

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 3 August 2021 08:00 GMT +11:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Vanuatu i Redi: Towards a healthy and sustainable food system for 2030
CONVENED BY	Mr Moses Amos, Director-General Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity, Vanuatu ; Mr Antoine Ravo, Director Department of Agriculture, Vanuatu
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/38191/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Vanuatu

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

36

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

4

19-30

23

31-50

9

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

18 Male

18 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

7 Agriculture/crops
Fish and aquaculture
Livestock

1 Agro-forestry
Environment and ecology
Trade and commerce

3 Education
Communication
2 Food processing
Food retail, markets
Food industry
Financial Services

2 Health care
4 Nutrition
5 National or local government
Utilities
Industrial
12 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan
Large national business
Multi-national corporation
2 Small-scale farmer
Medium-scale farmer
Large-scale farmer
Local Non-Governmental Organization
5 International Non-Governmental Organization
1 Indigenous People
Science and academia

Workers and trade union
Member of Parliament
1 Local authority
17 Government and national institution
Regional economic community
5 United Nations
International financial institution
2 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
1 Consumer group
1 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

As with the First National Dialogue on 20th July, the Vanuatu Government (Ministry/Dept of Agriculture) took the lead with inviting stakeholders from different sectors (Govt, CSO, Private Sector) and food system stages (production, processing, distribution, consumption) to take part in the Dialogue. The Co-Convenor and Resident Coordinator responsible for Vanuatu both emphasised, through their Dialogue Opening Addresses, the Summit Principles and encouraged all participants to freely express their opinions while respecting each others point of view. The Dialogue sessions and discussion topics were designed to encourage stakeholders from different sectors to freely share their thoughts and opinions. Furthermore, stakeholders were allowed to choose which discussion group fitted their knowledge and background. Discussions were facilitated by members of the Dialogue organising committee.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The Dialogue reflected specific aspects of the Principles through:

- Emphasising the urgency of transforming Vanuatu's Food System to meet Vanuatu's food and development needs at a time of unprecedented challenges and uncertainty
- Ensuring that diverse stakeholders from different sectors of Vanuatu's Food System were invited and welcomed to the Dialogue
- Making it clear to all stakeholders that all voices and opinions were welcomed and were to be respected throughout the Dialogue
- The Vanuatu National Statistics Office's presentation of their latest findings from the 2020 National Housing and Population Census and a Food Security Baseline Study conducted for the National Sustainable Development Plan 2030. This reinforced the urgency for change and improving Vanuatu's Food System.
- The Department of External Trade's presentation of their Review of unhealthy food imports and policies relevant to trade and nutrition provided a picture of the complexity of challenges with international trade in unhealthy foods and the need to engage a wide range of international and domestic stakeholders to address this. Overall, the Dialogue sessions encouraged stakeholders to openly share their unique experiences and opinions so that the complexity of Vanuatu's Food System and the need to include diverse voices could be recognised and understood by all sectors.

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

Using the latest research, data and policy initiatives (e.g., Vanuatu National Statistics Office and Dept of External Trade presentations discussed above) helped us to localise the issues and challenges and allow the stakeholders to proceed with discussions utilising all available information. Also, exploring and showcasing examples of best practice and innovation at the Dialogues creates opportunities to discuss possible pathways for strengthening and improving Food Systems in the future.

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

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The focus of our Dialogue was on:

1. Validation of discussion points from the National Dialogue convened on 20th July 2021
2. An update on the latest data on Vanuatu's national population, population growth rate, sex ratio, age group ratio, and food consumption and food security levels
3. An update on the current state of international trade of unhealthy foods to Vanuatu and policies for managing this
4. An exploration of local Innovative initiatives currently underway in Vanuatu
5. An exploration of priority action points/levers of change across the Five Action Tracks

Key Questions raised for discussion were:

- Do you agree with the key points discussed in the First National Dialogue? Are there any changes, omissions, inaccuracies which you would like address?
- What three key actions – in each of the Five Action Tracks – do you think would accelerate Vanuatu's efforts to achieve its 2030 Food System Vision?

In responding to these questions, participants were encouraged to review Vanuatu's Gudfala Kakae Policy (Good Food) 2020-30 (GKP 2020-30), an existing Government Policy which the Vanuatu Government is using as the basis for examining and improving Vanuatu's Food System.

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

The main findings emerging from this Dialogue was a collective agreement on:

1. Need to establish a Multi-Sectoral Food and Nutrition Committee to oversee the implementation of the Gudfala Kakae (Good Food) Policy 2020-30 and the Vanuatu National Nutrition Policy.
2. Need for Leadership, Coordination, and Commitment to strengthen multi-sectoral, multi-scalar, and multi-pronged approach to policy formulation and implementation.
3. Building on existing innovative and best practice initiatives currently being implemented by Govt, Private Sector and Civil Society stakeholders.
4. Utilising the expertise, experience, and networks of the Private Sector (and other non-government stakeholders) to effectively implement the GKP 2020-30.
5. Empowering and resourcing provincial and local level government officials and agencies to lead on the GKP 2020-30 Objectives and Strategies.
6. Need to increase the engagement and collaboration between government, private sector, and civil society. Particularly, around: innovative value-adding of local foods; research related to innovative value adding of local foods; and delivery of services related to the Gudfala Kakae Policy.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

Topic 1 – Review and Validation of Dialogue One Inputs

In reviewing and validating the outcome of the First National Dialogue (20th July), stakeholders proposed the following additional inputs:

- There is an urgent need for Government ministries and partners to allocate adequate resources to implement the Gudfala Kakae (Good Food) Policy and other policies impacting on Vanuatu's Food System.
- Build resilience capacity to be able to respond effectively to compounding / widespread disasters e.g., volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, pandemics, cyclones and other climatic extreme events.
- Introduce price control mechanism for local produce to ensure balance of affordability to consumers + adequate compensation for producers and others along the Food System value chain.
- Ensure proper data management systems are in place to establish baselines and measure progress of policy objectives
- Facilitate, promote and support the use of technology and innovative techniques across the food supply chain: food production, processing and transportation.
- Review seasonal calendar of crops and coordination of farmers/producers to improve availability and variety of foods and ensure sales for farmers/producers.
- Introduce regulations/policies to reduce supply and consumption of unhealthy foods and improve supply of healthy food. This includes ensuring imported food staples are fortified with essential micro-nutrients.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

Topic 2 – Key Actions to Accelerate Gudfala Kakae (Good Food) Policy Vision & Objectives:

Action Track 1 – Nutrition

1. Establish Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Committee to oversee implementation of GKP and VNNP.
2. Upscale nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive programs throughout the country.

Action Track 2 – Diet

1. Data and information system- know what is available and where as well as vertical and horizontal communication.
2. Empower Provincial authorities to manage this system but it is important to develop capacity and ensure sufficient allocation of resources (finance)
3. Build on and enhance and strengthen existing initiatives discussed in previous sessions

Action Track 3 – Nature

1. Encourage and promote agroforestry practices and intercropping of food crops and vegetables with trees – as currently delivered by Dept of Forestry
2. Promote silviculture practices involving trees and fishponds
3. Promote silvi-pastoral practices involving trees and livestock

Action Track 4 – Livelihoods

1. Engage with and contract private sector to manage and deliver services and logistics to producers and farmers in innovative business-like manner.
2. Market identification by private sector businesses in compliance with market and international standards.
3. Empower people with private sector skills and knowledge to implement production value chain as well as provide appropriate mechanisation tools, equipment and opportunities to increase market access.

Action Track 5 – Resilience

1. Leadership coordination and commitment to strengthen multi-sectoral, multi-scalar and multi-pronged approach to policy formulation and implementation.
2. Sustainable and resilient approaches to localised disaster response and recovery including intercropping and agroforestry.
3. More research in terms of climate impact and resilience in agriculture and that must also include social research.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The following areas will need further exploration in future Food System Dialogues:

- Instituting a price control mechanism to ensure affordability of local, healthy produce/foods while also ensuring profitable income and decent livelihoods for local producers and stakeholders along the Food System value chain
- Capturing local/traditional knowledge and practices into Food System transformation initiatives while also respecting local, cultural rules for maintaining ownership and secrecy of particular traditional knowledge and practices.
- Putting in place policies and regulations on importation and manufacturing of unhealthy foods versus the interests of businesses and workers engaged in this sector.
- Seasonal work opportunities in Australia and New Zealand absorbing the most able workers of Vanuatu vs lack of domestic income earning/generating opportunities.

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