

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Friday, 1 October 2021 15:00 GMT +08:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Malaysia and Singapore Food Systems: General Overview
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Unilever Food Solutions
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/44811/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/44811/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Malaysia, Singapore

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

82

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

2 0-18      48 19-30      30 31-50      2 51-65      66-80      80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

37 Male      43 Female      2 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

1	Agriculture/crops	2	Education		Health care
	Fish and aquaculture		Communication	17	Nutrition
	Livestock		Food processing		National or local government
	Agro-forestry		Food retail, markets		Utilities
	Environment and ecology	48	Food industry	1	Industrial
1	Trade and commerce	11	Financial Services	2	Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

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

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

The moderator opened the dialogue by addressing the urgent topics in our food systems whilst the panelist shared their views on how individuals and organizations can play a role to improve the food systems. Panelist also discussed the impact of our current food systems on our climate and the foreseen changes if this is not well managed. Participants can also voice their opinion or questions through the chat box.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The dialogue allowed us to better understand the existing challenges in the food systems and discuss on possible solutions. Though there might be varying opinions on how we should tackle the issue, panelists had a consensus that partnerships play a key role in making a change for good, amplifying our commitments and impact to the overall food systems.

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

# 3. METHOD

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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 Independent Dialogue was held over Microsoft Teams meeting where we invited industry leaders to share their views and ambitions on this topic. This dialogue serves as an overview for the upcoming series of dialogues that will be held throughout October to December 2021. The dialogue was promoted over several platforms, both internally and externally. Apart from the UN Summit Dialogue webpage, the independent dialogue was shared through our company website, Facebook page and Instagram. With this, we seek to amplify the importance of this topic to our stakeholders and the local market. During the dialogue, the Moderator and the Panelist drove the main conversations, and the wider participants could engage with their thoughts and questions via the chatbox.

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The focus of the dialogue is to explore the most urgent topic in our region (Singapore and Malaysia) and how the different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are intertwined. More than 4,000 tons of food waste in Malaysia are disposed daily but in fact, are edible. This has an impact to the environment as agriculture land were used to produce the food items and the production of methane from food waste is harmful to the eco-system. Landfills are also taken up by food waste. Panelists also discussed on how different stakeholders such as food manufacturers and the supply chain can make an impact to the Food System. Food manufacturers is placing a high emphasis on innovating nutritious products to the consumers while minimizing its environmental impact.

Our food supply chain is vulnerable, especially highlighted during the pandemic, where the supply of food becomes uncertain. The discussion intends to find out how organizations can work together to build a resilient logistic system that matches the demand and supply of food at different times of the year.

### 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 future of food supply chain requires the availability of real-time data across the entire supply chain, from end-to-end. Real-time data must be provided in a way where stakeholders can easily understand and act. In addition, food supply chain requires the ability to predict demand based on both the historical data and taking the current situation into consideration. With the help of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and machine learning, this can be made possible. A resilient food supply chain would also require the technology to predict and react to unforeseen circumstances.

Majority of the food waste from manufacturers comes from the innovation process and the seasonal products, which have a shorter shelf life. Panelist also shared that consumers want to know they can help to contribute to the environment and this plays a role in their decision making process. Along with trust and transparency, both internally and externally, this can help to strengthen our food systems.

Collaboration can make a significant impact in addressing several aspects of the food systems. For instance, to ensure that the up and coming nutritious food such as plant-based protein are accessible for all (Track Action 1 and 2), including the less well-to-do, food manufacturers will need to increase their scale to lower the production cost. Collaboration comes into play to increase demand for the product. For instance, organizations can collaborate with well-known chains to promote the benefits of consuming the product. Meanwhile, individuals can also be an advocate by spreading a word-of-mouth. When the consumers replace their diets with these nutritious food, it increases individual's nutrition intake while reducing the agricultural and environmental impact to the planet. This goes beyond the short-term goal of turnover but it educates consumers and achieving the long-term goal of sustainability. Firms with sustainable plans are highly sought after by investors.

Adopting a sustainability initiative as part of the strategic plans helps to better respond to the consumers' need, builds a purpose to the brand and attracts talents for long-term growth.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

### Food waste:

While millions are living in hunger, food wastage continue to rise. Panelists agreed that food waste is a pressing issue and stakeholders in the value chain has a role to play to make the change. Not-for-profit organizations are making the change by converting edible food waste into meals, to reduce the starvation rate in the country. Food manufacturers can potentially collaborate with these organizations to bring nutritious food to the table of the less fortunate. In addition, food manufacturers require good communication strategy to educate consumers on how individual can play a role to protect the environment. At the same time, food manufacturers have to set the strict requirements for both the upstream and downstream channels to reduce food wastages.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

### Positive nutrition:

With the increasing trend of healthy living, food manufacturers are also looking into offering healthier products. However, new innovations are often bounded by the lack of consumer demand and infancy of technology. Time and effort are required to educate consumers on the benefits of the innovation and the product must be easily accessible. Government can support sustainability by offering grants, subsidy or even tax-relief to companies so that these food products are affordable to the public.

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



## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

### Resilience in food supply chain:

COVID revealed the vulnerability of our food systems and the potential disruptions that are currently out of our control. Supply chain management can play a crucial role to reduce wastage that may be a result of miscalculation of demand, disruption of logistic, etc. However, we need a superior supply chain system that can make prediction of different scenarios and makes the best decision to ensure a steady stream of food supply at different times of the year. Hence, companies such as manufacturers need to embrace machine learning and adopt AI to make this possible. However, this often involves Technology, Teamwork, Talent and Capital.

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

## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Participants had the perception that investment firms look solely into the profit-and-loss of the company. In fact, the company's sustainability plan is an important factor that is considered, even though these plans may be realized in five to ten years' time. This meant that more companies should include sustainability in their growth strategy and as consumers, we can promote sustainability by supporting products that are from sustainable sources.

As much as we understand the importance of consuming nutritious food, they are often pricier than other less-healthier alternatives. Companies are challenged by the need to lower the barrier to purchase and the need to make these products easily accessible.

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