and income losses, disruptions in local food supply chains, and as a direct result of infections among poor and vulnerable people.
5. The manner in which food systems absorb, recover, adapt and transform in response to the shock of COVID-19 will shape their level of resilience and their ability to deliver on the longer-term triple challenge.
6. The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting food and nutrition security through economic and social systems shocks, food system disruptions and gaps in coverage of essential health and nutrition services.
7. Food systems in low- and middle-income countries must adapt and strengthen food and nutrition security in the wake of COVID-19.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Below are ten key discussion outcomes from this panel discussion:

1. The pandemic has shown us that diseases which are nutrition related have led to the biggest number of hospitalizations and deaths. There is a correlation between diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and nutrition.
2. Food shouldn't be treated as a commodity but rather a basic human right.
3. Unhealthy food options and processed food is cheaper for the consumer due to subsidies on foods like wheat, corn and soy. There is a need to subsidize healthy foods such as fruits, vegetables, and nuts. This would result in lowering the price of healthy food for the consumer.
4. Farmers are the soul and heart of healthy food systems and we must ensure that governments support them and ensure their survival and sustainability for the generations to come.
5. In terms of universalization of some of the policies, school feeding programs could ensure that young people and children within their school are able to have the nutrition they need.
6. A need is to incentivize some of the local growers within their society. They will be working in order to provide food within the society and the communities rather than focusing on very huge business opportunities which provide food but most of the food are high in calories and sugar.
7. The government mechanisms are effective in making sure that all these are key players that are working on the creature that is enhanced and are able to do their way.
8. The pandemic underscores the importance of resilience in food systems, which we should learn from to prepare for future emergencies.
9. Subsidization almost always gets capitalized in increased costs of land, labor, and capital, therefore the price structure increases, which eventually increases the cost to consumers.
10. The private sector is well aware that bigger and bolder moves need to be made in the direction of human rights, and the private sector and farmers have an important role to play.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There were some areas of divergence seen between some panelists when it comes to the area of the private sector. The notion that the private sector is good at responding to market demand and consumer preferences, i.e.. reducing salt, sugar, saturated fats when demanded by consumers was not shared by all panelists. There was also divergence in the area of education and labelling products to consumers.

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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>