

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 13 July 2021 16:30 GMT +00:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Sierra Leone National Food Systems Dialogue - Building Consensus on the the Pathway to Attain Sustainable Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Madam Frances Alghali, Minister of State, Office of the Vice President
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/40312/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/40312/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Sierra Leone

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

11 0-18      67 19-30      106 31-50      47 51-65      9 66-80      80+

### PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

131 Male      109 Female      Prefer not to say or Other

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

24	Agriculture/crops	18	Education	14	Health care
9	Fish and aquaculture	19	Communication	23	Nutrition
13	Livestock	14	Food processing	36	National or local government
8	Agro-forestry	16	Food retail, markets	0	Utilities
6	Environment and ecology	6	Food industry	6	Industrial
13	Trade and commerce	1	Financial Services	14	Other

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

16	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	15	Workers and trade union
8	Large national business	2	Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation	15	Local authority
20	Small-scale farmer	23	Government and national institution
12	Medium-scale farmer	10	Regional economic community
14	Large-scale farmer	16	United Nations
21	Local Non-Governmental Organization	1	International financial institution
13	International Non-Governmental Organization	7	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
13	Indigenous People	11	Consumer group
4	Science and academia	19	Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The convenor in close collaboration with the UN country team, formed a Technical Working Group (TWG) comprising, NGOs, MDAs, civil society organisations, research institutions, academia and private sector players. Based on the multi-sectoral dimensional nature of the dialogue process, stakeholder mapping was categorized to ease coordination in three-sector approaches namely: 1. Private sector players coordinated by Sierra Leone Chamber for Agribusiness Development (SLecAD). 2. Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) 3. Civil Societies, and any other relevant actors coordinated by FOCUS 1000 The dialogue provided equal opportunity for participation by leaving no one behind and established ownership. In consultation with SUN Secretariat, the existing SUN district level structures coordinated the identification and selection of participants for the regional dialogues. Depending on the number of districts in each region and to adhere to the Covid-19 restrictions, 45 to 50 multi-sector stakeholders participated in the dialogue process from all sixteen districts. The selection criteria were focused on the actors in food system including development partners, MDAs, agribusiness actors, producers, SMEs, aggregators, distributors, retailers, and consumers. During the consultations, eleven thematic areas were discussed as follows: Access to finance, Access to inputs, Production Requirements, Processing, Marketing and Distribution, Consumption and Utilization, Food waste management, Policy development, enforcement, and coordination, Conflict and Instability, Climate/Environmental Extremes and Economic Shocks, Pandemic and negative agricultural impacts The dialogue process started by organizing a high-level inception meeting which targeted development partners, government line ministers and heads of agencies of the UN and INGOs. The concept of the national food system dialogues, roadmap, work plan and indicative budget were presented for their buy-in and financial commitment to support the process.

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

The national stakeholder engagement approach used included the formation of the technical working group, selection of relevant stakeholders, established a good pathway for inclusiveness and orientation of district level consultations before the dialogue sessions. The dialogues reflected on the principles of the summit by bringing in all categories of stakeholders for the dialogue process including school pupils, youths, men, women, and persons with disabilities from different categories along the food systems chain. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions which does not permit public gathering for more than 50 people, the hybrid approach (virtual and in person) was used in the Western Region and face to face in the rest of the other regions. For the face-to-face meetings in the provincial regions, regional curators in close collaboration with the SUN Secretariat, organised simulcast radio discussion programs that lasted for two hours by connecting community radio stations in each region so that additional/more views could be gathered across the regions. Respect for views, confidentiality in information provided and commitment to providing relevant information were adhered to. Irrespective of the covid-19 restrictions, participants made their voices to be documented. Organization of the national dialogues involved very good planning to achieve success. As such the commitment and dedication of the technical working group was key for the dialogue process to have taken place. TWG members had to hold several meetings to plan and execute the dialogues and this even had to interfere with the regular activities of the members. The commitment of the government and development partners especially Irish Aid, UN country team and individual UN agencies (FAO, WFP, UNICEF), Welthungerhilfe and FOCUS 1000 to support the process was very key because the dialogue sessions would not have taken place without the much-needed funds.

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

The principles of engagement for the dialogue process as listed above were very helpful and have the tendency to build and maintain national cohesion along the system by making it more sustainable. Participants were given the opportunity to talk freely in smaller groups highlighting their constraints, possible solutions and recommended actions for the attention of specific responsible entities. Based on the conduct of the dialogue process, the following are recommended for other convenors: 1. Nomination of a convenor from high level political decision-making office (office of the president, vice president, or Prime Minister) can provide prominence to the dialogue process and enhance better resource mobilization drive and coordination among sectors. 2. The principles could be used as problem solving instruments to address food and nutrition security issues at country level and those principles should be customized to specific situations. 3. Convenors should ensure good and timely communication with all stakeholders so there are no delays in the execution of dialogue activities and a follow up mechanism to ensure communication messages reach the right people and right time to act. 4. Setting standard operating procedures (SOPs) and tools that should be used across all dialogue sessions can enhance harmonization of feedback reports in a timely manner. 5. Convenors should uphold the principles of engagement since it enhances not only stakeholders' ownership of the process but also motivates commitment and support to the dialogue process. 6. Moreover, adhering to the principles will help to complement the work of others, build the trust and ensure total understanding of the process by all stakeholders that will enhance their meaningful contributions to sustaining the food system. 7. All facilitators of dialogues should have a workshop to discuss use of developed tools for dialogues so that everyone has a clear understanding of required data or information to be collected.

# 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

During the dialogue process, the eleven thematic areas selected focused on almost all the five action tracks:

List of thematic areas:

- a. Access to finance
- b. Access to inputs
- c. Production Requirement
- d. Processing
- e. Marketing and Distribution
- f. Consumption and Utilization
- g. Food waste management
- h. Policy development, enforcement and coordination
- i. Conflict and instability
- j. Climate/Environmental Extremes
- k. Economic Shocks

However, during the discussion, emphasis was more on action tracks one and five;

1. Action track #1 ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
5. Action track #5 building resilience to vulnerabilities shocks and stress

This is because Sierra Leone is a developing country and the priority is to establish a sustainable food system that ensures access to safe, nutritious foods at all times, and building the resilience of the food system to adapt to shocks from climate change variabilities (floods, droughts, wildfires), pandemic/epidemic (COVID-19, Ebola, cholera) that is and had affected the country. Linking the themes above to the selected action tracks and bringing out constraints with recommendations in a form of an action plan could position the country in a better way in the drive for food and nutrition security.

### ACTION TRACKS

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>            | Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress |

### KEYWORDS

- |                                     |                           |                                     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Finance                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Policy                  |
| <input checked="" 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 |

## MAIN FINDINGS

The discussion was very participatory and brought out key issues or challenges that need to be addressed if Sierra Leone should attain a sustainable food system to meet the 2030 agenda as outlined below:

1. The issue of land tenure system affecting commercial farming was a concern which could be resolved by reservation of land for agricultural purposes.
2. There is a big challenge of mining companies degrading lands for agricultural and fishery purposes. One possible solution is the reclamation of lands in mining areas for food production.
3. Slash and burn are the culture of our farming system. Sensitization on farming systems from shifting cultivation to intensification supported by trainings for smallholder farmers.
4. Inadequate access to agricultural finance. Policies surrounding access to finance for agricultural activities should be reviewed as the conditions for loan repayment pose challenges for farmers to access loans for farming activities.
5. The current interest rate in commercial banks is very high (double digits) to support agricultural activities this should be a single digit to be supported by Bank of Sierra Leone. Period for repayment of loans by financial institutions should be specified in financial loan policies.
6. High cost for agricultural inputs- Cost of agro-chemicals should be regulated, and they should be available, accessible, and affordable for farmers. Quality seeds should be available, accessible, and affordable and inputs dealers should be available if not at chiefdom level but at district level.
7. To address the problem of food waste and low food consumption diversity: Government should ensure availability, accessibility, and affordability of sustainable electricity supply particularly in urban areas.
8. Low advisory services to farmers' pastoralist and fisher folks: Improvement in the low capacity of smallholder farmers will be achieved through provision of extension services by increasing the number of extension workers and the required logistics for them to visit farmers in the catchment areas.
9. Gender inequality in accessing productive agricultural inputs: Consideration should be given to the gender friendly processing tools and equipment when government and partners are procuring farming tools and equipment as women play very big roles in food production.
10. Bad road networks came out as one of the major challenges in our food systems as such construction of feeder roads and routine maintenance of roads can assist in improving our food systems.
11. Climate change variability and limited early warning systems: To address the problem of seasonal food production, government and partners should consider the infusion of modern farming technology and irrigation system, crop intensification, and integrated farming into our farm management culture as well as the continuation of tax waiving on the importation of all agricultural inputs for the next five years.
12. Limited early warning systems: In the event of shocks that affect smallholder farmers, government and partners should establish seed banks to support smallholder farmers to revive their farming activities. The seed banks will also prevent the extinction of specific crop varieties and certain species of animals.
13. Poor dietary diversity is a major concern for both children and adults: Active or robust sensitization on nutrition education, scaling up sensitization on Sierra Leone Food- Based Dietary guideline for Healthy Eating.
14. Lack of food reserves stocks: Formation of food banks, provision of improved storage facilities and manufacturing of key foods for improved preservation.
15. Limited participation of women in policy making: Total inclusion of women in policy formulation and implementation along the food system chain and linkages.
16. Weak health system: health system strengthening can assist in improving the health status especially of women and children under the age of five years.
17. Dumping of inferior agricultural products from foreign countries: Discourage importation of inferior agricultural and nutritional products and encourage homemade foods by supporting large and small and medium enterprises.
18. Lack standalone animal settlement policy: Animal settlement policy will address the community disputes that emerge as a result of destruction of farmers' crops by grazing animals in rural communities.

### 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 - 1/10

Topic: Access to Inputs

Actions that are urgently needed:

1. Strengthen Research Institution/and the seed certification agency to support the input sector and total involvement of private sector players the input supply chain. Example, encouraging private sector to invest seed breeding and production of foundation seeds. Support registered and certified seed growers to establish their businesses in country.
2. Government should increase allocation of resources/funds towards agricultural research for development.
3. Support registered and certified seed growers to establish their businesses in country.
4. Establish seed multiplication farms through Agricultural Business Centres (ABCs) at chiefdom levels and initiate seed fares at chiefdom levels.
5. Review land tenure system to accommodate provision for commercial farming.
6. Policy review on interest rate to allow farmers to access agricultural loans to support food systems.
7. Build capacity of actors on input management and supply chain.
8. Consideration should be given to the gender friendly processing tools and equipment when government and partners are procuring farming tools and equipment as women play very big roles in food production.
9. Provision of adequate storage facility for agricultural produce especially at farm gates
10. Review of policy shift for the machine ring approach for the supply of government's agricultural inputs to boost food production.
11. Agro-chemical regulations/policies should be implemented to the fullest.
12. Capacity building for personnel involved in the provision of plants and animal health services as well as increase in the human resource required.
13. Institute regular and effective monitoring to ensure inputs get to the targeted beneficiaries.

Who should take these actions:

Ministry of finance and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Sierra Leone Roads Authority  
National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA)  
Anti - Corruption Commission (ACC)  
Legislative arms of government on Finance in parliament  
Private Sector and local councils

Ways in which progress could be assessed:

1. Conducting feedback session or follow up session after three cropping sessions to get feedback
2. Increase acreage cultivated by smallholder farmers and increase in mechanized farming which will boost food production.

### 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 - 2/10

Topic: Production Requirements

Actions that are urgently needed:

1. Government to develop a policy on land tenure system protecting farmers and Investors in Agriculture by clearly stating the value of farmland per hectare and minimum duration of lease of farmland. (supporting Responsible investment in agriculture)
2. Government should reserve land for agricultural purposes and given to large companies to go into commercial farming in the country.
3. Government should directly engage and support the Private Sectors in Agriculture to embark on production of rice and other food components with a clearly defined output and outcome. (tonnage of rice produced per year)
4. Private sectors to develop one model Youth farms of 25 Hectares each per district across the country that the youths can manage instead of the current initial 100 hectares.
5. Model farms to be established with irrigation facilities and train identified youths with passion for Agriculture to fully manage with technical extension support from MAF, Private Sectors and NGOs.
6. Construction of feeder roads especially those leading to large food production areas and linking farmers to markets including routine maintenance of roads to assist in improving our food systems. Feeder roads construction and maintenance schemes at community level could be supported by provision of food for work.
7. Promote the production and investment in livestock infant industries for livestock.
8. To address the problem of seasonal food production, government and partners should consider the infusion of modern farming technology and irrigation system, crop intensification and integrated farming into our farm management culture and train personnel in land development.
9. Assessment and identification of farmers in integrated farming. Based on the report actions should be taken to address the situation if less farmers are not involved in integrated farming practices through capacity building of smallholder farmers.
10. Identification of professional Irrigation engineers for the designing and monitoring of land irrigation.
11. Create competitiveness for the policy shift on the ring machinery for a quality delivery of services through assessment of the performance of agro-dealers based on the tonnage of food produced in their districts of operation instead of the acreage cultivated.
12. Establishment of Facilities where farmers can easily access improved and modern inputs at an affordable cost.
13. Development and rehabilitation of inland valley swamps (IVSs) in economic zones with such ecology.
14. There is a big challenge of mining companies degrading lands for agricultural and fishery purposes. One possible solution is the reclamation of lands in mining areas for food production.
15. Establishment of institutional farms for Police, Military, and Correctional Centers that government provide huge quantities of food for their monthly rations.
16. Improvement in the low capacity of smallholder farmers will be achieved through provision of extension services by increasing the number of extension workers and the required logistics for them to visit farmers in the catchment areas.
17. Establishment of basic social amenities in the form educational games and sports and recreational facilities in each chiefdom to reduce youth migration from farming communities.

Who should take these actions?

Ministry of Lands, Law officers Department and Ministry of Agriculture, SLeCAD, Youth Ministry, Land holding families, Implementing Partners, local Authorities and Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA), Ministry of Works, Local Councils.

Ways in which progress could be assessed:

1. Percentage increase in food production, availability in diversity throughout the year.
2. Good roads linking all districts and food production areas
3. Increase in youth farms in every chiefdom and well-established farms for government support institutions like the police, army, and correctional centres.

### 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 - 3/10

Topic: Processing

Actions that are urgently needed:

1. Create and enabling environment (access to loans, reduced taxes) to processing companies/ individuals.
2. Assessment to map private sector players interested and provide loan facilities to them to construct and manage the storage facilities
3. Provide adequate knowledge by training processor on the preservation techniques of crop types and construction/ rehabilitation of storage facilities based on crop type and food zones. Provide facilities that promote appropriate processing and preservation of foods.
4. Provide affordable and gender friendly processing tools and equipment by granting duty waiver to agricultural processing tools and equipment.
5. Encourage private sector player to take the lead and do farming as business
6. Provision of uninterrupted accessible and affordable electricity especially in industrial processing areas on a sustainable basis.
7. Construction of Hydro-Dams, Installation of Solar Plants, and biomass technologies.
8. Establish cold rooms in fish economy and vegetable production zones, Revive the food processing infant industries.
9. Government to collaborate with development partners to provide transportation facilities on loan scheme to private sector players using Public Private Partnership (PPP).
10. Processing and storage facilities for food stuff particularly perishable goods
11. Train market women and farmers on appropriate food preservation techniques and provide solar drying floors for preservation of foods

Who should take these actions?

Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Finance, Fabricators (FINIC, WINGIN), Importers, Processors, farmers, and training/academic institutions

Ways in which progress could be assessed:

1. Increase in the number of large, medium, and small business enterprises processing local foods for both domestic consumptions and exporting for international trade.
2. Availability of adequate foods (especially fruits and vegetables) for domestic consumption all year round.

### 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 - 4/10

Topic: Marketing and Distribution

Actions that are urgently needed:

1. Government to increase subsidizing for fuel pump to reduce cost of local foods.
2. Constructions of roads especially roads connecting districts and those leading to farm gates.
3. Increase purchase/provision of transport vehicles specifically for farm produce.
4. Provision of appropriate vehicles to transport fresh and perishable foods.
5. Provide appropriate stores for the storage and preservation of foods for sale.
6. Provision of storage facilities in markets and transport facilities at all levels by building of market and storage structures/outlets.
7. Provision of adequate and appropriate food markets with stores and appropriate cold rooms for frozen foods.
8. Discourage importation of inferior agricultural and nutritional products and encourage homemade foods by supporting large and small and medium enterprises.
9. Establishment of market information system to enhance fair trade of agricultural produce especially for smallholder farmers.

Who should take these actions?

Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of trade, SLRA, NaCSA, Private sector,

Ways in which progress could be assessed:

1. Percentage decrease in the cost of marketing and distributing produce.
2. Availability of variety of locally produced food/products as well as imported food products in markets throughout the country.

### 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 - 5/10

Topic: Consumption and Utilization

Actions that are urgently needed:

1. To address the problem of food waste and low food consumption diversity: Government should ensure availability, accessibility, and affordability of sustainable electricity supply particularly in urban areas.
2. Increase taxes on imported agricultural and nutritional products and establish women led enterprises with support for production local nutritious crops with reduce taxes to encourage consumption of healthy foods over inferior foods that flood the market.
3. Formation of food banks and engage line MDA's, Food institutions, restaurants, hotels, and supermarkets on the idea of a food bank especially of perishable foods. Form a system or organization to collect donations and distributions to agencies or individuals in need.
4. Processing of left-over foods to serve as manure for animals and plant
5. Support training of women of childbearing age and care takers on appropriate feeding practices of young children and good maternal nutrition.
6. Households establish backyard gardening or urban agriculture for those in big cities for diversified food crops for households' consumption.
7. Popularize Food based dietary guidelines for healthy eating in communities through radio discussions. Airing of Jingles. Organizing focus group discussions to get information on what is known and sensitize communities on benefits of diversified food production and consumption.
8. Promotion of food safety guidelines among all food businesses in the country.
9. Provision of improved storage facilities and manufacturing of key local foods for improved preservation.
10. Health system strengthening can assist in improving the health status especially of women and children under the age of five years.
11. Increase safety net programmes such as the national school feeding programme to target primary schools in the country and Food vouchers for extremely poor households.
12. Promotion of family services to especially poor rural households that have large family sizes.
13. There should be a multi-sectoral approach including establishment and support of all nutrition security networks.
14. Collaborate with relevant Ministry Department Agencies (MDAs) on how to ensure food consumption and utilization through the Scaling up Nutrition secretariat.
15. Provide potable water in every community and local authorities should make byelaws of water management to avoid pollution of rivers and streams. Institution of water user committees and train consumers on the storage of water to avoid contamination.
16. Placement of farm gates at appropriate centres and construct appropriate composts for the disposal of wastes.
17. Monitor the quality of foods sold at the farm gates

Who should take these actions?

Ministry of finance and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Health and Sanitation, NGOs, and CBOs

Ways in which progress could be assessed:

1. Percentage decrease in malnutrition. Increased awareness and practice in healthy eating
2. Reduction in Non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

### 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 - 6/10

Topic: Food Waste Management

Actions that are urgently needed:

1. Construction of facilities and recruit waste recycling trainers
2. Identify youths for waste recycling as a livelihood measure
3. Recruitment of garbage collector and provision of protective gears to enhance their safety
4. Make available garbage bags for household use and garbage collection.
5. Procurement and supply of adequate dumper trucks to meet the needs of cities
6. Create appropriate waste dumping sites in every city.
7. Formulation of appropriate policies and laws and close monitoring of the implementation of those byelaws.
8. Using peels of cassava or vegetables as compost manure and using the waste as animal feeds and or mushroom cultivation e.g., cassava peels, rice brown, saw dust

Who should take these actions?

MoHS, Local councils, NGOs, and CBOs, NaCSA, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ministry of Agriculture

Ways in which progress could be assessed:

1. Reduction in the incidence of malaria and diarrhoea among children under the age of five years
2. Cleaner cities and communities
3. Reduction in seasonal flooding

### 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 - 7/10

Topic: Access to Finance

Actions that are urgently needed:

1. Provision of credit/insurance facilities and review of interest rates for farming.
2. Address gender discrimination in accessing agricultural loans
3. Reduce administrative bottlenecks (Too many procedures and bureaucracy with extra cost by FSA/ Community banks) that frustrates farmers who need financial loans as agricultural activities are time bound.
4. Government Commercial banks should have a desk purposely for Agricultural credit facilities to recognize farmers. Loans should be given within two weeks of application and the repayment process should start at least after the second crop harvest.
5. Improve access to government subsidy, grants, and farmer support initiative.
6. Provision of soft loans to processors by financial institutions especially community banks.
7. Revision of collaterals for agricultural Loans and include guarantors for smallholder farmers who may not have collaterals.

Who should take these actions? Ministry of finance and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Financial institutions, Bank of Sierra Leone, and IFAD

Ways in which progress could be assessed:

1. Conducting feedback session or follow up session after three cropping sessions
2. Percentage increase in diversified food availability

### 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 - 8/10

Topic: Policy Development, Enforcement, and Coordination

Actions that are urgently needed:

1. Total inclusion of women in policy formulation and implementation along the food system chain and linkages.
2. Animal settlement policy will address the community disputes that emerge because of destruction of farmers' crops by grazing animals in rural communities.
3. Enforce the local content policy on deforestation through regular monitoring and supervision of the agreement on the policy, and tree planting nationwide.
4. Enactment and enforcement of byelaws on environmental protection.
5. Enforcement of the Housing and Environment policies by developing concrete policy implementation plans, which can be reviewed from time to time.
6. Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of policies and actions for household nutrition and food security.
7. Establishment of SUN Secretariat at District or Regional level with increased support for effective coordination of food systems actors.
8. Anti-corruption to be a key driver at every level of the food chain and linkages for a sustainable food system.
9. Coordination of relevant stakeholders in support of relevant policies and actions relating to food production
10. All outdated policies that can support food systems strengthening should be reviewed and popularized for proper implementation by the appropriate sectors.
11. Establishment of an effective system for price control and standardization of units of measures of local foods.
12. Institution of an effective monitoring system for prices, unit of measures and expired food commodities in shops and markets. This will require adequate human resource to be deployed throughout the country.

Who should take these actions?

Ministry of lands, Law officers' department and Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Local Government, Standards Bureau, Ministry of Health and Sanitation

Ways in which progress could be assessed:

1. Effective coordination mechanism in place along the food system
2. Food systems policies in place and implemented to support sustainable food security for all.

### 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 - 9/10

Topic: Conflict and Instability

Actions that are urgently needed:

1. Animal settlement policy to address disunity that is existing among cattle owners and crop farmers.
2. All paramount chiefs to formulate byelaws and implement them for animal settlement.
3. Government to review the land tenure system as land issue often leads to conflict in communities.

Who should take these actions?

Ministry of lands, law officers' department, Ministry of Local Government and Ministry of Agriculture

Ways in which progress could be assessed:

1. Conflict reduced among farmers
2. Peaceful communities and progress towards sustainable development goals for 2030.

### 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 type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 10/10

Topic: Climate/Environmental Extremes and Economic Shocks

Actions that are urgently needed:

1. In the event of shocks that affect smallholder farmers, government and partners should establish seed banks to support smallholder farmers to revive their farming activities. The seed banks will also prevent the extinction of specific crop varieties and certain species of animals.
2. Afforestation and agro forestry farming system intensified
3. Establishment of affordable irrigation system for all chiefdoms
4. Government subsidies for SMEs for recovery from economic shocks
5. Establish the green belt and enforce it, institute urban planning in the context of the current design of our cities
6. Use our higher learning institutions to research and generate credible and sustainable solutions
7. Construction of drainages and canals, fire belts) and community dialogue programmes.
8. Set-up of emergency response team, construction of stock house, strong measures to stop people from habiting in disaster prone area.
9. Strengthen and capacitate Fire Force Department to reduce time for quick response to fire incidents by fire force.
10. Institute a strong monitoring mechanism to discourage youths from mining sand in prohibited areas along the coastline.
11. Training of local CSO's on environmental hazards and its mitigation and provision of logistical and other support to local to conduct sensitization
12. Replant mangrove trees in areas where they have been cut down.
13. Introduce disaster management modules into our learning institutions
14. Government to transform all mining pits into aquarium at community and chiefdom level
15. Relocation of houses /slums constructed on canals, wetlands, reserve forest to safer areas or environmentally friendly areas.
16. Enforcement of the Housing and Environment policies by developing concrete policy implementation plans, which can be reviewed from time to time.

Who should take these actions?

Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of trade, EPA, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Local Government, NRA, Office of national Security, Local Councils, Ministry of lands, Traditional and local Leaders. NGO's, CSO and Private sectors.

Ways in which progress could be assessed:

1. Decreased in deforestation, increase in agricultural production year-round.
2. Reduction in the occurrence of natural disasters and fire hazard
3. Increase in beaches along the peninsula to illegal sand mining along the peninsula in Western Area

### 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



## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

### 1. Establishment and Operation of Agricultural Business Centers

In 2009, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Food Security (MAFFS) developed the National Sustainable Development Plan 2010-2030 (NSADP) under the umbrella of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) with the broad involvement of all stakeholders. The NSADP sets out ambitious targets: (i) Increase in the agricultural sector growth from its current 4 per cent to 7.7 per cent per annum by 2015; and (ii) increased incomes of farming households by 10 per cent and increased household food security by 25 per cent. At the core of the NSADP was the Smallholder Commercialisation Programme (SCP). The MAFFS has developed a USD 403 Million National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) for the implementation of the SCP covering the years 2010-2014 including one key component: (i) Improving smallholder production and commercialisation by setting up 2,750 FBOs and building 650 Agricultural Business Centres (ABC) nation-wide. The ABC approach was to establish a one-stop shop market linkage between farmers and buyers using comprising so many value chain components including storage facility to generate revenue using the business lens.

However, due to other competing priorities, under this programme, over three hundred (300) Agricultural Business centres (ABCs) have been constructed in every chiefdom by government but most of these structures are not functional as per purpose for which they were designed. Participants went into argument as to what should be done with the ABCs. Some people had the view that the ABCs should be revitalized, and a strong monitoring mechanism put in place for proper management while others had the view for the management and ownership of the Agricultural Business Centres be privatised for proper utilization.

2. Government should stop constructing new stores without existing strategies of ownerships: In addition to the SCP programme, other development projects funded by the World bank, Irish Aid, etc. constructed additional community stores including dry floors to reduce post-harvest loss along the various chain products supported and were left in the hands of local authorities without proper utilization and management. During the dialogues process, since the inadequate storage facilities were mentioned as challenge along the thematic areas of access to inputs, production and processing, some participants were against constructing new community stores without establishing proper ownership structure in place for sustainability. Majority suggested that, let there be a mechanism in place where by a private sector player will manage and to be paid for by community members at a subsidised rate for a period until it becomes a freehold for the private sector player. In that case, the private sector will also in turn pay for the investment with time.

3. The government inputs supply chain/model for the community youth farms should be reviewed: Feedback from most participants highly appreciated the effort of the government by creating job opportunities for the youths across the country through farming activities. However, some participants were with the view that the model of accessing inputs through mobile money needs to be revised to a voucher system without indicating the amount of money or worth of the inputs to be delivered to the farms. This will reduce diversion of the funds allocated to access inputs to the actual farming activities as expected.

4. Strong debate on not allowing women to own Land: All the traditional leaders who witnessed the dialogue are against the motion for women to own land. There was a lengthy discussion in such area due to the strong defence of all the women representatives. Women believe that hence they are the key players presently in the field of Agriculture they deserve to own land. According to them, they ascend that women are facing lot of violence by family members in the activities of farming especially when it comes to collaboration..

5. Service Providers not working in the interest of farmers: During the discussions at group level, it was very difficult among participants to agree that all of the service providers are working in the interest of the farmers based on the erratic nature of changing prices for inputs in the market and other services they provide at community level. Some recommended that government should establish price control system for all service providers along the input supply chain, while others were against such recommendations based on the fact that majority of them are not getting financial support from the government to operate their businesses..

6. Access to Finance by farmers- As others ask for no collateral while others are in support of collaterals: This topic was never agreed upon by majority of the participants based on the following reasons:

- That some farmers are in the habit of always expecting handouts from government and if government influence financial institutions to remove collateral from accessing finance, most of the financial institutions will run out of cash to run their business due to high none repay patterns and asking for collateral is the best option
- Others said that financial institutions should not use collateral as the best option to permit access but to use reference checks through their local leaders about their honesty and hard work/investment in terms of farming activities carried out and use that to provide financial assistance to them.

## ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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## KEYWORDS

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

# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Additional Key Outcome**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Additional-Key-Outcomes-FSS-National-Dialogues.docx>
- **Preliminary Engagement Before the Dialogues**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Preliminary-Engagements.docx>