

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Monday, 16 August 2021 14:00 GMT +07:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Dialogue for Civil Society Organizations on Cambodia's food systems roadmap
CONVENED BY	HE Sok Silo, Secretary General of the Council of Agricultural and Rural Development
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/40714/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Cambodia

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

21

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

This dialogue event was organized to provide an opportunity for a group representing some 67 communities, associations and NGOs to provide their feedback on the draft National Roadmap for Cambodia and to have input to the Synthesis Report being prepared for the Global Summit. The dialogue was carefully managed to create a space where the parties present could listen to each other's views and to identify points in common and differences regarding food systems and sustainable development in Cambodia. The meeting was preceded with a smaller event to build trust.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The main principles reflected by this event were for involvement of representatives of different stakeholder groups, mutual respect and a willingness to listen, and the creation of a trust through the presence of different organizations including human rights observers.

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

Ensure sufficient preparation and introductions between parties and take steps to ensure the dialogue protocols are well understood. Ask for mutual respect for all parties and ensure the process is well moderated to diffuse tensions.

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

This event allowed representatives of some 67 Civil Society Organizations and community groups representing farming, fishing and forest dependent communities the opportunity to present their priority interests and suggestions for the pathway to sustainable food systems for 2030 and to express their commitments for actions to support sustainability. Given the restrictions for face-to face meetings due to COVID-19, a small group representing the many NGOs, associations and communities involved was invited to meet with the National Convenor for the Food Systems Dialogues.

The focusing questions for the dialogue were:

1. What points do you agree with in the food systems roadmap?
2. What are your suggested areas for improvement?

The Civil Society representatives present made a number of requests to the Royal Government Representatives present and to FAO. Mostly these points were directly concerned with the rural situation for the communities they represented and their production and marketing challenges, Some points were directed at the representativeness of the Global Summit for smallholders, indigenous communities and the poor and vulnerable.

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 dialogue was conducted in a manner which reflected the guiding principles for the conduct of food systems dialogue with respect on all sides for the effort to meet and listen to each other's views.

The civil society representatives expressed some concerns about the Global Summit relating to limited opportunities to participate. They wished to have the opportunities for their voices to be heard and for their suggestions to be incorporated in the National Roadmap. The representatives recognized the achievement in drafting the roadmap and wished for successful implementation. They expressed the hope that their views would be taken into account and appreciated the opportunity to meet together with RGC and UN representatives.

The National Convenor explained that the dialogue process had been limited in terms of community meetings and in reaching to all levels because COVID restrictions on meetings and travel had greatly impacted on the plans for the National Dialogues. A special effort was made to act quickly to arrange this event and to ask for an opportunity for the feedback to be included in the Global Synthesis Report. Since the food system includes all sectors and value chain actors, the food environment and the decisions of consumers there are many voices and interests to be taken into account. Cambodia has now conducted 30 dialogue events involving almost 200 participants. A lot of effort has gone into promoting inclusivity, with civil society well represented amongst stakeholder groups. The vision and key themes for the National Roadmap were summarized and the focusing questions presented. Participants were invited to look into the Roadmap and make suggestions.

The feedback from civil society indicated that although there was agreement on many points, as representatives of farmers, fishers and forest communities, they had some points to add.

1. There is a need for more access to irrigation for smallholder farmers
2. Even for farmers, there is limited access to safe and healthy diets and a lack of understanding about what is safe and healthy.
3. Imports should be restricted to give more opportunities for local producers and more value for local products
4. Request for technical support from experts and extension services
5. Request for services to reduce risk, reduce chemical use and to increase yields,

Civil society representatives stated that sometimes families lack food even though they are producers themselves because they spend their money to purchase inputs and machinery. They have growing indebtedness and face difficulties in repayments. In addition their success is rain dependent. Indigenous peoples find it very difficult to deal with climate stresses and low prices for their produce. They feel that small scale producers are not prioritized by government and too much emphasis is given to agro-industry and large scale production. Farmers experience food shortages and resort to immigration to find paid employment and earn income. They are sometimes at risk of losing their land for development activities.

They request that the UN and Government uphold the rights of all citizens and provide help especially during COVID -19. Their suggestion was to prioritize domestic food production and provide opportunities for smallholders and the informally employed instead of to larger scale producers.

The representatives for civil society stated that it is their wish to preserve their traditions, their seeds and varieties and to protect their forests. They would like to promote and encourage local markets and they asked that Government consider provision of seed funds for enterprise development for women and youth, especially for fisheries communities and indigenous people.

It was also stated that the process of communal land titling is important for indigenous peoples and that this process could be expedited.

Cash transfers for women and young children are much needed and help to overcome lack of food and poor nutrition.

At the global level, and concerning the UN, the representatives asked that there be greater transparency in food systems. They suggested that the influence of large corporations at the Global Summit should be rejected and that there be an end of control of food systems by large corporations and an end to cooperation with the World Economic Forum.

They requested that their voices be included in the Summit and that they be allowed to live on their ancestral lands and not be driven by economic circumstances to sell their labour to live.

Responses from the Government affirmed that there were many common interests listed in these requests and that much of the detail relating to this is reflected by the sectoral plans such as for the agricultural sector. There are some important points raised and particularly relating to inclusion of indigenous issues and interests. These are points for incorporation in the roadmap.

Civil society representatives asked for a record of minutes and an indication of what changes will be made in the roadmap to reflect their statements. They asked that the Roadmap should ensure that the healthy diets for all objective must include not only women and children, but the poor and vulnerable and the rural unemployed. They asked that food safety systems be established and that the Roadmap should reflect the UN Declaration of the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP).

The meeting concluded with an assurance that minutes would be shared and that a reformulated roadmap would be available shortly, reflecting national consensus and points raised.

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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

ACTION TRACKS

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

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Many of the concerns and interests of the civil society representatives are represented in the national roadmap. There was agreement that indigenous interest could be represented specifically amongst the priorities for the roadmap. The main concern was to ensure that their voices were taken into account at the summit and whether those interests were subsumed to those of big business. Government representatives were of the opinion that there is a need for investment funding from the private sector and that this is not necessarily a threat to smallholder interests. Government strategies place much emphasis on the improvement of the productivity and profitability of smallholders and SMEs and for the creation of market linkages for smallholders and their associations and cooperatives.

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	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