

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

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| DIALOGUE DATE | Thursday, 12 August 2021 10:00 GMT +00:00 |
| DIALOGUE TITLE | Leveraging the Potential of Youth to Transform Global Food Systems |
| CONVENED BY | Jonathan Stewart (Lead Campaigner Agro Tech Liberia) |
| DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE | https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/39042/ |
| DIALOGUE TYPE | Independent |
| GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS | Liberia |

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

50

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

7 0-18 20 19-30 18 31-50 3 51-65 2 66-80 0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

32 Male 18 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 8 | Agriculture/crops | 3 | Education | | Health care |
| 2 | Fish and aquaculture | 2 | Communication | | Nutrition |
| 3 | Livestock | 2 | Food processing | 3 | National or local government |
| 4 | Agro-forestry | 5 | Food retail, markets | | Utilities |
| | Environment and ecology | 4 | Food industry | | Industrial |
| | Trade and commerce | 1 | Financial Services | | Other |

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

| | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 5 | Small/medium enterprise/artisan | 13 | Workers and trade union |
| | Large national business | | Member of Parliament |
| | Multi-national corporation | | Local authority |
| 10 | Small-scale farmer | 5 | Government and national institution |
| | Medium-scale farmer | | Regional economic community |
| 1 | Large-scale farmer | 2 | United Nations |
| 3 | Local Non-Governmental Organization | | International financial institution |
| 3 | International Non-Governmental Organization | 3 | Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance |
| 2 | Indigenous People | | Consumer group |
| 3 | Science and academia | | Other |

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The dialogue was organized through Google Meet(online). During the meeting, the Moderator muted the mics of all participants except the participant that was requested to give his or her presentation. Each speaker was allowed to share their opinion. There were time reserved for questions and contributions among participants. The contributions of all the participants were welcomed and questions addressed satisfactorily.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

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

1. Act with urgency; Being aware of the importance of the food system summit and the goal of reaching SDG 9 of industry, innovation and infrastructure by 2030, the Dialogue developed series of answers that will provide innovative approaches to having an improved food system and achieving the SDG 9. 2. Be respectful: The views of every participant from different regions and from different backgrounds were all respected, despite their cultures. Every context were evaluated to reach a better conclusion. 3. Recognize complexity: The Dialogue recognized that food systems are complex and also interconnected with other systems. Hence, it allowed the opportunity to consider other aspects in answering the questions. 4. Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity: Stakeholders like small scale farmers and large scale farmers (who require reliable means to acquire agro inputs as well buyers of farm produce) and ICT experts who supplied answers to their question were all invited. Opinions from Individuals from various communities were also embraced to reach a better agreement on the outcomes. 5. Complement the work of others: The Dialogue was hosted to benefit from an existing innovation (ICT) that has not being fully utilized by most farmers in Africa. It complements the innovations already existing in information and technology sector and seeks to leverage on its tools for better food system as well as achieving SDG 9. 6. Build trust: This dialogue allowed opportunity for everyone to participate irrespective of gender, allowing mutual respect and trust. It is transparent, evidence based and accessible for decision making and planning.

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 major focus of the dialogue was on youth and their potential to transform food systems. In Liberia, over 65 percent of the population falls in the youth bracket. We see this as an opportunity for the food system. The potential of the youth lies in their population, capacity to innovate, young energy and their admiration and likeness of new technologies. Looking at these factors, the discussion was centered on how the food chain actors can leverage their potential so as to realize zero hunger. The dialogue was interactive where panelists and participants advanced ideas and ways to make the youth major actor in the food system and how to inspire them to taking actions necessary for food systems transformation. The focus was captured under tract 4, that talks about advancing equitable livelihoods. This is about including youth in the process of food system transformation by empowering and making them unleash their potentials.

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

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

MAIN FINDINGS

- For youth to fully be involved in the food systems and be active players, they must be provided with finance (seed fund, grants and business incubation support) so as to make them resilient and sustainable players in the food sector. Lack of access to finance which remains a major challenge for Africa's food systems is a clumping block to youth active involvement in national and regional food systems transformation. The participants and panelists call on policy makers and major food actors(UN, FAO, UNDP) to provide access to finance programs for youth who are thriving to make impact in the agriculture sector which will serve as motivation for other young people who see agriculture as a underprivileged and less fortunate family ventures. This can be carried out by policy makers through the allotment in the national budget funds for grants and seed funds to youth agri enterprises and young farmers who are striving to make agriculture their livelihood.
- A network of youth in agriculture need to be formed which will connect youth involves and aspiring to do business or farming to policy makers and donor for support that can enhance the operations in the agriculture sector. There is a disconnect with youth in agriculture and stakeholders which has created less attractive situation for youth. Participants and panelists intimated that only when you are empowered, then we can assure that the future of food lies in their hands. Participants and panelists call for young people participation in the planning and decision making of the food systems transformation processes.
- Technology integration and innovation
Technology integration is key in advancing and transforming the food systems. The discussion highlighted the need to put technology innovation on the forefront as a factor to transform the food system for people and planet. The use and promotion of technology can drive youth participant and full involvement in feeding the world. Participants, especially, youth pointed out the need to provide information communication technology solutions and the provision of machineries for on farm and off farm production activities.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

- Future of food system depends on the investment in today youth. Participants highlighted that for a better food system, the youth must be at the core of global investments, food systems transformation conversations, decision making processes. The investment in youth through the provision of access to finance, technical capacity, market linkage and infrastructure. A panelist stressed the need to create awareness among youth for the change of mindset that agriculture is dirty job or not decent for youth involvement.
- Youth need to invest energy in the agriculture value chain. The potential of the agriculture value chain in Liberia is untapped. Youth must take advantage to innovate where they can bring solutions on the table for the food systems transformation. Discussion around youth cultivating the mind of entrepreneurship in the agriculture sector was raised by few panelists and youth are encouraged to look around to pick up a problem in the agriculture sector where they can turn it to opportunity. In order to reduce the youth unemployment situation of Liberia and Africa, youth must start to think about agriculture differently as oppose the long held perception of it being for uneducated and old age.
- Transition from traditional agriculture to modern agriculture with the promotion of technology. Discussion on the importance of modern agriculture that requires new approach and method of farming and food production. Panelists and participants expressed their views and call for innovation that promote the use of technology in agriculture which will lure youth to agriculture investment and operations. Participants highlighted that government and food security stakeholders can lead this and will help in attracting the young labor force to the sector.
- Access to finance for youth in agriculture. The topic, youth access to finance which is considered as a challenge was discussed. Several suggestions made: allot money in the national budget to provide grants and seed fund to youth enterprises by national government, provide programs that give seed fund and innovation challenge by agriculture development partners.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Quick income: some panelists and participants noted that youth nowadays, go for quick income activities such as motorcycle riding and political affairs/white collar jobs. This discourages them since they can get fast income from such activities than agriculture. Generally, the area of divergence is youth of this generation are less interested in agriculture because they always looking out for quick/fast income. Other participants held the view that that is not the case but it is mainly due to lack of support and finance.

Another area of divergence is that opportunities are out there but youth are not making use of them. A Panelist highlighted that opportunities for youth are available but many of the youth are not going for it. Other participants refute the view and expressed that the systems and processes out there are not inclusive and hidden from general public.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Feedback word version**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Official-Feedback-Form-LIBERIA_FOOD-SYSTEMS-SUMMIT-DIALOGUE-2021.docx12AUGUST2021FINAL.docx