

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Friday, 10 September 2021 13:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	WHAT EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICANS CONSUMERS NEED FOR FUTURE FOOD SYSTEMS
CONVENED BY	1. Mr. Gerson Fumbuka (East African Community Think Tank Association); 2. Mr. Timothy Wesonga (East African Community Think Tank Association)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/39405/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	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

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18	25	19-30	38	31-50	35	51-65	66-80	80+
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PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

63	Male	35	Female	Prefer not to say or Other
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

12	Agriculture/crops	3	Education	Health care	
	Fish and aquaculture		Communication	2	Nutrition
4	Livestock	2	Food processing	National or local government	
5	Agro-forestry	7	Food retail, markets	Utilities	
7	Environment and ecology	3	Food industry	Industrial	
3	Trade and commerce	2	Financial Services	48	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

3	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	Workers and trade union	
	Large national business	Member of Parliament	
	Multi-national corporation	Local authority	
5	Small-scale farmer	4	Government and national institution
4	Medium-scale farmer	1	Regional economic community
4	Large-scale farmer	1	United Nations
2	Local Non-Governmental Organization	International financial institution	
2	International Non-Governmental Organization	2	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People	1	Consumer group
5	Science and academia	64	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Convenors developed the title and 10 strategic discussion topics and shared with the Planning team of the East African Community Think Tank Association (EACTTA). The title was accepted and each member selected his or her own discussion topic. Other discussion topics were shared to other individuals in other organisations in the region. The Convenors requested the facilitators to prepare a background paper for their discussion topics so that they could be shared with all participants before the date of independent dialogue on 10 September 2021. Thereafter, the Convenors sent out invitation directly to organizations, individuals, and also sent out invitation via social media, such as Twitter, to the public at large to invite them to register through a special google link, so that they could confirm participation in Dialogue on the specified date. 98 participants registered through Google link to participate in the independent dialogue. The nationalities of the participants that registered were: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, DRC, Swaziland, Israel, Philippines, Botswana, Ethiopia, US and Germany. The Convenor shared with all participants the concept paper for the independent Dialogue. The concept paper theme was "What Eastern and Southern African Consumers need for future food systems". In addition, all background papers for all discussion topics and tentative programme for the event were also shared with participants. One day before the independent dialogue, the Convenors and curator held a virtual preparation/rehearsal meeting with all facilitators. The Curator informed facilitators to observe principles of engagement during independent dialogue. On 10 September, the Virtual Independent Dialogue was held as per the programme. The number of participants were 40. The Curator proposed to the participants that the meeting be held in the main plenary and not go for breaking out rooms. The facilitators were asked to present their discussion topics in the main plenary. All participants were in agreement.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

We acted with urgency in announcing to hold our independent dialogue within one month so that we were able to organise and make contributions to the Food Systems Summit and to the elaboration of pathways to food systems transformation contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our dialogue empowered stakeholders to participate in the preparation of the Food Systems Summit. It promoted new connections, and enable the emergence of ways to move forward collectively and creatively, embracing the entire scope of opinions. Our dialogue promoted respect for one another, which is a foundation for genuine Dialogue. Our curator emphasised to participants in the Dialogue that they are expected to listen to each other and be open to the co-existence of divergent points of view. Our dialogue promoted a systemic approach by involving multiple stakeholders to identify actions across the system together with potential synergies and trade-offs. We were aware that food systems is a cross cutting sector touching several sectors in the food chain from the farm to folk.

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

I have the following advice for other Dialogue Convenors about appreciating the Principles of Engagement as follows: 1. Once the participant has registered to attend the dialogue, the convenor must take the initiative to communicate to the participant acknowledging and thanking them for registering for the UN FOOD SYSTEMS INDEPENDENT DIALOGUE. Also, it is important also to send any documentation to them in order for the participants to get prepared for the Dialogue such as concept paper, tentative programme and roles of participant, facilitators etc. It is also critical to send them information about this Zoom login details so that they save the date. This is very essential for building trust. 2. Dialogue Convenors must consider creating a consultation schedule with planning team, curator and facilitators early on. By setting timelines early and clearly communicating to participants, you increase awareness with participants and better prepare them for engagement. This also helps mitigate stakeholder angst over the feeling of not having enough time to prepare or respond during the particular consultation period. 3. Convenors must regularly communicate with participants. Communication is a key to gaining participants support. Issue regular emails updates and demonstrate to participants that their feedback has been received and noted. Showing participants how their feedback has been captured can go a long way. When participants feel like they've been heard, they're typically much happier and more likely to support Post-Summit Independent dialogue series. 4. Convenors must provide multiple ways for stakeholders to share their input. To improve convenors relationships with participants, it is advised to give them more than one way to provide feedback. Participants want the opportunity to voice their opinions and this needs to be easy and accessible for them. 5. Convenors must preach respect and accommodate diversity all the time.

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

Major Focus: What Eastern and Southern Africans Consumers Need for future food systems

The problems of agriculture and food production in Eastern and Southern Africa have been there for a longtime. These problems have been brought about partly by the ensuing food systems in these parts of Africa. In these regions, farmers and consumers are disconnected. The distance between food production to the consumers' table is getting longer. Consumers are not sure where the foods come from nor by whom their foods are grown. In order to solve these problems, the transition from the global food system to a local food system is imperative. In a local food system, farmers and consumers are connected and they can help each other through easier flow of information.

The global challenges of current food systems are fairly well known, including intensification of farming systems, leading to significant erosion of ecosystems, soil quality and biodiversity. As a result, roughly 850 million people have been rendered food insecure. Food waste is high in the farms, storage, retail and consumers kitchens. Diets in many countries are moving towards high a proportion of livestock products due to reduced number of crops as a result of dwindling genetic diversity. Add to this climate change and water scarcity.

It means the need for change towards more sustainable and equitable food systems, greater collaboration between different sectors and stakeholders will be key. Their collaboration will strengthen consumer protection, the right to adequate food, securing better nutrition, better production, better environment and better lives, leaving no-one behind.

East African Community Think Tank Association (EACTTA) is a critical player in achieving SDG1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger) and 3 (Good Health and Well-being) which is independently of national authorities but with the opportunity to formally connect into the Summit process through an official feedback mechanism.

EACTTA will offer opportunities for all East and Southern Africans citizens to engage directly in proposing pathways towards sustainable food systems, exploring new ways of working together and encouraging collaborative action.

EACTTA invited a broad range of stakeholders, including:

- Those who work in roles that enable people to access food by growing, harvesting, packing, processing, distributing, selling, storing, marketing, consuming or disposing of food.
- Those who work in sectors that shape food systems, including infrastructure, transport, financial services, information and technology.
- Those who work in areas that influence or are affected by food system policies, including specialists in natural resources, the environment, the economy, culture, indigenous knowledge, policies, politics, trade, regulations and beyond.

EACTTA Independent Dialogue sought to:

(i) Mobilize policy makers, technocrats, academicians, development partners (local & international), farmers, transporters, food processors, hotel owners, food retailers and all stakeholders who are involved in the whole food supply chain within Eastern and Southern Africa to generate perspectives and pathways recommendations to improve food safety systems from the farmers to the consumers.

(ii) Contribute to the realization of the EAC Food and Nutrition Security Strategy 2018-2022 and implementation of the Action Plan 2018-2023.

(iii) Contribute to the AU Agenda 2063 and CAADP & AfCTA.

(iv) Contribute to the attainment of the SDG 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition by promoting sustainable agriculture).

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

Main findings that emerged from our Dialogue

- a) Food access and nutrition as a universal right to all human beings and the need to protect vulnerable groups in the food chain;
- b) Need for sustainable and resilient policies/strategies on food production, distribution, storage, processing, quality control among others;
- c) Need for efficient transport and logistics systems to ensure affordable cost of food, stemming post-harvest losses and stabilize food market supplies;
- d) Need for preferential and targeted tax regimes and low-cost financing (or subsidies) for food production inputs to cushion food producers from cost spikes that lead to high cost of food;
- e) Need to deepen food production value chains to make the activity viable and attractive to investors;
- f) Need to address climatic and environment degradation, enhance water conservation, and increase investments in research to enable the development of resilient food crops and relook at the current policies on GMOs going forward;
- g) There is a need to educate producers on climate smart agriculture and to incentivize its uptake;
- h) Involvement of stakeholders in the development of effective food access policies, plans and strategies;
- i) Mapping of food consumption patterns to ensure alignment with the needs of consumers and policy effectiveness in food access;
- j) Addressing food quality standards and disposal of the food waste to ensure nutritional aspects and sanitary disposal of the food waste including strengthening the regulatory and inspection frameworks;
- k) Integrating developments in IT as they impact several aspects of access to food including logistics, marketing, pricing, demand and supply dynamics among others specifically adopting a value chain/systems approach to increase efficiencies from farm to fork;
- l) The space for Regional Economic Communities in the development of harmonized regional policies, strategies, plans, legal frameworks that streamline production, transportation, distribution, and access to food in wider markets within their respective member states; and the
- m) Need to address other challenges including border closures, peace and security issues, and non-tariff barriers among others that stifle food distribution and hence access.

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/10

Trade policies (import and export) to facilitate access to affordable, safe and nutritious food for consumers while contributing to EAC/COMESA/SADC countries economic and commercial objectives

Recommendations:

The need for/to:

- a) regional trade policies harmonisation to deal with the issues on Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers/Technical Barriers to regional market access and trade;
- b) boost productivity and provide incentives to nurturing innovation for the development of priority regional agri-food value chains;
- c) regional harmonisation of food standards and quality assurance;
- d) foster strategic cooperation between private and public actors and among domestic producers, exporters, and policymakers; and
- e) create enabling environment for potential value chain actors (in terms of infrastructures, regulation, access to finance, insurance).

Who should take these actions:

- a) EAC/COMESA/SADC

Ways in which progress could be assessed:•

- a) Volumes and values of intra-regional trade in nutritious agri-foods;
- b) Reduced food imports from outside the region;
- c) Level of private sector investments in agri-food systems in the region;
- d) Level of small producers/SMEs integration into the agri-food value chains.

Who should take these actions:

- a) Treat everyone as a stakeholder in food systems and final key stakeholder are CONSUMERS
The call is for everyone to be involved;

- b) Value diversity and Engage inclusively
An extension of treating everyone as a stakeholder is valuing diversity and engaging inclusively which are essential to achieve equity.

- c) Government responsible and accountability is critically
National governments were most often identified as the primary actor to drive transformation.

- d) Engagement collaboratively in partnerships and CONSUMERS ARE KEY

The Dialogues call for transformative partnerships, synergies, and alliances supported by multi-stakeholder platforms and networks and a need for all sectors and stakeholders to work together with governments toward food system transformation. Power imbalances will have to be acknowledged and managed.

- e) Empower excluded voices
Women, Indigenous Peoples, smallholder farmers and other small-scale producers, and youth as needing and deserving special attention and engagement.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/10

Discussion Topic: Knowledge Transfer for future food systems in Africa

There is a quiet Green Revolution happening in Africa. It is not at the pace of that which occurred in America, Asia and Europe. However, the shoots are there. This revolution will succeed on the backbone of knowledge transfer. Against the backdrop of a rising population that is set to double every 25 years, this development is timely so as to strengthen the food systems so as to ultimately meet the food security and nutrition needs of Africa. A number of things will need to happen in the next few years:

1. A special focus on the smallholder farmer in knowledge transfer
2. Further harnessing the use of radio and digital media in knowledge transfer
3. A special focus on increasing youth participation in agriculture for employment, income and sustainability.
4. A special focus on women, especially in decision making in agriculture.
5. Utilising climate smart agricultural practices including harnessing water resources and employing moisture conservation practices.
6. Forming strong partners so as to support the smallholder farmers.

An example from East-West Seed Knowledge Transfer

1. We (East-West Seed Knowledge Transfer: <https://kt.eastwestseed.com>) are already doing knowledge transfer work in the vegetable sector in Uganda, Tanzania and Nigeria (in addition to similar work in Asia). We also intend to do so in other African countries in future. Our Knowledge Transfer centers around building skills on profitable and sustainable agricultural technologies and practices. Leveraging a peer learning approach, local Technical Field Officers support key farmers to manage hands-on demonstrations showcasing improved production practices. These are used as 'hubs of good practices' to train neighboring farmers on key stages of crop production:

- Improved land preparation (including optimal layout and raised beds).
- Sustainable soil management (understanding soil as a living system)
- Improved seedling production (showcasing different systems of seedling production from improved open bed nurseries to the use of leaf pots and seedling trays).
- Effective pest and disease management (including safe and judicious use of pesticides).
- Effective nutrient management (correct type, placement and timing of fertilisers).

Background information

- Use of trellising
- Use of mulching (rice straw and plastic)
- Water management
- Business management (variety selection, crop planning and farm record keeping).

2. We train agro-input suppliers for better product knowledge and increased access to inputs by farmers.
3. We carry out weekly market surveys that capture price trends.
4. We use an advanced monitoring app that is used to capture field and market data and also calculate rate of return that can be shared with farmers and other stakeholders.
5. We provide learning materials in hard copies and online (<https://growhow.eastwestseed.com/>)
6. We utilise the radio. For example, our weekly broadcast in Kaduna, Nigeria, reaches over 12 million listeners in 19 states.
7. Our special attention to youth and women will remain at the forefront of our work.
8. We are backed by our commercial company (East-West Seed) that produces and sells quality vegetables seeds.
9. We leverage our resources with those of like-minded organisations in order to have bigger impact and we will continue to do so.
10. This work is replicable by other organisations and can include all production systems/crops.

The success of these actions can be measured by:

1. The sustainability of increased food production and marketing
2. Food and nutrition security in communities/countries
3. Increase in household incomes.
4. Increase in youth participation in agriculture
5. Increase in women decision making in agriculture.
6. Digital media use becomes widespread in agriculture.
7. Climate smart practices become the norm.

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
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- 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 type="checkbox"/> | Data & Evidence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Human rights | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Governance |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Women & Youth Empowerment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trade-offs |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environment and Climate |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/10

Discussion Topic: How do EAC Transport Chains and Logistics Systems Contribute/Impact on Access to Food

Background:

Given the consensus on the centrality of transport chains and efficient logistics in all the aspects of access to food, the recommendations focus on issues around coordination, sustainability, capacity, interconnectivity, efficiency and resilience.

a) Support to the Regional Economic Communities

The critical coordination roles played by the RECs under the African Union in the implementation of efficient transport and logistics systems across the continent should be underscored. Constituent Governments should capacitate the RECs and commit to the implementation of all the priority projects, policies, strategies, legal frameworks agreed upon at the RECs and continental levels to improve infrastructure interconnectivity and efficiency to underpin access to food on the continent.

b) Support for the expansion of rural roads networks and industrial capacities

A call to the Governments to:

i) set aside enhanced and dedicated budgets for the improvement and expansion of the rural transport networks and target to double their capacities in the next five years to support agricultural production and investments at that level. This will support the production, distribution and access to sufficient food quantities.

ii) support industries that manufactures and add value to agriculture in the rural areas and construction of communal solar cold chains, for example, to conserve excess produce.

c) Market liberalization and removal of non-tariff barriers

Governments through their RECS should fast track the liberalization of transport and logistics services markets and remove non-tariff barriers to bring down the associated costs to trade and hence access to food. The governments could consider allowing cabotage for transporters to reduce lengthy empty legs for trucks that penalize transporters and consumers. Airfreight transport costs remain high on the continent as a result of protected markets. Governments in Africa should implement the Single Air Transport Market (SAATM) arrangements to bring down the cost of air transport on the continent.

d) Interconnectivity of Transport Networks

Whereas African Governments have committed to realizing the development of major transport Corridors linking the continent, there are huge deficits as a result of missing interconnectors within modes and between modes. This deficit results in idle or lost capacities hence inefficiencies. Governments coordinated by their RECs should:

i. fast track the construction of the key missing links on roads and railways transport corridors and prioritise the development of transport corridors on the navigable inland waterways that are cheaper to operate and maintain; and

ii. Enhance digitalization and ensure efficient border crossings to underpin seamless transport chains, open up markets and enable efficient intermodal and multimodal transport systems. Hence, contribute to enhanced access to food.

e) Sustainable Investment Strategies in the Transport Systems

Governments to address alternative financing strategies to stem the over-reliance on the public sector to deliver transport infrastructure. Governments should:

i. address the inordinately high costs of infrastructure delivery develop effective platforms to attract private sector investments

ii. de-risk investments in the sector

iii. ensure availability of maintenance resources

iv. Address corruption in the procurement processes.

These actions should translate to lower user charges expanded trade and cheaper access to food.

f) Peace and Security in Enabling Seamless Transport Chains and Logistics.

Governments should urgently address peace and security issues within their jurisdictions as they affect transport and logistics operations directly. It is a fact that large sections of linking corridors in Africa are sometimes closed for long periods due to attacks on trucks many a times transporting food to areas in distress. One of the key peace and security dividends is seamless transportation and logistics that should underpin access to food.

ACTION TRACKS

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

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/10

Discussion Topic: Consumer awareness, engagement, and empowerment can create sustainable innovations in food systems

i) Consumer awareness:

The need to:

- a) take consumers as a key component of sustainable food systems given that they are citizens, taxpayers, workers, children, parents - not just passive receivers - enable and drive food access change with their collective economic power;
- b) Ensure more transparency, higher ethical standards from food producers to enhance trust particularly in food safety. This needs to be matched by greater consumer awareness on issues of food safety and nutritious food. The private sector producers will respond to the market demand as well as to stricter enforcement of regulation of health and safety regulations. All food businesses should have to comply with basic standards of hygiene and good manufacturing practices; and
- c) Appreciate the increasingly globalized nature of the food supply chains and the possibilities to enhance and supplement national food access systems.

ii) Consumer Rights:

The need to respect/ensure the rights to:

- a) The satisfaction of basic needs of the populations - to have access to adequate safe and nutritious food, clothing, shelter, health care, education, public utilities, water and sanitation;
- b) To ensure safety for the populations against products, production processes and services that are hazardous to health or life;
- c) Choose and be able to select from a range of products and services, offered at competitive prices with an assurance of satisfactory quality;
- d) be heard and have consumer interests represented in the making and execution of government policy, and in the development of products and services;
- e) Redress to receive a fair settlement of just claims, including compensation for misrepresentation, low standard goods or unsatisfactory services. This requires that there is some mechanism for speedy redress either through a consumer association or other means. As we know legal redress through the courts is slow, cumbersome and expensive to the average individual consumer;
- f) Consumer be informed on the facts needed to make informed choices, and to be protected against dishonest or misleading advertising and labeling while being aware of basic consumer rights and responsibilities and how to act on them;
- g) A healthy environment to live and work specifically in places where consumers buy food that is non-threatening to the well being of present and future generations.

iii) Technology

The need to incorporate digitalization and new technology and their applications in all aspects of the food supply chain to achieve sustainability in the food supply and access chains.

iv) Essential role consumers play in food systems

In order for the consumers to be a part of, or contribute to, sustainable food systems, there is need to ensure/consider:

- a) affordability of sustainable and nutritious safe food on their tables. This should be a key concern for Governments. For example, Government can legislate on recommended retail prices and excessive profit making by processors/retailers. However, ultimately the actions needs to be at the level of the private sector;
- b) Education - Besides income, education level and access to information are likely to affect consumer concerns. Education or provision of information to help consumers make more informed choices is vital. This includes labeling and advertising which is accurate, verifiable and truthful, together with increased consumer awareness on what different information/certification mean;
- c) Gender - Women often are responsible for food in families and their engagement as stakeholders would be key to food access; and

d) age - Young people may have more potential to change behaviour and are also more likely to think about sustainability of the food systems in the first place. Governments should engage the youth in designing food access systems. This could include in the school curriculum greater awareness of food safety and nutrition.

(v) Enhancing the promotion of nutritious local diets that are accessible & affordable through campaigns and education (focus on existing policies);

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/10

Discussion Topic: The Future of Food Systems: A Consumer's Perspective.

Consumer Concerns and issues to address:

a) Toxic Farm input

From the WHO report (WHO, 2015), about 420,000 people die every year from food related ailments, 40% being children. Here in Africa, we have numerous challenges along the food value chain. For instance, some farm inputs at production level have proven to be harmful, posing health challenges that have contributed to the deaths.

Other than health challenges, toxic farm inputs have for so long interfered with the ecosystem resulting in reduction in farm produce. Consumers are, therefore, worried about availability of healthy food in the near future if the trend continues.

b) Legal Frameworks

Consumers, being the main stakeholders and drivers of this conversation, are concerned with the legal frameworks around food safety/security. There is need for existing laws to be improved and enforcement be actualized. This applies to manufactured food where standards are not adhered to.

c) Food Waste/Loss

Food loss and wastage along the value chain has been a challenge, forcing consumers to pay more for what they get in the market. It is time that how food is handled from production to the time it is in the plate be looked into. In the event there is surplus, proper storage facilities to be provided/recommended. Note that the 'ugly' or 'deformed' vegetables or any other farm produce should not be thrown away either.

d) Consumer Education

A successful leader should be one who is able to feed citizens and provide information through laid down government structures. It is unfortunate that most consumers are not aware of laws and regulations protecting them due lack of accurate and adequate information. This is why there is a clarion call on all stakeholders including top leaders to take consumer education seriously if the future of food systems is to be achieved. This will help reduce the amount of time put on boardroom meetings trying to find solutions for issues that can be easily addressed by consumers if only they are educated.

Discussion Topic: Importance of organic bio capsule fertiliser to Improve Soil and Nutrient Management for future food systems

In the next three years

1. Usage of Organic bio-capsule fertilizers (micro-organism) will help in doubling farmers income by three years (crop production increase by at least 50% & less to no use of chemical and other expensive products)

2. Improving soil fertility by adding live microbes in the soil

3. Nutrients rich food (highly nutritional value for humans and animals)

4. 0% chemical residue and 100% organic food produce

5. Cost effective in terms with chemical fertilizers

6. Export quality produce for farmers

The success of these actions can be measured by:

1) The sustainability of increased food productions

2) Healthy / organic /nutritious food

3) Growing food in back of your house and gardens

4) Increase in income

5) Smart and effortless farming

6) Increase in participation

ACTION TRACKS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 6/10

Discussion Topic: Dependence on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) for Safe and Nutritious Food Production

Recommendations:

The need to/for:

- 1) improve on the formulation and harmonization of policies, laws, strategies and regulations (including governance & institutional reforms) on IWRM through a participatory approach with stakeholders;
- 2) enhance funding to improve on infrastructure for water storage to cater for floods and drought irrigation – for all-year-round productivity
- 3) effective political goodwill/ support in this key area;
- 4) strict catchment and transboundary water resources, wetland management and protection policies;
- 5) strict application of the user pays principle in water consumption and also waste management to avoid contamination of waterways

Who should take these actions:

- a) Treat everyone as a stakeholder in food systems and final key stakeholder are CONSUMERS
The call is for everyone to be involved;
- b) Value diversity and Engage inclusively
An extension of treating everyone as a stakeholder is valuing diversity and engaging inclusively which are essential to achieve equity.
- c) Government responsible and accountability is critically
National governments were most often identified as the primary actor to drive transformation.
- d) Engagement collaboratively in partnerships and CONSUMERS ARE KEY

The Dialogues call for transformative partnerships, synergies, and alliances supported by multi-stakeholder platforms and networks and a need for all sectors and stakeholders to work together with governments toward food system transformation. Power imbalances will have to be acknowledged and managed.

- e) Empower excluded voices
Women, Indigenous Peoples, smallholder farmers and other small-scale producers, and youth as needing and deserving special attention and engagement.

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 - 7/10

Discussion Topic: Innovative solutions building closer connections between markets, consumer and producers.

Recommendations:

- 1) Deeper integration-Cross border non-tariff barriers that affect food distribution need to be tackled at a regional level. African Countries need to trade more with each other. (Take advantage of the AfCFTA with a market of more than 30 million people.
- 2) Data and Connectivity – Sub Saharan Africa should enhance the mobile internet adoption from the current 29% penetration at least nearer the global average of 49%. High cost of data and equipment still remains an issue and adds to the cost of doing business and trade hence imposes costs to food access;
- 3) Local Procurement- Governments in Africa should be encouraged to first exhaust procurement of local food products from the farmers before they consider importing products outside their countries and regions.
- 4) Access to cheaper financing to encourage value addition by the producer.

Who should take these actions:

- a) Treat everyone as a stakeholder in food systems and final key stakeholder are CONSUMERS
The call is for everyone to be involved;
- b) Value diversity and Engage inclusively
An extension of treating everyone as a stakeholder is valuing diversity and engaging inclusively which are essential to achieve equity.
- c) Government responsible and accountability is critically
National governments were most often identified as the primary actor to drive transformation.
- d) Engagement collaboratively in partnerships and CONSUMERS ARE KEY

The Dialogues call for transformative partnerships, synergies, and alliances supported by multi-stakeholder platforms and networks and a need for all sectors and stakeholders to work together with governments toward food system transformation. Power imbalances will have to be acknowledged and managed.

- e) Empower excluded voices
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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 8/10

Discussion Topic: Food Safety and Food Wastes in Hotels and Restaurants in E. Africa

Recommendations:

- 1) East African Community (EAC) (and the African RECs) must formulate programmes on integrated education, training, and behavioural change on Food Safety and Food Wastage in Hotels and Restaurants;
- 2) Countries should undertake evaluation of effectiveness of their Public Health Laws, Policies and Regulations in the hospitality sector especially in Food Safety issues along the food chain/ processes in hotels and restaurants targeting to attain National and International Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) certification;
- 3) Countries should tap on into Public/Private Partnerships on raising awareness among consumers and hotel proprietors on the matters of food safety and food wastes in hotels and restaurants;
- 4) Hotel proprietors should undertake comprehensive environmental controls on food waste in Hotels: dispose of waste to decay in landfills;
- 5) Countries should, through their relevant institutions, undertake an evaluation of the consciousness of food handlers and operators in hotels and restaurants, to minimize the unintended consequences from food hazards and risks related to food; and
- 6) Countries should assess the implementation of 'EAC Criteria for Classification of Hotels' and commit to sustain its implementation;

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KEYWORDS

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 9/10

Discussion Topic: Agricultural and Food Policies to promote regional integration and production of affordable nutritious sustainable food in the market

Background:

By 2050, the world's population will reach 10 billion people and global food demand will increase by 60%. This challenge is intensified by agriculture's extreme vulnerability to climate change. The African continent is facing an existential food security crisis in light of this climate emergency: population is growing fast, and agricultural production cannot keep up due to the fact that less than 10% of arable land is irrigated, which means little insurance against erratic rains and climate shocks.

Lack of irrigation puts at risk the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of smallholder farmers and their families across the continent, who remains hostage to climate variability.

Therefore, food and agriculture policies are critical in influencing what foods are available and accessible to consumers. These policies influence trade across the borders and enhance regional integration. Agricultural policies need to support not only food security but also a diversity of products entering the market and affordable prices for nutrient-rich foods. The right policies can encourage research on improving productivity and quality of nutrient rich commodities, e.g. through biofortification, as well as policies that subsidize inputs and support extension services for production of nutritious foods. Policies focused on small holders farmers, especially women and youth, can support the supply of a greater diversity of nutritious foods in the households.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Governments:

- a) Initiate and implement policies that support smallholder farmers, youth and women;
- b) Develop new policies in the four key domains, land and agricultural production, markets and trade systems, consumer purchasing power, and food transformation and consumer demand;
- c) Remove trade barriers to intra-regional trade in food and other agricultural commodities;
- d) Support and part finance regional institutions that support regional trade, quality and phyto-sanitary controls;
- e) Must set up ambitious targets for irrigation expansion and increased farm productivity; and
- f) Enhance participation of private sectors, academia, NGOs, civil societies in relevant decision-making bodies.
- g) Initiate, Support and strengthen policies for the production, processing and marketing of non- conventional/ indigenous foods like the edible insects.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 10/10

Discussion Topic: Fair, safe and sustainable supply chains to ensure a responsible use of natural resources and reduction of food loss and plastic wastes making environment safe for future food systems for consumers.

Background

Globally, over 70% of plastic packaging is not recovered because it is either landfilled, mismanaged, or uncollected. That translates to approximately US\$ 120 billion lost in the global economy after a short first use. By bringing together all sectors of society—individuals and organizations, public and private sector, the thinkers and doers—we can help solve the plastic waste challenge through collaboration.

Recommendations:

Governments are requested to:

- Introduce restrictions on use of single use and non-recyclable plastics. Needs to be linked to consumer education on use of plastic;
- Conduct comprehensive feasibility studies on plastic waste and construct new waste management facilities, to address the challenges as well as potential longer-term economic viabilities;
- Map the behavioral change of different stakeholders within the community to ensure that the waste management infrastructure being proposed will be sustainable for at least 20 years;
- Identify hotspots for pollution, conduct waste characterization studies to assess the sort of waste being generated by households, and understand how much is collected.
- Interest industry to the idea of a circular economy, to welcome plastic alternatives to replace some conventional building materials.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

A) Trade policies (import and export) facilitate access to affordable, safe and nutritious food for consumers while contributing to EAC/COMESA/SADC countries economic and commercial objectives:

1. Limited integration of small producers/MSEs into the agri-food value chains. Management: Organise and build the technical and organizational capacities of small food producers/SMEs and link them to larger firms/agri-businesses to enhance their market access and benefits;
2. As SMEs make up most firms in the region, deal with key constraints such as access to appropriate financial products to enhance their growth and participation in the regional agri-food trade;
3. Inconsistency policy implementation by Member States: Strengthen monitoring mechanism to detect the issues and design & fast track mitigation measures;
4. Strengthen information collection and dissemination about regional agri-food markets and requirements for exporting including standards.

B) Knowledge Transfer for future food systems in Africa

1. Knowledge transfer creates a demand for access to quality inputs. The best way to manage this is to ensure partnerships with input providers during the knowledge transfer process.
2. Knowledge transfer increases productivity and this may overwhelm the market if not properly planned. However, proper production planning and good linkages of farmers to markets can help to address this.
3. Knowledge transfer needs sustainability. Specific projects tend to have a shelf life. However the sustainability of the interventions can be achieved by a multi-stakeholder approach to knowledge transfer that utilizes the key players in the agriculture sector, the private sector, Government extension, NGOs, key farmers/Community Based Trainers.

C) Importance of organic bio capsule fertilizer for future food system

1. Lack of awareness of micro-organism – Educate people
2. Make farming trendy by create awareness.
3. Break the belief/myth – You need lots of funding, land, fertilizers, chemicals etc. to do farming

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT DIALOGUE "WHAT EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICANS CONSUMERS NEED FOR FUTURE FOOD SYSTEMS"**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/UN-FOOD-SYSTEMS-PUBLISHING.pdf>

RELEVANT LINKS

- **A Study on the Consumers' Role in the Local Food System.**
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/264109825_A_Study_on_the_Consumers'_Role_in_the_Local_Food_System.
- **Natures-Sciences-Societes**
<https://www.cairn.info/revue-natures-sciences-societes-2017-1-page-1.htm>.
- **Agriculture and Food Security**
<https://www.eac.int/agriculture>
- **The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa**
<https://www.comesa.int/>
- **Southern African Development Community**
<https://www.sadc.int/>
- **Consumer grassroots Association**
<https://consumergrassroots.org/>