

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Thursday, 12 August 2021 12:30 GMT +05:30
DIALOGUE TITLE	Mawlynnong Youth Dialogue
CONVENED BY	Moral K Rymba (Village Headman of Mawlynnong), Stephen Anurag P (Alumnus of King's College London), Sumarbha Dkhar (local youth leader), Mr Kishore Yarra (MBDA), Ms Fidiarity Kharumnuid, Mr Darius JMT, Mr O Donald Singh (Intellectual Forum Shillong)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/43842/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	India

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

4 0-18 12 19-30 6 31-50 51-65 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

9 Male 13 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

7	Agriculture/crops	1	Education		Health care
	Fish and aquaculture		Communication	1	Nutrition
3	Livestock		Food processing	1	National or local government
	Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets	2	Utilities
1	Environment and ecology	3	Food industry		Industrial
1	Trade and commerce		Financial Services	2	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

8	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	2	Workers and trade union
	Large national business		Member of Parliament
	Multi-national corporation	1	Local authority
2	Small-scale farmer		Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
1	Large-scale farmer		United Nations
0	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
	International Non-Governmental Organization		Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
7	Indigenous People	1	Consumer group
	Science and academia		Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The dialogue was organized among the indigenous members of the village youth from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, skills and aspirations. This approach was taken to create a two way interactive dialogue to discuss the success stories, opportunities and challenges experienced by the rural youth in promoting 'sustainable value chains in food systems', 'entrepreneurship' and 'biodiversity conservation'. This dialogue engaged the participants to be confident and openly express themselves on various social issues within the rural community and our team guided the participants with viable sustainable suggestions available to them in general, which can be initiated individually, community as a whole or having some government intervention through Public-Private Partnership mode. The dialogue encouraged the participants to look forward to local entrepreneurship for enabling value food systems keeping in view of the locally available resources and thereby promoting sustainable agrarian methods as a means of livelihood.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Act with Urgency: The urgency of action was reflected in our dialogue in the most conducive and convincing manner by committing to strategise a draft declaration on the topics discussed in the event. On 24 October 2021 i.e. the UN Day a meeting would be convened with the commitment makers from the village youth in the food value chain systems and biodiversity conservation to discuss, deliberate and finalise the draft declaration of Mawlynnong Youth Dialogue 2021. **Be Respectful:** Questions prepared by the convenors have been discussed with the participants; opinions and experiences of the participants were duly noted. The discussion leaders supervised the dialogue in a manner that was open, sensitive and had respect for the ideas and views of the participants on the agenda topics. **Recognize Complexity:** The event recognized the complexity of the subject of 'Food Systems' by discussing the close connection of agriculture, it's allied activities and produce of the village through rural entrepreneurship. **Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity:** The event had a multi-stakeholder presence as it was organized with the support of both the government and NGOs: Meghalaya Institute of Governance (MIG Shillong), Intellectual Forum Shillong, Yes We Can Youth Organization and King's College London (Hyderabad Alumni Chapter). **Complement the work of others:** During the dialogue, some participants shared their experiences during the training on mushroom cultivation at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Centre, Shillong, a government training centre for imparting vocational training to the practising farmers. It was appreciated that centres like KVK helped in the capacity building for farmers to ensure sustainable agricultural practices which complements the regular practise of the farming in the village by invoking entrepreneurial feat. **Build Trust:** The dialogue was committed to instil a sense of security, practicality among the participants and to provide the local community with the professional know-how that would empower the rural community of Mawlynnong. Therefore this contribute

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

The Principles of Engagement suggested by the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 provides a suitable blueprint for the Dialogue Convenors to initiate and prepare a 'Dialogue' event with the invited participants. These principles would be helpful for the convenors to be 'mindful' and 'thoughtful' about the values and principles behind a 'Dialogue' event. Perhaps also incorporate more principles that would be relevant in the dialogue context.

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

The format of Dialogue is mentioned below which is not completely influenced by the Convenors Reference Manual. In view of the local interventions and dialogue culture, certain distinctive modifications have been made in organising the event. The dialogue commenced with a welcome address by Ms. Fidiarity Kharumnuid, Intellectual Forum Shillong. - Welcome address & Presenting Dialogue Theme - Remarks by local Village representative - Discussion Session facilitated by Ms. Fidiarity Kharumnuid, IFS; Mr. Darius J.M.T., IFS and Mr. Stephen Anurag P, Alumnus of King's College London. - Entire gathering discussion on (1) value chains in food systems, (2) entrepreneurship and (3) biodiversity conservation A list of prepared questions by the organizers on the three discussion topics was asked, discussed and participants, in turn, shared their thoughts, views and experiences. - Suggestions and possible solutions and interventions for issues and challenges faced by the participants were shared by the organizers. - The questions were discussed and the response/ feedback holds divergent and convergent opinions from the participants were noted by the organizers and would be used to formulate a draft declaration within a time frame and later convene a meeting for developing an execution plan in consultation with all the necessary stakeholders. - Group Photo with SDG posters (Introducing SDGs for the first-time in the village by presenting the posters of all 17 Global Goals).

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Major Focus of the dialogue were:

"Sustainable value chains in food systems"

- Inquiring and understanding the rural economic activities with food and cultivation
- Exploring pathways to improve the cultivation scenario in the rural area,
- Exploring allied farming options like piggery, poultry, bee-keeping, etc.

"Rural entrepreneurship"

- Discussed the connection between rural entrepreneurship and food systems in the rural context.
- Self-employment through rural entrepreneurship.
- Local products promotion

"Biodiversity conservation"

- Underlying the importance of biodiversity conservation
- Stressing the need for community development while keeping in mind biodiversity conservation

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

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

MAIN FINDINGS

"Overall findings"

- Absence of technical know-how and guidance on the available new technology and assistance provided by various governmental agencies in the form of schemes, projects, assistance etc.
- There is huge potential within this region for agrarian and allied activities and if promoted can pay dividends towards bringing stability in the communities livelihood and sustainable diversified food system.
- The area had some cash crops (like broom plantation, betel nut and leaves, bay leaves, pepper and pineapple) which if promoted can also be a geographical indication to that particular region which will in turn promote the products and the local farmers can get a good value for their produce.

"Subjective findings"

- Mr Henry Kharrymba, a member of the youth in Mawlynnong village has expressed his interest and experience in developing bio-compost and solid waste management in the village by enabling collection, transport and proper dumping.
- Mushroom cultivation has already been initiated by Ms Trinity Kshiar, Ms. Alice Larisakhonglam and Ms. Crosbina Khongthiem in the village however further interventions and support systems for soil testing and preservation of the produce needs to be addressed.
- Bee-keeping has been one of the primary occupations of the villagers. To further promote the business, Ms. Dapshisha Dkhar sought to develop a marketing framework in support of this bee culture.
- A food garden with all the locally cultivable crops and fruits and a mini-digital library was discussed to be developed possibly with CSR funding.
- Mawlynnong, being regarded as the Cleanest Village in Asia, has one of the highest footfalls in tourism and entertainment. In view of this, the youth of the village have collectively decided to capture the business and develop a confectionery with local baked items.

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

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Outcomes for each discussion topic were:

"Sustainable value chains in food systems"

- The Need to develop a marketing framework in support of bee culture, mushroom, etc.
- Technical support of soil testing and cultivation knowledge for edible mushroom growing.
- The need for bakery training for some village members using locally baked items.

"Rural entrepreneurship"

- Self-employment through rural entrepreneurship was supported by the participants since Tourism revenue was impacted by COVID-19.
- Training and guidance support for interested entrepreneurs.
- Identifying the type of local business suitable for local village residents.
- Technical knowledge to improve product value of locally derived products.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There areas of divergence during the Dialogue was noted in during the discussion of 'sustainable value chains in food systems' which are as follows:

Exploring income avenues apart from rural tourism: The village of Mawlynnong, being Asia's Cleanest Village is a great tourist attraction of the region. The COVID-19 pandemic affected revenue from the tourism sector in the Mawlynnong village and people of the village who excessively depend on tourism have shifted their occupation to growing cash crops like broom, betel nut and leaves and bay leaves.

- Bee-keeping intervention: Bee-keeping (or apiculture) is a source of employment for some of the village youths of Mawlynnong. Some participants engaged in bee-keeping shared the need for a marketing framework in support of bee culture. This would encourage more village residents to take up bee-keeping as a source of income and thereby promote the honey product of the village.

- Mushroom cultivation intervention: Mushroom cultivation was attempted by some village youths after undertaking training at a government training centre, it was found that the mushrooms did not grow well in the village soil perhaps due to the soil type or the climatic conditions. Some of the dialogue participants who attempted mushroom cultivation shared the requirement of soil testing and expert advice to find suitable interventions for mushroom cultivation in the village soil.

- Confectionery intervention: The village of Mawlynnong, being Asia's Cleanest Village has a big tourist footfall, in view of this the youth of the village have collectively decided to capture the business and develop a confectionery with local baked items. This would serve a means of income and employment for the residents of the village.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

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

ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Newspaper Link-1**
<https://www.syllad.com/first-of-its-kind-program-for-rural-youth-held-today-at-mawlynnong/>
- **Newspaper Link-2**
<https://shillongtoday.com/mawlynnong-youth-dialogue-held-on-international-youth-day/>
- **Newspaper Link-3**
<https://www.nelookup.com/enroute-to-responsible-production-and-consumption-mawlynnong-youth-dialogue/>