

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 4 March 2021 14:00 GMT +00:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	What Farmers Need in Future Food Systems
CONVENED BY	Farming First
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/4362/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

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

62

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18

4 19-30

36 31-50

21 51-65

1 66-80

0 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

29 Male

32 Female

1 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

18 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

7 Livestock

Agro-forestry

6 Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

1 Education

6 Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

3 Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

1 National or local government

Utilities

2 Industrial

18 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

5 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

6 Small-scale farmer

7 Medium-scale farmer

3 Large-scale farmer

5 Local Non-Governmental Organization

16 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

2 Science and academia

1 Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

1 International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

16 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The Farming First Independent Dialogue was organised for our 200 supporter organisations within the Farming First coalition to come together and discuss what farmers need in future food systems. Farming First is a multi-stakeholder coalition whose supporters together represent the world's farmers, scientists, engineers and industry as well as a broad mix of agricultural development organisations working all over the world. Farming First supporters all endorse a broad-based framework consisting of six interlinked principles for sustainable development: 1. Safeguarding natural resources 2. Sharing knowledge 3. Building local access and capacity 4. Protecting harvests 5. Enabling access to markets 6. Prioritising research imperatives. Returning farmers to the centre of policy decisions is fundamental to the sustainable food systems of the future. Governments, businesses, scientists and civil society groups must focus attention on the source of our food security and nutrition. All these groups must work together to enable the many millions of farming families, especially smallholders, to grow more productively and sustainably through effective markets, more collaborative research and committed knowledge sharing. The Dialogue theme was chosen specifically to encourage Farming First participants to discuss a path forward for a farmer-centred, science-based, innovation-led approach to support our food systems. This includes an honest discussion not only of areas of synergy but also divergence. Each of the five breakout sessions was facilitated by a Farming First supporter, and the session was curated by the President of the World Farmers' Organisation, Theo de Jager.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Farming First exists to identify and promote the many ways in which sustainable agricultural development can be advanced worldwide. With one shared voice, Farming First highlights the importance of improving farmers' livelihoods as well as the important contribution that agriculture can make to the food system, including in areas like food security, nutrition, climate change, and biodiversity. It also aims to build synergies amongst its supporters in promoting Farming First's mission. Our Dialogue was multi-stakeholder in that it reflected the full breadth of the Farming First coalition. The breakout sessions were held under the Chatham House rule, which helped to build openness and trust.

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

Food systems affect us all, and it is important to create a virtual space where all actors across the agri-food value chain feel comfortable sharing their priorities, aspirations and challenges in an open, discursive manner.

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 theme of the Farming First Independent Dialogue was 'What Farmers Need in Future Food Systems'. Five breakout sessions were organised, one for each of the Action Tracks.

Farming First supporters, including farmers from four continents, were asked to select which of the five breakout sessions they would like to participate in, and facilitators were selected to run each of the breakout sessions. They were asked to first allow participants to introduce themselves, then to discuss specific challenges experienced by the participants in their work and the solutions they offer in support of farmers, then to discuss how these overlap into synergies or trade-offs (either by theme or by region) moving forward.

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 opening and closing sessions found broad consensus across the group around several key areas:

- Young people will be most affected and will be most relevant in driving future progress across food systems.
- Farmers will face heightened pressure to deliver on consumer expectations and also to compete with non-traditional production systems like laboratories and urban facilities.
- There is an urgent and continued need for robust data and innovation, and for food systems policies to be informed by and formulated based on science.
- The connection between farmers and consumers needs to be strengthened so that we all understand better how and where our food comes from and the conditions that farmers navigate to produce our food each day.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

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

The participants noted:

- Farmers need support (and a rationale) to grow and sell more nutritious varieties of crops. It's a big risk to many farmers to change what they're currently growing, and it's not necessarily more profitable to do so.
- Different regions experience different realities, both in terms of the agroecological and also the socioeconomic conditions where they operate.
- Technology and innovation are key to helping farmers be more productive and also to reduce food loss and waste.
- Educating consumers from a young age about nutrition and food systems is key.
- Support is needed not only at the farm level but across the entire agri-food value chain.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns

The participants noted:

- Farmers and consumers need to be better connected, not only in terms of market access but also in terms of mutual understanding, which in turn informs consumer behaviour and expectations.
- Climate change is requiring more urgent and diverse need for innovation in terms of inputs, extension and access to information and finance. The policy environment must enable this.
- Farmers need to be incentivised to adopt various practices, especially in terms of consumer demand.
- To engage young people, it's essential to level the playing field. This is especially true for smallholder farmers struggling to access resources.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

Action Track 3: Boosting nature-positive production

The participants noted:

- Agriculture is not the enemy; it is a solutions provider. There are win-win solutions that exist.
- It is challenging to identify clear recommendations that are scalable globally yet adaptable to local conditions.
- Access to technology does not need to be regulated globally: different technology will be beneficial in different locations.
- Farmers are not getting sufficient recognition for the continual improvements being made.
- New technologies are already helping farmers 'grow more from less', from disease detectors and moisture sensors to plant breeding innovations that increase productivity and lower the carbon footprint.
- Climate change is making it harder for farmers to know how to manage their production reliably and efficiently, for instance late rains washing away seeds that have just been planted.
- Farmers need support, in terms of incentives and research support, if they are to be tasked with carbon sequestration on their farms.
- Digital solutions are driving progress in precision agriculture.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods

The participants noted:

- Farmer livelihoods must be considered in balance with the demands of purchasers and their consumers.
- Farmers need access to markets, innovation, training and finance.
- Farmers must collaborate more effectively (e.g. via cooperatives) to have a larger voice in policy discussions and to be able to access bigger markets or partnerships
- There is an urgent need for metrics that make it easier to measure progress and outcomes.

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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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

The participants noted:

- COVID-19 has revealed the interdependence of actors across food systems.
- The pandemic has also revealed how innovations across the value chain have supported on-going production, from basic social distancing measures to shorter supply chains.
- Sustaining market access and trade is key in supporting resilience – with access to information across the supply chain essential for anticipating bottlenecks or addressing overlaps.
- Ensuring better and more consistently applied standards for planet and human health is also key.
- Climate variability and change makes it harder to bounce back and also to adapt and transform when necessary.
- Farmer needs resources and incentives to handle the additional responsibilities they are being tasked to deliver, for instance insurance, social safety nets and financing.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There was broad consensus across the Dialogue participants on many priorities.

The areas of divergence often were centred around differences in regional contexts and needs rather than significant ideological differences.

Participants also noted a range of tensions that exist amongst different actors within a food system. These included:

- Rising consumer expectations vs. farmers' 'on-the-ground' realities (and need for secure livelihoods)
- The promise of technologies (especially digitalisation) vs. the need to support farmers to be able to access them
- The promise of mechanisation vs. its effect on employment opportunities for large rural populations
- The need to respect local/traditional knowledge vs. the need to adapt practices in the face of climate change
- Growing expectations for farm level management of landscapes vs. the need for farmers' incentives and capacity to implement them
- The need to acknowledge (and even celebrate) progress vs. the need for continued urgency in further innovation

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **AT1 summary card**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Summary-document--AT1-horizontal.png>
- **AT2 summary card**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Summary-document--AT2-horizontal.png>
- **AT3 summary card**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Summary-document--AT3-horizontal-543x305-1.png>
- **AT4 summary card**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Summary-document--AT4-horizontal-543x305-1.png>
- **AT5 summary card**
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Summary-document--AT5-horizontal-543x305-1.png>

RELEVANT LINKS

- **AT1 'vox pop' interview: What do farmers need to help improve the availability of nutritious food?**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gp7IsVYilGU>
- **AT2 'vox pop' interview: What do farmers need to build more sustainable value chains?**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2GTmHX9yiM>
- **AT3 'vox pop' interview: What do farmers need to optimise resource use and protect the environment?**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_AWDNZykFF0
- **AT4 'vox pop' interview: What do farmers need to eliminate poverty and improve livelihoods?**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7cdqMacM18>
- **AT5 'vox pop' interview: What do farmers need to strengthen resilience to shocks and stresses?**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWQC4aOIBK8>