

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Monday, 6 September 2021 15:30 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Present and Future of the Food Supply Chain: from Fork to Farm to Regeneration
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Regenerative Society Foundation, Quantis Italy
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/37811/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/37811/</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

166

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18      37 19-30      64 31-50      23 51-65      1 66-80      0 80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

48 Male      80 Female      38 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

8	Agriculture/crops	20	Education		Health care
	Fish and aquaculture	29	Communication		Nutrition
	Livestock		Food processing	6	National or local government
	Agro-forestry	7	Food retail, markets	1	Utilities
	Environment and ecology	43	Food industry	9	Industrial
	Trade and commerce	1	Financial Services	42	Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
9	Large national business		Member of Parliament
26	Multi-national corporation	1	Local authority
12	Small-scale farmer	5	Government and national institution
1	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer	1	United Nations
3	Local Non-Governmental Organization	1	International financial institution
1	International Non-Governmental Organization	3	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People	6	Consumer group
20	Science and academia	77	Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

A multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach was adopted, with representatives from the following sectors: consumers' associations, food sector companies, non-profit foundations, academia and research institutes. Particular attention was paid to gender diversity. The speakers' inspiring best practices' examples show that positive changes are already happening along all the food supply chain and the empowerment of all stakeholders - from consumers to farmers - is on the rise.

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

All the speakers recognise the urgency of action to reach the SDGs by 2030 and that such targets cannot be reached without a holistic approach and cooperation among all stakeholders. The speakers presented their work and best practices, showing their first-hand commitment to create a more sustainable and inclusive food supply chain. In their work, respect for the environment and people has proven to be a priority. Every intervention was complementary to the others: the role of consumers in fighting food waste and creating a more sustainable marketplace was linked to the role of companies in it, especially from the points of view of responsibility and governance. Talking about accountability, companies' footprint on the food supply chain can and must be measured to make the right decisions in terms of environmental strategies. Environmental-friendly approaches are proved to be very profitable for agri-food companies. One of the solutions to make this sector more sustainable is regenerative agriculture; projects around the world have already shown the positive effects of such practice, not only on the environment but also on human health.

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

N/A

# 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 event was an online webinar. The curator introduced the framework of the Independent Dialogues as an important occasion to offer new gateways towards sustainable food systems and to explore new ways of working together, by encouraging collaborative actions. The objective of the webinar was to dig into the landscape of sustainability priorities in the food supply chain, working backward from the plate to the field, from fork to farm. The discussion started from Quantis' report "Dig In", a comprehensive report showcasing sustainable business priorities and strategies for food and beverage companies. Food waste was chosen among the report's subjects and further developed by the company Too Good To Go, whose core business is to connect consumers and producers to avoid food surplus and waste. The role of consumers in shifting to sustainable consumption models and, in particular, to a fairer and more sustainable marketplace was explored by Consumers International, the world's federation of consumer groups. On the other hand, companies' responsibility was addressed, especially in terms of sustainable corporate citizenship, as mentioned by The Earth Institute. The discussion followed with a deep dive in the agricultural sector, firstly by analyzing its environmental impact and secondly by providing Mutti company's best practices. Its value proposition based on quality and sustainability has proven to have a positive impact on the environment and to be profitable too. An emerging agricultural practice, regenerative agriculture, was then analysed by the Rodale Institute to show its many advantages in terms of soil health, profitability and human health. The Regenerative Society Foundation presented a regenerative agriculture project called "Virtuous Agriculture", which pursues the double benefit of healing people and the environment. Before the Q&As from the audience, the curator asked each speaker the following questions: which are the 3 main actions that businesses/civil society/governments have to take to build better food systems? Which are the priorities that need to be tackled? Which are the critical points that need to be solved?

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The Dialogue provided solutions to some current problems and challenges of the food supply chain and, in particular, in the agri-food sector.

Currently, the agri-food sector is responsible for 28% of total GHG emissions and 80% of deforestation is a result of agricultural production. Moreover, climate change is putting a strain on natural resources: a higher volatility of crops and yields goes hand in hand with the loss of 10 million hectares of arable land every year, limiting the availability of natural resources. On the other hand, the world population is expected to grow by 25% by 2050, making increasingly harder to feed a larger population with few natural resources. At present 800 million people suffer from hunger and malnutrition and yet 1/3 of the food production (40%, 2.5 tons) is wasted along the supply chain every year, with an enormous effect not only on food safety and the environment, but also on the economy: wasting food means wasting money and the resources - land, labour, fertilisers, electricity, water and fuel - used to produce it. Food safety, rising food price and the need for a more sustainable lifestyle are the top concerns and priorities for consumers all around the world.

Luckily, some solutions to such challenges are already at hand. Generally speaking, there is not a unique solution or only one step in the food supply chain to take, rather a systemic, holistic approach must and can be adopted all along the food supply chain, in order to involve all stakeholders in the decision-making process and in the realisation of such process. For example, companies' sustainable strategies are proven to be rewarding and profitable for the companies themselves, especially when they go hand in hand with high quality products. A value proposition based on these two pillars can be achieved by adopting a long-term vision based on solid scientific-based solutions and innovation, by "walking the talk", by rewarding farmers who adopt best practices and by creating value for the consumers. At the same time, agricultural practices pursuing a double benefit of healing the environment and people's health are on the rise. An example is regenerative organic agriculture, which has found that increasing soil health means also increasing human health, thanks to higher nutritional qualities of food.

Other advantages are: healthier waterways, +40% carbon sequestration, - 40% GHG emissions, -45% energy use, from 3-6 times more profitable than compared to conventional agriculture, higher levels of animal welfare and lower healthcare costs thanks to a reduced exposure to toxic chemicals. All along the food supply chain, adopting a science-based approach is key: companies cannot follow a sustainable path and take the right decisions without the support of data and metrics. These help companies to set science-based targets, to identify hotspots, measure progress, measure their impact on the supply chain. Once all data are collected, the company's path towards sustainability can be communicated, in order to create a strong engagement from the public through storytelling. Engagement is key also in other steps of the supply chain, such as food waste, which has been identified the no.1 solution against climate change. By creating a marketplace for food surplus, where oversupply and demand meet, companies and consumers are inspired and empowered to combat food waste, with impressive results. In the five years since the creation of such a marketplace, more than 90 million meals have been saved. This shows once again that cooperation among all players in the food supply chain, from fork to farm back to fork, is the only effective solution.

### 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

Although progress has been made and many solutions are available and already adopted, there is still a lot that can be done to achieve a truly sustainable and inclusive food supply chain.

First of all, climate change is changing natural balances and ecosystems so rapidly that mitigation is no longer the only solution; adaptation should become a top priority. In order to make the agri-food sector more resilient and healthier - both for planet and for people - regenerative agricultural practices should be more widespread, by means of higher investments, rewarding policies for farmers, access to land, technical assistance, research on the importance of soil health, and education of the general public to raise awareness about the complexity of agronomy and nutrition. Indeed consumers play an important role in creating a sustainable, fair and inclusive marketplace. This marketplace is based on 6 pillars: food affordability, food safety, healthy food, sustainability and regeneration by supporting local food systems, transparent labelling and protection of personal data for online purchases. To be the tipping point of this marketplace, they need to be empowered to do so by making sustainability easier to understand and to reach through trust. Trust in companies to focus on real and responsible value creation, to respect the environment and human rights, to ensure living incomes are available for all producers and actors in the value chain, to stop engaging in lobbying, litigation and tax activities which make the work of government and civil society more difficult. On the other hand, local, regional and national governments should provide incentives which facilitate companies and investors in taking steps which might not pay off in the quarterly term but will protect people and the planet in the long term. They should also set in place clear targets on reducing food waste and ensure there is public and private collaboration to scale available solutions.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

N/A

### ACTION TRACKS

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### KEYWORDS

Finance

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

N/A

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Present and future of food supply chain: from Fork to Farm to Regeneration - slide deck**

## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Present and future of food supply chain: from Fork to Farm to Regeneration (registered video)**  
<https://youtu.be/iUWxee-oMcA>