

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

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| DIALOGUE DATE | Wednesday, 22 September 2021 10:00 GMT +01:00 |
| DIALOGUE TITLE | Grassroots Women And Youth's Inclusion During Covid-19 and Beyond on Building Food Resilience and How to Avoid Food Wastage in Nigeria |
| CONVENED BY | Convenor-Dorothy Onoja Titilayo Founder/CEO, De Doronos-Jay Limited. Co-Convenor-John O. Ugwu Managing Director, JohnVirg Nigeria Limited. Jaaziah Ofukondu Onoja-Children and Youth Representative De Doronos-Jay Limited. Award winner IFG Food UNFSS. |
| DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE | https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/43912/ |
| DIALOGUE TYPE | Independent |
| GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS | Afghanistan, Albania, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, France, Germany, India, Italy, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, No borders, Senegal, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 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

55

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

10 0-18 29 19-30 31-50 3 51-65 66-80 80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

6 Male 49 Female Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

| | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----|----------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 5 | Agriculture/crops | 3 | Education | | Health care |
| 5 | Fish and aquaculture | | Communication | 1 | Nutrition |
| 9 | Livestock | 1 | Food processing | | National or local government |
| | Agro-forestry | 20 | Food retail, markets | | Utilities |
| | Environment and ecology | | Food industry | | Industrial |
| 10 | Trade and commerce | 1 | Financial Services | | Other |

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

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|----|---|---|---|
| 5 | Small/medium enterprise/artisan | | Workers and trade union |
| | Large national business | | Member of Parliament |
| 2 | Multi-national corporation | | Local authority |
| 10 | Small-scale farmer | | Government and national institution |
| 2 | Medium-scale farmer | | Regional economic community |
| 10 | Large-scale farmer | | United Nations |
| | Local Non-Governmental Organization | 2 | International financial institution |
| | International Non-Governmental Organization | 5 | Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance |
| 17 | Indigenous People | | Consumer group |
| 2 | Science and academia | | Other |

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

I first registered my dialogue at the summit dialogue.org with the title that incorporate the principle of inclusion and diversity. Click this link to see the dialogue title <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/43912/> the dialogue was registered as an online program but was implemented as a hybrid event so as to effect the principle of inclusivity and wider reach. Many, if not all of the grassroots women farmers/youth in developing countries are not online, because they lack internet, phones or computers to connect. At a later arrangement, we got a venue and the grassroots women and smallholder farmers were able to attend the event in person. Maria Oko a grassroots representative spoke extensively regarding their plight and what they had and continue to suffer in the hands of herdsmen. She also talk of how Covid-19 lay bare the sufferings of the grassroots women. The first speaker who is the convener spoke on the topic "Grassroots Women and Youth's Smallholder Farmers Inclusion on Building Food Resilience During Covid-19 and Beyond"(Speaker: Dorothy Onoja Titilayo). Then, the second speaker in person of Mr. John Ugwu O. spoke on "Financing Grassroot Women Smallholder Farmers, Challenges/Difficulties and the way forward." This report cited very interesting examples of women farmers who were supported financially and the ripple effects it produces. The Third speaker spoke on "Food wastage in the USA" where he presented videos of where and how food are wasted in the USA."(Speaker: Professor Fredrick Nwosu who stays in the US). The Fourth speaker who is the children and youth representative, spoke on "food wastage in Nigeria and how to Mitigate it"(speaker: Jaasiah Ofukundu Onoja). The final speaker was the student girls representative who spoke on the "effects of Covid-19 on the girl child." Outside the main speeches from the conveners and the co-conveners, there were various voices of grassroots women from different diversity calling on the world leaders to come and change the way the food system at the rural area is operating and its negative impacts on them.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Our dialogues and actions reflects the 7 specific principles the United Nation Food System Summit principles of engagement in the following ways: 1. The Principle of Urgency: The urgent need to reach sustained and meaningful action at all levels to reach the respective 2030 Sustainable Development Goals was why the Dialogues was organized as contributions to the Food Systems Summit and to the elaboration of pathways to food systems transformation contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To reach all levels, we make sure the dialogue was made a hybrid event. 2. Commit to the summit: The principle of practice what you preach account for De Doronos-Jay Limited's Grassroot inclusion in the dialogue and the previous campaigns in the rural areas by teaching them how to prepare safe food for consumption and for commercial purposes, click here <https://web.facebook.com/dorothyonojae/photos/174786791247210> 3. Recognize Complexity: All our dialogues are complex and has in it a unique diverse inclusion that embed PEOPLE and PLANET. 4. Engagement of Multi-Stakeholder: This accounts for why we make event a hybrid event inclusive of a voices from different ethnic background and stakeholders from countries and different geopolitical zones and communities in Nigeria so as to align with the title of the program which is plea for inclusion of grassroots women in the game change. 5. Respectful: The dialogue put into consideration the principle of respect and using stories and examples to lobby the leaders. 6. Complement the work of others: Even though our dialogues are original and beat the act plagiarisms, it try as much as possible to complement other works and with the experiences gained from attending other dialogues before ours was convened, coupled with the insights from the pre-summit, we did not try to go aboard on a different wide chase from then UNFSS principle of engagements. 7. Trust: The Dialogue process involves the facilitators and the curators as one of the dialogue convener who resides in the USA, was acting as Convener, facilitator and curator.

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

Personally, to pull a successful UNFSS dialogue, I will advice other dialogue conveners to be conversant with the five action tracks thus: 1. Ensure safe and nutritious food for all. 2. Shift to sustainable consumptions and patterns 3. boost nature-positive production 4. advance equitable livelihoods and 5. build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress. Then, the convener should chose his/her title in relation to one of the action track or more. Second. the convener should reflect in his/her dialogue, the 7 principles of engagement in his/her dialogue. Then, he/she Conceptualize how the dialogue can be carry out by reading all the laid down methodologies for convening a dialogue. Reading through the 7 principles which are i. Commit to the summit ii. The urgency iii. Be respectful iv. Recognize complexity v. Engage multi-stakeholder vi. Compliment other peoples work vii. Build trust Again, I will advice them to focus on the training materials and resources that the issue based coalition on sustainable food systems could offer for use in the central Europe and central Asia after choosing the type of dialogue from the three types of dialogue either from Member State, State or individual dialogue based on who you are, who you are representing or your outcomes. Next is the dialogue phases. you must ensure to pass the through the 3 phases of dialogue convening which are 1. Getting started with the dialogue convening planning. Making sure the checklist for phase 1 is at your discretion. 2. Implement your dialogue. To implement your dialogue, you need to have known the purpose of your dialogue, aims, target, who to opt in, your Co-conveners, supporters, Curators, Facilitators, Note takers and

every plan as informed by the training materials. 3. Then, you finalize the country or the interactive imputes from participants for the UNFSS use. Note, your dialogue should have objectives, goals, time frame. If you are convening a dialogue for the voices of the vulnerable grassroot, it may be advisable to make the event hybrid for the grassroots to be fully represented

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

Grassroots Women And Youth's Inclusion During Covid-19 and Beyond on Building Food Resilience and How to Avoid Food Wastage in Nigeria

The program will focus on grassroots women Food Resilience and how to mitigate waste. It will include the following issues and highlights, but others.

1. How strong is the food tank and food production at the grassroots by women and youth girls? Their challenges, awareness, finances, rate of inclusion, challenges faced by women grassroots' smallholder farmers, the extent to which their voices are heard and how can it be heard. Hardship faced from herdsmen destruction etc.
2. Food Wastage in Nigeria generally and cases of food waste in other countries e.g. America. The causes of food waste, the effects, the vulnerable groups. How to mitigate it, importance, the resultant positive impact, and outcomes of the solutions.
3. How Covid-19 had laid bare or exacerbated the suffering of grassroots women, youths and women smallholder farmers at the rural communities and other areas.
4. Gender Equality and its priority in the tackling of women issues both at the grassroots and the urban environments.

ACTION TRACKS

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| ✓ | 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

The main findings from the dialogue is that, there is the need to connect with the grassroot women and youth smallholder farmers. Taking directly from the world of Phumsile Ngukuka, the retired UN Women Secretary General, she said and I quote "Women and girls are not intrinsically vulnerable but their social, economic and political conditions make them susceptible to risks and vulnerabilities." Women and girls need to be included in the resiliency of food sustainability. All the discussion was majorly centered on women and youth vulnerability.

The action that stakeholders in the food value chain needs to take together are for the stakeholders to come together with the urban women working with the grassroot women to improve their lives and find a landing ground to resolve the climate change issues that affect the rural women most. Such issues to be included in the discussions are;

1. Food Security

Food security is a broad topic that covers the availability, accessibility, utilization and stability of food systems. Women farmers currently account for 36 to 90 per cent of all food production in developing countries, depending on the region. As a result of climate change, traditional food sources have become more unpredictable and scarce, leading to women's loss of income and access to food. Women are also often excluded from decision-making processes regarding access to and the use of land and resources critical to their livelihoods.

2. Water Resources

The increased frequency of floods and droughts has led to disruptions in freshwater supply, negatively affecting women and girls in particular, since they are often tasked with securing and managing water for daily domestic use. In developing countries, fetching water from distant sources is time-consuming, and the quantity retrieved is rarely enough to meet the needs of the household. Furthermore, since the water is not filtered, it can be contaminated and have adverse effects on the health and sanitation of women, girls and their families.

3. Health

The effects of climate change on health include increased mortality and morbidity due to heat waves, floods, storms, fires and drought. The risk to women's health in particular increases as a result of water scarcity and contamination.

4. Effects of Changes in Human Settlements and Migration Patten. The Grassroots women and youths' smallholder farmers are calling on world leaders to action:

1. To Provide them with equitable decent work and livelihoods.
2. Include them in equitable political, social, and economic considerations
3. The rate of disasters experience by grassroots women and youths farmers should be reduced by protecting lives, livelihoods, homes, assets, basic services and infrastructures. Capacities includes networks, infrastructures, knowledge, skills and resources.
4. To become resilience and feel included, the grassroots women and youths should be able to advance in development processes, social networks and institutional partnerships that help women recognize and build on existing efforts that reduce the impact of the disasters.
5. Grassroots women and youth organizations and smallholder farmers put a lot of efforts to their work but the only thing they receive is clap. The disconnect between grassroots women and youth and the federal state should be removed.
6. Grassroots women and youths should be included in emergency responsiveness and national programs.
7. Grassroots women and youth's successes should be scaled up.
8. Women and youths should be made agent of change in the society.
9. Advocacy and community based work should be jointly done.
10. Hunger has no place where people work in solidarity.
11. Grassroots women and youths' smallholder farmers should be able to access direct finance or under the leadership of strong leaders like dialogue conveners, action track leaders and commitment makers in the united Nation Food System Dialogue.
12. Livestock sector reforms should be put in place.
13. There's no one that is allergic to training, herdsman should be trained in nomadic literacy and older herdsman should be given adult literacy programs whereby they will look after their herds from the dawn to noon and be at the literacy centers by evening.
14. Gender Equality should be given priority across its six thematic coalitions in Agriculture.
15. Innovations.

A participant in the virtual platform based in Uganda, presented this as voices of grassroot women from Uganda. Hear from her mouth some actions that needs to be taken

Based on the observation with grassroot women below are my key remarks;

- Value addition in agriculture
- The power of associations/cooperatives as a platform for knowledge sharing; capacity building in terms of skills; Capital mobilization.
- Mentorship in order to build the the necessary skill set for work ethics
- Role of technology and e-commerce
- Creating an enabling policy environment for the women and youth to enable them actively engage in processing business registration of business; taxes;
- Creation of youth business incubation centers women and youth in grassroot areas
- Industrial Park policies should also be provide for women and youths . The representative of the youth and children also has this to say.

The youth and children farmers entrepreneurs representative also called on the world leaders to come and provide the necessary enabling ground, environmental improvement, finance and technical assistance that will help us in the reduction of food waste. Many other voices also called the attention of the world at the dialogue below.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

How can Gender Equality, Climate Change, Decent Work for All, Technology and Innovation contribute to the food system value Chain?

Professor Nwosu Contribution: Critical Elements in the recent universal controversy regarding food system value chain Gender equality is a native and random topic on line. The negative norms hold about feminist gender had limit women from being a factor in the the food system value chain. People who still hold such perception should change their believe so women can progress in the food system value chain.

Climate change is an uncontrollable variable. Therefore, farmers should use old astrological systems to know when to farm aggressively ahead of changes.

Decent work for all is more like a dream than reality. Different factors lead up to decent work. Infrastructure is one of them if not the most important factor. I think that a good food value chain and system is rather the element to contribute to decent work.

Technology is simply the way we do things. We already have the technology to carry out food production. In he context of this discussion, technology would need to be improved. In other words, we can find ways and means to strengthen the processes we have and possibly make those systems better. We can make those processes better by also upgrading our farming tools and equipment. We can secure new and modern implements and deploy in food production. products, and outcomes. As a Gender Expert, I added this too. Successful stories of resilience and actions in favor of Gender Equality should be followed.

1. Grassroots women and youths should be included in emergency responsiveness and national programs.
2. Adequate best practices to support livelihood and improve s and youths' smallholder farmers business at the grassroot should be encouraged
3. The Technical and Technological good practices that led to cooperation and exchange of experiences between institutions should be encouraged.
4. Household Covid-19 loans should be given to feminist gender.
7. Grassroots women and youth's successes should be scaled up.
8. Women and youths should be made agent of change in the society.
9. Advocacy and community based work should be jointly done.
10. Hunger has no place where people work in solidarity.
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14. Gender Equality should be given priority across its six thematic coalitions in Agriculture.
15. Innovations.
16. Implication for literacy and educational best practices for women and youths at the grassroots should be enhanced
17. promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication should be replicated.
18. Youth and covid-19 response, recovery and implementation should be monitored.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

One of the dialogue that has an evident an data was the one presented by Mr. John Ugwu a retired banker and Financial Analyst and also a Co-convenor in my dialogue. His words:

When the Nigerian government provided seeds, water pumps, fertilizer and loans to farmers as a part of a national agriculture program, only few women, especially in the rural grassroot, were among the many beneficiaries. But women generally have capacity to manage and increase farm produce to reduce food shortage and take care of homes and families. The following two short stories will buttress this fact. Mama Segun, a widow, took over her husband's cocoa farm in Ikare near Akure, Ondo State, after the death of her husband. Every year, she engages laborers to work on the farm and reap good harvest and money to take care of Segun and his siblings. Today, Segun is a graduate, with all his siblings, following the death of her husband, Ajuma Ajonye was farming her husband's land in the Ugbugbu Akor, Orokam community in Benue State of Nigeria, where women do not usually inherit property or participate in decision making. She did not have access to weather information, but followed the advice of extension workers to practice crop rotation and secured critical resources from the agricultural program. Ajuma repaid her loan ahead of all the other farmers and doubled the amount of land she cultivated. As a result of the government's services, Ajuma's family's nutrition improved significantly. In exchange for labor, she provided food to other women farmers who were not able to access land and government support. These stories demonstrate how support directed to women farmers can lead to positive ripple effects across households, communities and countries. Farmers like Mama Segun and Ajuma play a central role in reversing poverty and food insecurity, and building resilience in the face of climate change. Women smallholder producers are heavily engaged in domestic activities, which remain hidden economically. These dual roles in households and on farms mean that their empowerment can have a wider impact on communities and economies. Agriculture is more likely than any other sector to provide diverse opportunities for empowering women and reducing food shortage and climate vulnerability. However, women do not receive the same support as men farmers, who have more access to farming inputs such as land, fertilizer and technology; financial services such as loans and subsidiaries; and technical support such as weather information and training through extension services. These barriers result in women producing 20-30 percent less than men. Supporting women farmers is not simply about securing identical inputs for women and men, but ensuring that resources are line with women's needs. Social norms and institutional constraints are significant barriers to many resources being effective for women.

CHALLENGES/ DIFFICULTIES WOMEN SMALL GRASSROOT FARMERS FACE IN ACCESSING FINANCE/ INPUTS:

Achieving the agriculture transformational change that Nigeria and of course Africa craves is one that can sustain the continent's urgent food demands and the changing agricultural landscape will require clear understanding of the gender-gap blocking issues in the sector. Below is an account of the most pressing issues:

a. Access to Productive Resources: It is widely known that grassroot smallholders women farmers tend to experience more constraints in accessing agricultural productive resources such as: -

I. Access to Land: in most parts of Nigeria and Africa, women do not have inheritance rights to land. Unequal rights to land borne out of diverse statutes, religious, customary and local norms put women at a disadvantage poverty, and entrench gender inequality in Africa. Women represent less than 15% of agricultural landholders, livestock or other agricultural resources (that is, those who exercise management control over an agricultural holding as owners or tenants, or through customary rights).

II. Access to Finance and Financial Services: Agricultural finance is among the most difficult type of finance to secure. Smallholders grassroot women farmers experience greater constraints than their male counter parts based on the following:

- Perceived risk – That Agricultural loans to women are difficult to recover. Second, that there is usually no collateral security to fall back to, in case of default. And even if there are, the Forced Sales Value of such security will be worthless. Grassroot Smallholder women farmers operate in an environment particularly perceived as riskier than that found in other non African developing countries. Lack of Management capacities- African grassroot smallholder women farmers lacks the necessary Managerial capacity as rural dwellers with limited education to manage farms. Africa's large population of rural dwellers with limited education has little or no access to financial services and is effectively unbanked. This segment of the population has had neither the opportunity for interaction with financial institutions nor exposure necessary to develop skills for accessing formal credit.
- Access to Banking Services. Location of Farm - Another adventitious explanation for prohibitive access to finance is the physical location of farms and distance from credit source. The distance between the borrower and the lender has an impact on the resulting borrower-bank relationship. Banks are reluctant to give loans to the grassroot smallholder farmers. The way forward and divergent views hold will be seen in later outcomes below.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Zoom video local recording for the UNFSS dialogue convening by Dorothy Onoja Titilayo on the 22/09/2021**
https://1drv.ms/v/s!AnSflz_9drSTgmcQ0xwBvEqeaCQI?e=h1e8LP
- **Zoom video cloud recording for the concluding part of the summit dialogue**
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/nd1l6rlrrxQP_oPc4_OwuNNp19kydeestxv0_6qB2mog608LHcxBYZyC_PV0FeCpaiNGeAdnYW-Y-7z6.CQeKSWQ7oO-oOuPH