

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 21 July 2021 10:30 GMT +10:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	ACT and Regions Perspective on Food Security
CONVENED BY	Regional Development Australia ACT
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/41989/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Australia

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

21 0-18 19-30 31-50 51-65 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

11 Male 10 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

5	Agriculture/crops		Education	1	Health care
	Fish and aquaculture		Communication	2	Nutrition
	Livestock	2	Food processing	2	National or local government
	Agro-forestry	2	Food retail, markets		Utilities
1	Environment and ecology	6	Food industry		Industrial
	Trade and commerce		Financial Services		Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
	Large national business		Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation		Local authority
3	Small-scale farmer		Government and national institution
3	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer		United Nations
	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
	International Non-Governmental Organization	1	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
	Indigenous People	1	Consumer group
	Science and academia	13	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

facilitated round table discussion

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

agenda was preset

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

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 aim of the dialogue was to discuss the importance of creating a sustainable food solution for the region and report the findings to the Summit.

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

MAIN FINDINGS

Regional Development Australia ACT called together agrifood industry representatives from across Canberra and the surrounding regions to conduct a Food Summit Dialogue. The aim of the dialogue was to discuss the importance of creating a sustainable food solution for the region and report the findings to the Summit. It was agreed unanimously that the approach required inclusion and consideration of the complete city region food system process.

The FAO defines city region food systems (CRFS) as “all the actors, processes and relationships that are involved in food production, processing, distribution and consumption in a given city region that includes a more or less concentrated urban center and its surrounding peri-urban and rural hinterland”. Concern has been voiced within the consultation group hosted by RDA ACT that the importance of this system is being overlooked by the UN food Summit dialogue and, as a consequence, missing important opportunities to achieve sustainable food security goals. Truly inclusive initiatives, that equally include all stakeholders, and include a focus on the development of city-region food systems, are far more likely to achieve the UN objective that called on all cities that have the capability, to create local food buffers.

The State of Food in the ACT and Regions:

Food is a necessity, a fundamental human right and one of life's great pleasures. Food shapes cultures, tradition, customs and beliefs. It brings people together and is essential to personal wellbeing, community, cultural expression and health. The delivery of fresher, cheaper, local, and more nutritious food supports all domains in the ACT Wellbeing Framework, with an essential premise being the continued availability of food, which food insecurity undermines. Yet food availability is being increasingly tested by climate change, COVID-19 and international disputes; illustrating how vulnerable our food supply chains are. The ACT and the immediate region grow very little of their own food, with 90% coming through Sydney and much further afield.

There are at least 400 individual enterprises in the ACT involved in production, manufacture & sales; a further 500 individual enterprises in Canberra Region; 100 community groups and NFPs with an interest or existing involvement with food; 40 ACT restaurants engaged in and deliberately sourcing local food; several hundred institutional settings including schools and care settings; 8 transport companies; and the growing presence of dozens of community gardens, small urban farms and food producers in our immediate region. There are 160 farms in the ACT and a further 7,500 in southern NSW.

Despite the food potential of the region, over 25,000 people in the ACT are experiencing some form of food stress. At the same time, while healthy eating is featuring more strongly in preventive health policy, levels of obesity and diet-related diseases remain stubbornly high.

The ACT community in common with cities around the world needs to be able to:

- guarantee access to healthy, affordable, locally grown & sustainably produced food.
- ensure that Canberrans have access to and more say over the food they eat, with confidence that it is healthy, environmentally sustainable and ethically produced.

Stepping Forward:

A whole of system approach to nurturing a sustainable urban and regional food system is vital to addressing the future food challenges, with all stakeholders in the food system being brought together to co-designing and build a city-region food system. City Region Food Systems (CRFS) have proven the most successful and durable forms of their kind, and include facilitation of food hubs, food cooperatives, innovation, and new food business models.

Initial investment into the development of city region food systems is essential to support growth and ensure long-term sustainability. Many of the ACT and region enterprises have reported that they would expand their local food production and purchasing if provided with assistance. There is evidence of strong latent demand for more accessible, abundant and local food; with the region having, on average, high disposable income and very strong levels of motivation to support sustainability. There is significant inward investment interest in the food sector here, as well as new start-ups, which require food knowledge and specialist facilitation. This will also better establish our region's competitive advantage in food production, sales and hospitality.

World impact investment flows are looking for opportunity in the sustainable food space, including CRFS – not only large-scale food production and processing.

Economic impact analysis of such initiatives across the world such as Vermont USA demonstrate strongly positive returns on government investment – in market growth, jobs and community outcomes. A widely recognised study shows a gross output multiplier of 1.75 (every dollar invested produces \$1.75 dollars in additional output) and an employment multiplier of 2.14 (for every food job created a further 2 jobs are created). This is sorely needed as the world seeks to exit covid and build economic recovery.

Conclusion:

With adequate investment, intense consultation and collaboration, and a focused strategic planning, the Canberra Region and similar areas around Australia would be able to successfully meet the UN SDGs and its objective of a local food buffer. This would ensure food security, support economic growth, and positively impact on the physical and mental health of the communities involved.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Food Summit Dialogue Report**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Food-Summit-Dialogue-Report.pdf>

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Canberra Region Food Collaborative**
<https://www.agrifood-hub.com/sustainableurbanfood.html>