

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

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| DIALOGUE DATE | Friday, 22 October 2021 21:00 GMT +00:00 |
| DIALOGUE TITLE | Creating Alternative Sources of Funding for Natural and Safe Foods Production in Ghana |
| CONVENED BY | Mr Kenneth Opare (CEO Equity Ocean Farms) Perpetual Quarshine (Judicial Service Ghana Training School) Mr Ebenezer Kwabena Oppong (Equity Ocean Farms, Head of Media Department) |
| DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE | https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/45432/ |
| DIALOGUE TYPE | Independent |
| GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS | Albania, Australia, Bulgaria, Denmark, European Union, Ghana, No borders, 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

40

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

3

19-30

37

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

37 Male

3 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

40 Agriculture/crops
Fish and aquaculture
Livestock
Agro-forestry
Environment and ecology
Trade and commerce

Education
Communication
Food processing
Food retail, markets
Food industry
1 Financial Services

Health care
Nutrition
National or local government
Utilities
Industrial
Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan
Large national business
Multi-national corporation
Small-scale farmer
40 Medium-scale farmer
Large-scale farmer
Local Non-Governmental Organization
International Non-Governmental Organization
Indigenous People
Science and academia

Workers and trade union
Member of Parliament
Local authority
Government and national institution
Regional economic community
United Nations
International financial institution
Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
Consumer group
Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

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

Act with Urgency The disruptions to food systems caused by Covid-19 have exposed the vulnerabilities in food systems across many African countries. This called for swift response from Me to convene this dialogue for stakeholders and industry players! Commit to the Summit The outcome of the dialogue and discussions was to contribute to the overall preparation of the Food Systems Summit and by the end of the Dialogue period, Stakeholders and Participants will have identified the practices, avenues and policies that will have the greatest impact on the achievement of the desired future vision within their local food systems. Be Respectful The Dialogue took place in the form of discussions between a diversity of Stakeholders to explore convergences and divergent views on the guiding questions under discussions. Each participant was listened to, ideas and points were collectively welcomed. Diversity and Inclusion formed the foundation of the dialogue! Recognize Complexity Though Food Systems is complex in nature, the dialogue sort to unpack the systems in to smaller units thereby making each person fully grasp what is needed and better position, Food Heroes to contribute meaningfully! Embrace multi-stakeholder inclusivity Building on diversity and inclusion, we opened up to every stakeholder possible including, Farmers, Farmers Cooperative Financial Agencies etc. . Complement the work of others We cannot work in isolation when dealing with food systems. By working on a common goal and vision, we were able to address other underlying other global processes relevant to food systems. Build Trust Based on shared principles of accountability and transparency, we had an open and safe space for every to feel comfortable engaging with one another.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Commitment to the Summit and acting with urgency The dialogue was a means to have farmers voices heard The dialogue convene, gathered the farmers insights and recommendations as a basis to develop farmers tailored services in the short-medium term. Respectfulness Facilitator ensured that everyone had the chance to express his/her opinion and all participants listened attentively and built upon the input of others for collective sense-making. Building on the work of others A key role in the dialogue was played by keynote speaker and facilitator who were all farmer selected for their relevant work, expertise, and/or advocacy role in agri-food systems. The event was a wonderful opportunity for participants to expand their network and build long-lasting connections to financial agencies. Building trust The dialogue aimed to create a 'safe space' where farmers could feel free to share ideas, concerns, or recommendations with their peers in a non-judgmental environment. Convener acted as mere facilitator and will continue to nurture such neutral spaces for rural youth to freely network, share and peer exchange.

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

Yes-WTO

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 focus of the Dialogue was on:

- (i) environmental and economic shocks on African Food Systems caused by global pandemic
- (ii) examining gaps and functionalities of African Food Systems.
- (iii) access to funding for farmers and innovative ideas.
- (iiii) opportunities in the food industry.

The focus of the dialogue was to create dedicated venues for farmers, particularly rural people have their say, collectively set their agenda, and suggest their pathway towards more equitable and farmers-friendly food systems. The dialogue adopted a gender and inclusivity lens to address the specific needs and priorities of rural farmers. The dialogue achieved the following outcomes:

1. Community: Young Agripreneurs, rural farmers networks, and farmers-serving organizations across Ghana were meaningfully engaged to share experiences, lessons learned, and solutions for youth farmers inclusion in agri-food systems.
2. Advocacy: Voices of farmers rural women and men raised, and visibility given to their transformative role in agri-food systems.
3. Farmers-led policy agenda: Recommendations and priority actions identified to strengthen farmers agency as changemakers and builders of resilient and sustainable agri-food systems, with a focus on inclusivity and gender equality.

The identified promising solutions/priority action areas and policy recommendations were on the following topics:

1. Networking and digital engagement
2. Access to finance and business support services
3. Gender equality and inclusivity
4. Accountability and political participation.

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

There is a big capacity gap when getting into agriculture, especially across different value chain touchpoints and more importantly knowledge on policy. One of the actions stakeholders will take together is to deepen their engagement efforts with the farmers to ensure access to information about agricultural policies financial agencies and legal regulations is further deepened. The importance of forming new alliances among many organizations that work with farmers people to raise farmers voices and initiate collective action was further stressed. Below are key priority action areas we identified: a) Set up networking opportunities that accommodate farmer's needs (e.g., the timing of meetings) and be accessible in networks and rural settings their existing social networks, Create stronger farmer associations to be able to keep governments accountable, become aware of current legislation to be able to influence policies and regulations. c) Organizations running Agripreneurship programs have dedicated calls for farmers. This perspective boosts farmer's participation in project calls/applications, therefore, giving priority to them. d) Increase knowledge access of existing policies, the art of policymaking, and advocacy through translation to local languages.

ACTION TRACKS

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KEYWORDS

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|---|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|
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| | Women & Youth Empowerment | | Trade-offs |
| | | ✓ | Environment and Climate |

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

Topic 1: Networking and digital engagement

Below are some of the key issues highlighted by the farmers and proposed solutions, priority action areas, and policy recommendations.

Challenges highlighted:

- a) Capacity gap among farmers running agribusiness
- b) Young people scattered in several digital platforms instead of a one-stop-shop.
- c) Gender digital gap and information asymmetry
- d) Farmers face difficulties in getting organized to have access to information about agricultural policies, funding sources, and legal regulations.

Identified priority action areas for farmers inclusion in networking and digital engagement:

- a) Peer-to-peer learning is a key solution to close the capacity gap among the farmers. Digital platforms that encourage such activities are central to ensuring more farmers have access to information that directly contributes to the growth of their businesses. Also, a well-encompassing platform that builds alliances among many organizations that work with farmers people to initiate collective action was found necessary.
- b) Encourage platforms to act as a broker between the farmers and finance service providers will address the need for farmers tailored financial support.
- c) Create stronger farmer associations to be able to keep governments accountable, become aware of current legislation to influence policies and regulations.

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

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Strengths and vulnerabilities within food systems

Many were of the view that the vulnerabilities in food systems is due to bad governance whereas others also stated otherwise it is due to non-existent policies of what actually a food systems is

Areas that need further exploration

More participants had the notion that Food Systems was all about food. With experts in the dialogue, they were able to grasp few understanding of the general scope of food systems. This means more explorations and capacity building needs to be done to further educate

and highlight the importance of a robust food systems to productivity and efficiency

Practices that are needed for food systems sustainability.

Some of the submitted different answers were good governance, youth inclusion, realistic policies, technology and education.

Stakeholders whose interests should be prioritized

According to some participants, Youth must be the first prioritized while others made cases for Farmers as the first to be considered as without farmers, no food production.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Mr**
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