

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Wednesday, 4 August 2021 09:00 GMT +04:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	The imperative of food and nutrition security and sovereignty; activating the bold steps - The perspective of local producers.
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Mr Guy Pierre Morel
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/39283/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/39283/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Seychelles

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	1	19-30	6	31-50	2	51-65	1	66-80	80+
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## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

6	Male	4	Female	Prefer not to say or Other
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## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

10	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
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## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

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

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The dialogue started with a short introduction of the United Nations Food Systems Summit as part of a global initiative to transform and add more value and equity to the world food systems and to deliver the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 2, and the need to build a more robust food and nutrition security and sovereignty ecosystem. The participants were briefed about the strategy of involvement and participation in the form of broad spectrum national dialogues to harvest inputs to articulate the changes that must happen to the current food system at country level. The participants were guided to complete the UNFSS assigned Attendance Form during which time the Food Systems Summit Principles of Engagement were elaborated to provide a framework for convergence to purpose. The introduction concluded with a short presentation about Seychelles' current food system that was built from secondary data to provide a clear picture of the current state of affairs and to provide the participants with some background information as thought and discussion starters.

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

The relevant principles were intentionally repeated throughout the Dialogue to instill a sense of purpose and to encourage the participants to deeply reflect about the principles as motivational anchor points and drivers that underpin the change and transformation process that would be required to build a robust food defense strategy at country level.

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

The seven Food Systems Summit Principles of Engagement could evolve to become a generic/global framework of core values and principles with potential for inclusion in all Member States food defense strategy. This could become one of the strand (in the mix of strands) to self-perpetuate the longevity of the United Nations Food Systems Summit strategic intent.

# 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**

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The Dialogue was anchored around the subtheme “Growing the capacity and capability to produce more farm commodities – The targets, barriers and critical success factors. The subtheme is a reflection of the current debate and aspiration of the country to rethink its food system which is built on a mix of 10% local production and 90% on imports at a cost of close to 25% of the country total importation bill. The imperative to drive up local production and to remove barriers is a super-top national priority especially as we gradually migrate out of the Covid 19 pandemic. The purpose of the dialogue is to hear from the local producers in terms of their aspiration, perception of barriers and what we must get right to increase local production of food commodities.

### 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 that have been identified as the key barriers that could slow down the imperative to increase local production of farm commodities are listed below:

- The development of a more challenging trading environment where local producers have to compete with cheaper import substitutes. The situation is partly associated with the adoption of the fair, free and open market policy, limited capacity of farmers to exploit economies of scale at local level due to the size of the farms where the average is 8000sqm. This affects all categories of farm commodities especially livestock. The main argument advanced by the local food producers was the limited scope for economies of scale and as such they find it difficult to compete on price with exporting countries where the opportunity for economies of scale and location provide them with a competitive advantage. The general tone is that global food trade could constrain the imperative to grow the local food production system.
- The participants were of the opinion that there is inadequate traction and coordination to implement and drive policy decisions to improve the productivity of the local food production system and to contribute a bigger part to the food basket. The general perception was that more often the benchmark tends to be set at policy document availability level and not enough drive given to tangible execution of decisions to transform the local food production system.
- The scarcity of farm land and the restrictive land use policy. Seychelles has a total land mass of 452 km<sup>2</sup> of which 50% is under protection regime and only 600 hectares are allocated for agricultural activities; which is less than 2% of the total land mass. The policy to restrict agriculture activities in areas demarcated as buffer zone is seen as a barrier to the growth and development of the sector.
- The impact of climate change and the consequences of higher temperature, new rainfall patterns and distribution, frequent extreme events, floods and increases severity of pests and diseases are serious threats to the local food production system.
- Difficulty to access development grants and low interest financing instruments. The limited access to grants to finance core infrastructure of strategic importance but with limited commercial direct return as well as the lack of venture capital to finance high risk developments were mentioned.
- The participants discussed at length the gaps in the value and supply chains such as sourcing difficulties, access to technology, limited farm workers on the local market, regional temperature controlled storage facilities, demand and supply management platform as well as inadequate services from support institutions.
- Inadequate marketing investment to promote local farm commodities and local cuisine to counter and mitigate the risks of homogenization and globalization of taste.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

The Dialogue with the local producers of farm commodities has produced six key recommendations:

- The participants unanimously recommended that the country should reappraise its self-sufficiency targets for all three categories; to increase the share of local production out of total consumption of livestock from 23% to 80%, local fruits and vegetables from 70% to 90%, and for carbohydrates from 10% to 50% by 2030. The targets are not based on capacity evaluation model but instead on the collective opinion, knowledge and insight of the group.
- The second recommendation is to recalibrate and reprioritize the imperative of a food defense strategy and the necessity to reduce the country's dependence on imports for its food commodities within the framework of a global initiative to transform and improve the country's food sovereignty obligations.
- The third recommendation is the need to rethink the agroforestry potential of land in the buffet zone to increase the productive use of such lands in making a significant contribution to the agenda to increase local production.
- There is a call for more investment in climate change adaption and mitigation measures; including flood defense system, transfer of technology to deal with pests and diseases, new farming systems such as climate smart agriculture and the adoption of agritourism practices to build more socioeconomic resilience of farmers.
- Another output is the need to remodel the financing strategy especially inflows from bilateral and multilateral sources to finance core infrastructure of high strategic value but of less direct commercial attractiveness, innovation and other high risk ventures, which otherwise would not pass the test for investment based predominantly on direct commercial return.
- There is a need to rethink and invest in the marketing strategy to promote the benefit of local farm commodities and cuisine and to move the consumers to value more and consume more local farm commodities and reduce the importation burden.

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## **AREAS OF DIVERGENCE**

There were no significant areas of divergence.

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### **KEYWORDS**

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