

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Sunday, 10 October 2021 15:30 GMT -04:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Vegetables from Near and Far: Cultural Produce for All
CONVENED BY	Marlie Lukach
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/42322/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	United States of America

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

150

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

5

19-30

6

31-50

1

51-65

1

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

7 Male

6 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

0 Agriculture/crops

0 Fish and aquaculture

1 Livestock

0 Agro-forestry

1 Environment and ecology

0 Trade and commerce

4 Education

3 Communication

0 Food processing

1 Food retail, markets

0 Food industry

4 Financial Services

1 Health care

1 Nutrition

0 National or local government

0 Utilities

0 Industrial

0 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

1 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

1 Large national business

0 Multi-national corporation

1 Small-scale farmer

0 Medium-scale farmer

0 Large-scale farmer

0 Local Non-Governmental Organization

0 International Non-Governmental Organization

0 Indigenous People

2 Science and academia

1 Workers and trade union

0 Member of Parliament

0 Local authority

0 Government and national institution

0 Regional economic community

0 United Nations

1 International financial institution

0 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

1 Consumer group

2 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

My table was located at the Ithaca Farmers Market which is free to anyone to attend and was publicized to a range of stakeholders including university professors and students, local schools, NGOs, and farmers. I displayed some examples of culturally diverse cucurbits (squash, gourds, melons, cucumbers) with information on them and the summit to create a welcoming environment for people to come and share their concerns. I provided an online survey for people to provide input as well as listens to what consumers had to say and took notes.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

I was able to get input from a variety of stakeholders within and outside the Greater Ithaca area to get a wide range of concerns and needs. I had about 150 people stop by my table to tell me about their personal and communities difficulties and successes in finding or growing diverse produce, as well as many people who wanted to learn more about including unfamiliar produce into their diets.

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

Keeping an open mind and being inclusive can lead to a better understanding of the needs of your food system. Following the Principles of Engagement can allow these important conversations to be more beneficial and get more out of them to meet the needs of your community.

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 major focus of the Dialogue was to reflect on the current diversity of produce in the greater Ithaca area including questions as: what produce are people looking for when they go to the grocery store, what produce are difficult to find or can community members not find, and are the foods community members want to buy affordable. This ties in with the United Nations Action Track 1 and 2. In relation to Action Track 1, the Dialogue focuses on ensuring access to produce that is appropriate for community members based on their cultural backgrounds and upbringings. Another focus is to bring more diverse produce into the diets of all community members, connecting to Action Track 2.

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

Overall I found that there is a need for accessible diverse produce within the Greater Ithaca area, New York State, and across the United States. At the community engagement portion of my dialogue, I was able to speak with consumers at the Ithaca Farmers market from the Ithaca area and beyond. There were several major findings I found. One finding was that there is not only a need for buying the product directly but also for buying seeds. Many people wanted to grow diverse produce in their home or community gardens but did not know of sources to purchase seeds for the crops they were looking to grow. Consumers were also looking for varieties that would do well where they lived that required few inputs, are open-pollinated so they could save seeds and are easy to grow in their backyards. Another finding was confusion in the common names of the produce. Many of these culturally important crops have multiple common names in several languages. This led to some confusion on what crops people were looking for in their area. There seems to be a need to have more information available on common names of these crops from different countries and their corresponding scientific names for more clarity. There were also many consumers at the farmer market who were not familiar with the crops but interested in learning more or including them in their consumption patterns in the future.

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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 |
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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Since this event mainly collected preliminary data on how consumers felt about the diversity and accessibility of produce in the Greater Ithaca area, it mainly was a reflection of consumers. There were varied views on how people felt about affordability and diversity. Many people agreed that this region has a diverse selection of products available but there were mixed opinions on its affordability and if people could find all the foods they wanted to consume. Only about half of the people were able to afford high-quality options of the foods they wanted to consume and about 25% of consumers survey could not even find the foods they wanted to consume in the Greater Ithaca area.

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