

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 10 August 2021 09:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Qatar Food System National Dialogue
CONVENED BY	Dr Masoud J. Al Marri
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/38799/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Qatar

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

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18	7	19-30	45	31-50	16	51-65	4	66-80	80+
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PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

54	Male	18	Female		Prefer not to say or Other
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

6	Agriculture/crops	4	Education	12	Health care
	Fish and aquaculture	2	Communication	4	Nutrition
5	Livestock	2	Food processing	26	National or local government
	Agro-forestry	5	Food retail, markets		Utilities
	Environment and ecology		Food industry		Industrial
6	Trade and commerce		Financial Services		Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
13	Large national business		Member of Parliament
1	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
	Small-scale farmer	44	Government and national institution
5	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
6	Large-scale farmer		United Nations
2	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
	International Non-Governmental Organization		Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People	1	Consumer group
4	Science and academia		Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Please find our approach on the five principles below, responding to the questions of the three text boxes. First: Act with urgency The Qatar national dialogue was opened by our Minister, the Minister of Municipality and Environment and Chairman of Qatar's National Food Security Committee, Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki al-Subaie. In his statement he made clear reference to the climate change issue and the fact that 30% of the problem lies in the food we consume and how we consume it. Referring to the floods and heat waves in Europe and the rest of the world as a grave warning and the need for efforts to prevent or limit climate change. The statement in the opening ceremonies came from Qatar's National Convenor Dr Masoud Al Marri, secretary of the National Food Security Committee and Director of the Food Security Department at the Ministry of Municipality and Environment. He stressed and explained the importance of the Dialogues in the international context of the Global Food System Summit and the more than hundreds of dialogues being organized globally. He also presented the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in detail and how they are influenced by our global and local Food Systems. If we don't transform our food systems to be sustainable, we won't achieve the 17 SDG's by 2030 he stated. Second: Recognize complexity The opening ceremony started with a 5-minute video with a voice over explaining the complexities of global food systems in general and Qatar's local food system in particular. The video showed all entities in full operation. Footage of the more and more professional and sophisticated farmers and producers, including the input industries such as fertilizer companies, seed suppliers, water and energy utilities. Logistic companies providing more and more intelligent transport, storage and warehousing facilities, keeping produce fresh from start to finish. Marketeers, traders and retailers offering an immense diversity of products on a day-to-day basis, sourced from all over the world and – in these days - often delivered to our doorsteps.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Ctd: At the end of the food chain are the waste processors turning crop residues and food waste into "brown gold" the valuable organic fertilizers. Then there are the scientists and technology providers tackling food system challenges and turning them into business opportunities. And policy makers developing rules and regulations keeping our food systems safe, resilient and sustainable in the service of people and the environment. And last but not least, students and teachers, busy and ambitious in preparing the future of today's food system. All these efforts in a food system that feeds us, keeps us safe and healthy, now and in the future. It is important to recognize that our food system is not just about food production Qatar's National Convenor explained. Third: Embrace stakeholder inclusivity The opening ceremony closed by Ms Khadeja Ahmad Abuhaliqa. Vice president of Qatar's Youth Council. And dialogue invites were sent to the broadest range of spectrum of stakeholders and publicized in national Arabic and English newspapers. In total 10 different stakeholder groups were represented and 5 different types of entities. Fourth: Complementing the work of others Qatar already made great strides making its food system resilient, sustainable, equitable and safe in line with the goals and ambitions of the Global Food Systems Summit. Local production tripled in a very short period from less than 10% not so long ago, to an average of 30%, and over 70% and up to 100% for the most critical perishable items. Centralized strategic reserves and decentralized commercial buffer stocks have been established for a very broad spectrum of products in effective partnerships with the public and private sectors. We are producing animal fodder using recycled water thereby preserving our local aquifers and implementing offshore aquaculture projects to relieve the pressure off our local wild fish stocks. And we are running an annual cycle funding scheme for R&D projects in Food Security facilitating innovations in local food production, food storage and food supply chains.

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

Fifth: Build trust Participants were invited and instructed to participate in a dialogue that follows the ground rules of a dialogue explained to us by the Food Summit facilitator and curator training sessions. The rules were presented and explained to the participants by our national convenor and summarized as follows: • A dialogue is an open forum for the wider public and not a closed convention. • The table is yours (the participants) not ours (the organizers) • The focus is on listening and understanding instead of persuading • An exploration of what might be possible not how things are or should be. • Looking for both areas of both convergence and divergence • Uncover differences instead of avoiding them. • It is OK to disagree, without being disagreeable • Recognize and acknowledge different points of view. • All opinions are welcome, don't hesitate to express them. The press was invited to the opening ceremonies but not to the action sessions to enable participants to feel safe to express their opinions and questions candidly and freely.

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 format of the dialogue was done in a theatre style venue with physical participation (and on-line streaming for the wider public). The venue could hold about 200 participants, with 50% of capacity available due to Corona restrictions. The format of the sessions was slightly different from being taught in the handbook and training sessions. Our focus was on four action tracks with the first three in line with the Food Summit Action Tracks: 1. Food system resilience 2. Nature positive production 3. Equitable trade. The fourth action track was about the introduction of information technologies in Food Safety inspections. This was because the Ministry of Public Health had already organised dialogue type sessions on the topics of Sustainable Food Consumption and Healthy Nutrition (see appendix). For each action track we gave 15-minute opening presentations and a 30-minute panel discussion with selected leading local practitioners for each topic selected. After that the floor was to the public to engage in a 40-minute Q&A with the practitioners and experts. The moderator of the discussion summarised the outcomes of the session. Each action track session covered 90 minutes of constructive presentations, panel discussions and public Q&A. Only the fourth action track followed the method in the training sessions more closely seeking out questions in three subgroups first before handing them to the panel for a response. The other action tracks did not separate discussion groups as we did not have enough facilitators to assist the many stakeholder groups present and the theatre venue did not lend itself easily for such an approach.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Qatar already made great strides making its food system resilient, sustainable, equitable and safe demonstrated by the presentations that were given. The public did raise a few important items pressing the sectors to go a few steps further than they have done so far.

The public raised the need to find more effective ways to protect our local industries and their investments post the economic blockade of Qatar. The need to consider allowances for regional exports to improve the economic feasibility and attractiveness of food production and food manufacturing in Qatar. The education and training of home-grown agronomists and the urgent need to take action in establishing reserves for agriculture inputs (seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, packaging material and animal feed). We also obtained a strong mandate from the public to tackle the issue of food waste. Our local retailers and our government are already a fair way in testing options to convert food waste into valuable non-food items such as pet foods and fertilizers. With some retailers already voluntarily committed to the 2030 goal of a 50% reduction. The simple measure to separate “Best Before Use” and “Best Before Sales” shelf-life dates on food labels was introduced and expected to potentially decrease food waste significantly.

Furthermore, the public found it important to get to know the extent of environmental issues in Qatar that influence our food production capacity: land degradation, aquifer depletion, and water quality. One of the speakers suggested to use the Global GAP (Good Agriculture Practice) certification as minimal standard for local food production and food imports to ensure our food is safe: for consumers, farm workers and as well as for the environment. And finally, the public believes we need to educate our consumers about the environmental impacts of their day-to-day food choices by adopting food labelling schemes that are already used in other countries showing the true cost of a food item (including environmental costs) versus the actual cost (the current consumer price).

There are sufficient controls on securing affordable food prices for consumers in Qatar, especially the basic commodities. And there also government support programs in place to ensure fair pricing for producers. It was strongly felt though, by both retailers and producers, that local producers are not rewarded for their efforts to produce in summer, using more capital-intensive growing systems and adopt environmentally friendly production methods preventing them from making these essential steps forward in food system resilience and sustainability. Further discussions are needed to identify effective producer incentives to achieve this next level up in local production or find alternatives for year-round product availability and eco-friendly production practices.

In light of the release of the most recent IPCC report on climate change, the topic was raised many times. Many of the stakeholders present believed Qatar is ready for it, having already such harsh climate conditions. Others were not that certain. They observed that many of the impacts we are witnessing now people were not prepared for. So, there is a need to assess the climate change readiness of Qatar’s food system. And vice versa, the impact of our food system on climate change.

Finally, the introduction of the automated food safety inspection system by the Ministry of Public Health, was applauded by many if not all stakeholders. The system is just in pilot phase but already with impressive achievements, with comprehensive coverage of all critical points at risk in all steps in the supply chain, increasing the number of inspections that can be done by one inspector by a threefold and reducing or even eliminating the clearance times of food imports at customs.

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 dialogue session outcomes clearly gave us a mandate from the participants to improve on our current policies but also to go beyond our current policy and strategy scope. Food System resilience and sustainability have been in focus for the last five years with great achievements under our country's leadership. But still room and urgency for improvements to effectively and comprehensively tackle the issues of environmental degradation, climate change and improve and sustain the economic feasibility and sustainability of food production and food manufacturing in Qatar.

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

The most relevant discussion topics that would require further action, study or exploration, in progressing action track food systems resilience:

- The need to find more effective ways to protect our local industries and their investments post the economic blockade.
- The need to consider allowances for regional exports to improve the economic feasibility and attractiveness of food production and food manufacturing in Qatar.
- The education and training of home-grown agronomists
- The urgent need to take action in establishing reserves for agriculture inputs
- A strong mandate from the public to tackle the issue of food waste.

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 - 2/5

The most relevant discussion topics that would require further action, study or exploration, in progressing action nature positive production:

- To get to know the extent of environmental issues in Qatar that influence our food production capacity: land degradation, aquifer depletion, and water quality.
- The use the Global GAP (Good Agriculture Practice) certification as minimal standard for local food production and food imports to ensure our food is safe: for consumers, farm workers and as well as for the environment.
- The need to educate consumers about the environmental impacts of their day-to-day food choices by adopting food labelling schemes that are already used in other countries showing the true cost of a food item (including environmental costs) versus the actual cost (the current consumer price).

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
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- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- ✓ Trade-offs
- ✓ Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

The most relevant discussion topics that would require further action, study or exploration, in progressing action track equitable trade:

- Local producers are not rewarded for their efforts to produce in summer, using more capital-intensive growing systems and adopt environmentally friendly production methods. Further discussions are needed to identify effective producer incentives to achieve this next level up in local production or find alternatives for year-round product availability and eco-friendly production practices.

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

In light of the release of the most recent IPCC report on climate change, the topic was raised many times. Many of the stakeholders present believed Qatar is ready for it, having already such harsh climate conditions. Others were not that certain, observing that many of the impacts we are witnessing now people were not prepared for. So, there is a need to assess the climate change readiness of Qatar's food system. And vice versa, the impact of our food system on climate change.

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

The introduction of the automated food safety inspection system by the Ministry of Public Health, was applauded by many if not all stakeholders. The system is just in pilot phase but already with impressive achievements, with comprehensive coverage of all critical points at risk in all steps in the supply chain, increasing the number of inspections that can be done by one inspector by a threefold and reducing or even eliminating the clearance times of food imports at customs.

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
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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

We only witnessed two significant areas of divergence.

Some stakeholders believed there were sufficient measures in place to allow producers to obtain a fair price for their produce. Others believed there was insufficient incentive for farmers to make the next step in making food production year-round and environmentally friendly.

Some stakeholder believed Qatar was ready for the impacts of climate change, given the already harsh climate conditions of Qatar. Whilst others were not so sure witnessing the climate change impacts in other countries and see that the people there were not prepared for those impacts.

It is very likely that when subsequent dialogues will be held in smaller venues with smaller groups more differences of opinion will emerge.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

