

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 31 August 2021 11:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Facilitating the behaviours and attitudes of future food systems leaders
CONVENED BY	Thought For Food Foundation & FoodDrinkEurope
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/39981/
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

20

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18

8 19-30

12 31-50

0 51-65

0 66-80

0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

6 Male

14 Female

0 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

1 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

1 Agro-forestry

2 Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

2 Education

3 Communication

1 Food processing

Food retail, markets

5 Food industry

Financial Services

1 Health care

2 Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

2 Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

4 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

5 Multi-national corporation

1 Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

1 Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

2 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

1 Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

3 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

3 Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

- We made sure to invite a diverse set of participants - The curator reminded everyone to be respectful, embrace diversity, actively listen & act according to these principles - Our facilitators were briefed in advance and everyone completed the 4SD training, so they made sure to incorporate the principles in each of our discussion groups

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

- Even though we had some opposing views, everyone was recognized and treated respectfully - We followed a multi-stakeholder approach, inviting everyone involved "from farm to fork" - We built new connections, complemented each other's work, and will keep discussing these topics via digital community platforms

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

Make sure to always remind everyone of the principles

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 approach to innovation (the how) sometimes affects outcome & impact to a greater extent than the innovation itself (the what). Thought For Food, a global food and agri-tech innovation non-profit, focuses on embracing six key attitudes often found in next-generation leaders to unlock potential game-changing ideas and create inclusive and resilient food systems:

1. Openness: Embracing new experiences and diverse ideas and connecting seemingly unexpected dots to create new ideas and breakthroughs.
2. Collaboration: Willingness to dive into the possibilities of digital technologies and believe that anyone can collaborate on anything, anywhere, at any time.
3. Beginner's Mindset (Curiosity): Holding on to playfulness and intrinsic curiosity.
4. Entrepreneurial Methods: Seeing opportunities in every challenge – in today's world, it has never been cheaper or easier to take a risk in pursuit of a beneficial breakthrough.
5. Shared Purpose: Building emotional intelligence and resilience to unite among a cause.
6. Nurturing Communities: Emphasizing that relationships drive forward everything that we do – our support system revives and propels us forward during the hardest times.

This Dialogue aims to bring together next-generation representatives from the public and private sectors together, alongside those from civil society organizations, to deep-dive into each of these attitudes facilitating game-changing innovation and to further iterate on the critical role of next-generation leadership in food systems transformation.

Following the UN Food Systems Summit Pre-Summit in July and an initial Independent Dialogue in May between the European branch of Thought For Food and FoodDrinkEurope, an association representing the EU food and drink industry, this Dialogue further iterates on the critical role of next-generation leadership in food systems transformation.

Discussion questions:

- How does championing this attitude lead to innovation?
- What potential impact can the widespread practice of this attitude unlock?
- What are the limitations of enacting this attitude for our food systems – where does the approach not work?
- How can we increase awareness of this attitude?
- How can leaders in the UN FSS and beyond embrace this attitude to transform our food systems?

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

Today's young people – representing the largest youth population in human history – deserve a seat at the table when it comes to deciding on the future they will live in. Engaging youth isn't just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do. The next generations bring forward new ideas, new worldviews and new approaches that have the power to unleash a tidal wave of innovation and positive impact.

The problem is that finding spaces to meaningfully engage with next generation innovators without tokenizing their insights and involvement is limited. The UN Food Systems Summit Dialogues that have taken place in the lead up to the UN Food Systems Summit offer productive forums for discussions to happen, and their format is adapted to accommodate multi-stakeholder conversations.

Meaningfully engaging with next-generation innovators is easy with the right mindset and tools. Here is what we can (and should) learn from next-gens – as covered in the forthcoming book, "The Changemakers Guide to Feeding the Planet":

1. **Seek nuance:** This includes performing quick social media audits, being mindful of public-facing media, and encouraging new and underrepresented voices.
2. **Flip dilemmas:** Stand in another place – literally. Use a lense from another domain, explore scenarios and "what ifs?", and change the pace of attention.
3. **Build bridges:** Be vulnerable, ask questions instead of providing answers, listen, swap shoes, and keep the bigger picture in mind.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

Enabling Openness

Openness is not inherent in the food and agriculture industry – there is a lot of inertia built into the system. Supply chains and procurement processes lack transparency, mistrust of certain food systems actors is commonplace, and the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the fragility of our food systems leading to doubling acute world hunger. Implementing openness, especially combatting perceived IP concerns, is not automatic, but can be worthwhile. A 2017 Boston Consulting Group Global Innovation Survey found that 77% of the best-rated innovators follow open innovation models, like Syngenta's Open Data project or national trade openness. As well, allowing constructive openness in trusted environments ensures that our food remains safe to eat – openness and transparency are fundamental aspects of the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) framework.

Embracing openness comes with the need to recognize and work through the differences of multi-stakeholder and cross-cultural environments like in our global food systems. We all represent different cultural, educational, and social experiences and different expertise. When we are open, we can do so much more. By understanding each other and recognizing other people's values, we can design food systems solutions that are human-centered and implementable, creating much stronger, democratic, and healthier food systems.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

Leading to collaboration

Implementing openness effectively cannot be done alone – collaboration is key, but we first need to learn how to collaborate. Taking inspiration from the multi-stakeholder mobilization around COVID-19, where researchers, governments, health care, and other essential workers tirelessly fought at the forefront of the crisis to minimize its effects on the general public, our current food systems to require a similar, urgent approach from the global community.

Next-generation innovators find it difficult to understand why certain stakeholders are hesitant around collaboration. Building restrictive barriers to entry for food systems involvement disincentivizes valuable perspectives, especially those from underrepresented groups like the next-generation, from getting involved – although they still do push for active engagement. It is on food systems actors as a whole to ensure the next-generation can freely express their positions – something we should celebrate and amplify. Especially since these innovators are our future food systems leaders, the ones for whom we build our future food systems.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Openness, particularly in commercial innovation and solutions, may not marry well with the need to stay competitive (i.e. keep the innovation to yourself for a competitive edge). As well, truly inclusive collaboration is effortful and difficult to implement (finding solutions that cross the digital divide, engaging those in rural communities, respecting non-digital ways of working) and can impede progress and potentially limit impact - there is a trade-off between impact and inclusiveness.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Blog post - Facilitating the Behaviours and Attitudes of Future Food Systems Leaders**
<https://thoughtforfood.org/content-hub/facilitating-the-behaviours-and-attitudes-of-future-food-systems-leaders/>