

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Monday, 28 June 2021 09:00 GMT +08:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	UNFSS Sub-National Dialogue with Farmers and Fishers' Groups
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Hon. Secretary William D. Dar, Ph.D.
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/40383/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/40383/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Philippines

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

71

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

17

19-30

22

31-50

25

51-65

7

66-80

80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

38 Male

33 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

31 Agriculture/crops

08 Fish and aquaculture

06 Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

01 Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

01 Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

20 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

04 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

04 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

05 Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

02 Large-scale farmer

08 Local Non-Governmental Organization

01 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

45 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

01 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

05 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Dialogue was held on 28 June 2021 and was organized by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture (PPSA). This was conducted as a follow up discussion on the results of the independent dialogue convened by KAMPPIIL led by Mr. Frank Roy Ribo and ten farmer/fisherfolk federations held on 8 June 2021, with the following objectives: a) To raise awareness; b) To provide venue for discussion among organized farmers and fishers on the UNFSS Action Tracks and propositions on game changing solutions; c) To come up with actionable propositions from the vantage point of small farmers and fishers; and d) To engage government, UN agencies and development partners on the actionable propositions and policy recommendations. The follow up dialogue on 28 June 2021 aimed to generate suggestions from farmers, fishers, and other representatives for each of the stakeholder groups on how to ensure inclusivity and actionability of the outcomes of the June 8 independent dialogue and determine concrete plans to move forward. It was organized with urgency in mind to sustain the momentum of strengthening an open communication between the farmers and the government. Moreover, the flow of the dialogue was strategically aligned with the UNFSS Action Tracks to ensure commitment to the Global Summit. Despite some differences in beliefs and motivations, the dialogue ensured that there is trust and respect among the participants of the activity. There were 71 participants who joined the event.

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

Among all of the principles of engagement, the principle that was reflected the most was RESPECT. While there may be varying views on strategies and outcomes, the farmers groups and government representatives present during the session had a common goal: growth for all. This allowed each of the dialogue participants to respect each other's views. The Leader of the Farmers and Fishers' groups led the presentation of the farmers/fisherfolk concerns and proposed policy recommendations/actions together with the representatives from the federations. The DA officials and other government representatives responded to these concerns. The facilitator also encouraged the farmers/fisherfolk to voice their concerns and issues, which were responded to by relevant DA units/bureaus/agencies. Throughout the program, each participant was mindful of the efforts and intentions of the other stakeholder groups. Aside from this, the dialogue evidenced the recognition of the complexity of the problems being addressed and the need to work together to co-create solutions.

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

Convenors should ensure that in the conduct of the food systems dialogues, all relevant stakeholders should be invited. However, for the convenor to attain the desired participants, the dialogue should be conducted in consideration of the stakeholders' schedules and the complexity of the topics for discussion. It is important to consider the composition and diversity of the invitation list. It is best if more individuals are invited to ensure that stakeholders across the value chain are well represented, which includes the academe, other civil society organizations and the government sector. In order to obtain the desired outputs, participants should be encouraged to freely express their ideas within the topics or even outside the topics for discussion. Equal opportunities should also be given to the participants in expressing their opinions.

# 3. METHOD

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The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

**DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?**

**Yes**

**No**

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The dialogue's discussion focused on the recommended policies and actions to all five (5) UNFSS action tracks. These recommended policies and actions are the outcomes of the independent dialogue conducted by the farmers and fishers' groups on 08 June 2021. These are all provided in the outcomes of the discussion in this report.

The sub-national Dialogue discussed the following: a) Actionable results and outcome of the first Philippine Farmers and Fishers National Independent Dialogue; b) Commitments of actions on policy recommendations and action points from and among participating farmers and fishers and the DA; and c) Areas of convergence in run-up to the Pre-Summit and the UNFSS.

### ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

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

## MAIN FINDINGS

The discussions were very fruitful. The participants expressed their appreciation for the conduct of the dialogue and engaging them in this very important activity to help improve the country's food systems. The organizers also appreciated the active participation of the stakeholders and in providing valuable inputs to attain the sustainable development goals of the UNFSS.

The contribution of the farmers and fishers were acknowledged as the most important aspect to attain the UNFSS strategic goals. The government supported the ideas, experiences shared during the dialogue as valuable inputs in the government's efforts to improve its plans, programs and policies.

While there are existing interventions from the government in the form of policies, plans and programs, the agriculture, livestock and fishery sectors still need to do more as identified in the recommended policies and actions during the discussion in order to attain the desired productivity to enhance their incomes.

At the end of the forum, all the participants both from the government and the farmer groups expressed support in this undertaking. The participants from the stakeholders will actively monitor the outcomes of the national food system summit.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

During the independent dialogue of the farmers and fishers' groups held on 8 June 2021, all of the five (5) actions tracks were discussed. Thus, the sub-national dialogue (28 June) specifically discussed and validated the outputs of the independent dialogue. Following are the outcomes of the discussions:

AT 1: There were two concerns identified by the farmers and fishers' group for this track:

- a) Food access and affordability are not only about improving the supply. There is a need to enhance the capacity of consumers to buy and secure the food that they need; and
- b) In the production of safe and nutritious food, farmers and fishers should be properly compensated for their efforts.

Given these concerns, the following are the policy recommendations identified:

- 1) Promotion of Integrated and Diversified Organic system;
- 2) Disallowing adulteration or blending of food commodities; and
- 3) Asset reforms National Land Use (NLUC), Agrarian Reform, and Municipal Waters.

AT 2: The farmers and fishers groups identified these challenges:

- a) The need to provide farmers with the proper market signals and incentives to support shifts to healthy food diets and more sustainable methods of food production, and
- b) The need to develop the marketing infrastructure and system that allows producers to respond to market signals.

The identified policy recommendations are as follows:

- a) Massive info drive to promote local products, food safety;
- b) Review of trade Policies on Importation of Food Products; and
- c) Set-up dialogue mechanisms on Fair Food Trade.

On the concern on trade policies, it was mentioned that farmers will be affected if tariffs are very low and the country over-imports. However, on the government side, it was emphasized that the food security framework prioritizes domestic production but there are products which are enough, which resulted in importation. It was also mentioned that there is a need to balance the interests of the producers with those of the consumers, and that the government is open for a dialogue to further explore the issue as well as address concerns on the competitiveness of the agriculture sector.

AT3: These are the concerns identified this track:

- a) The Farmers should be given attention, and not only on crops, ecosystems, and food production systems;
- b) Ensure a nature-positive production for small farmers such as benefits of environment-friendly practices and technologies that provide concrete and attractive benefits to producers.

The following are the recommended policies:

- a) Protection of Marine Ecosystems;
- b) Creation of mechanisms to monitor the implementation plan on sustainable food systems;
- c) Education campaign to boost nature positive production.

AT4: The identified challenges are:

- a) Need to strike the proper balance between producer and consumer interests;
- b) Calibrate trade so that it does not unduly depress farmer incomes and deprive them of opportunities to advance; and
- c) Anti-farmer policies are also a form of exploitation and abuse.

These are the identified policy recommendations:

- a) Strengthening of micro-entrepreneurs/cooperatives;
- b) Strengthening the implementation of Magna Carta for Small Scale Producers;
- c) Ensure that RA 11524 directly benefits coconut farmers

AT5: The discussions gathered the following recommended strategies:

- a) Decentralize and diversify food production;
- b) Adopt farming system, instead of crop-based, strategies;
- c) Improving farmers' incomes as a key strategy to reduce vulnerabilities and improve capacities of small producers to cope with risks; and
- d) Importance of farmer organizations.

The recommended policies are the following:

- a) Participatory climate risk and reduction management/Disaster Risk Reduction;
- b) Call for UN to set-up Empowerment Trust Fund for Farmers/Fishers;
- c) Ensure PCIC funds are not diverted to other uses.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

The government emphasized that the resilience of farming communities can be addressed through the following interventions:

1. Social resilience - working with groups instead of individuals in crafting policy-based interventions on crop diversification, climate-smart technologies, inclusive financing, etc;
- 2) Technology - adoption of appropriate technologies that can reduce pollution of soil and water due to agricultural farming activities and climate-smart production methodologies.

Further, the government highlighted importance of farmers' group consolidation in order to achieve economies of scale.

There were also cross-cutting policy recommendations such as:

- 1) Increasing the competitiveness of smallholder farmers by providing them with access to services, technologies, and entrepreneurial mentoring and coaching;
- 2) Securing land tenure rights for smallholder farmers and clustering for economies of scale, which need further evaluation in terms of the proper interventions that should be implemented; and
- 3) Joint call for UN to set-up Farmers Resiliency and Empowerment Trust Fund.

There were other concerns/recommendations/proposed actions from the participants such as the following:

1. The implementation of gender-sensitive programs should be considered.
2. There are systems that don't work with other systems and a balance needs to be struck among them.
3. The ballooning population and high caloric intake were also some of the major concerns.
4. There is also a need to work for a sustainable food system to achieve the 17 sustainable development goals of the UNFS. There are five action tracks, all of which need game-changing solutions.
5. The protection of food-producing areas in the policy track, and that when there are policy conflicts, agricultural development should be favored.
6. There is a need to ensure that farmers' incomes are enough. Moreover, it was mentioned that additional processing at the farm level can increase farmers' income. The importance of balancing the capacity of consumers and income of producers, was also emphasized, since farmers are also consumers.
7. On cost of production, it was agreed that farmers/fishers submit its cost of production on key crops: rice, coconut, coffee, and some vegetable to compare with the current cost of production computation of DA. The purpose is to validate the costing and serve as guide on programs and policy interventions that ensures incomes for small producers.

The government representatives provided responses and clarifications on the above cited concerns, policy recommendations and actions. These are as follows:

1. On the production cost, relevant government agencies should also push for farmer education for them to know how to calculate production cost and appropriate selling price to avoid losses.
2. Safe food starts from the production stage and reiterated the need for literacy training for the farmers and fishers.
3. There is also a need to push for farmer education for them to know how to calculate production cost and appropriate selling price to avoid losses.
4. To increase the purchasing power of the farmers, the bottlenecks across the value chain should be addressed.
5. The multiplication of good seeds and connectivity of businesses should also be supported by the government.
6. To ensure food safety, the government needs to continue the development of standards for every agricultural product.
7. Global supply chains should be looked into for a guided decision to sell local or go global.
8. On the proposal to review the government infrastructures that play a part in food production, it was suggested to implement location-specific government interventions.
9. There should be a unified database in order to address the concern on prices, supply and demand.
10. On the concern about the implementation of policies, the government will need to look into the existing laws and the loopholes and gaps.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The divergent idea was expressed on the fortification of food. There was a suggestion to fortify food, however, other participants feel it is not needed and should not be a priority. Also, there were varying views on the idea of clustering and consolidation. Some support the idea of land or farm consolidation, while the others only support the farmer clustering approach.

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